

From: [Bulletin Intelligence](#)
To: DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Thursday, April 07, 2016
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2016 5:03:20 AM
Attachments: [dhscips160407.doc](#)

The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016 5:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADING DHS NEWS:

- + [TSA Head Testifies Before Congress.](#)
- + [DHS Having Trouble Hiring Computer Experts.](#)
- + [Johnson: Vilifying Muslims Counter To US Security Interest.](#)
- + [Johnson: Airport Employees With Possible Terrorist Ties Have Now Been Vetted.](#)
- + [Continuing Coverage Of Accusations Possessions Weren't Returned To Deportees.](#)
- + [TSA Head Takes Congressional Heat Over iPad App Contract.](#)

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT:

- + ["Operation Safeguard" Results In Arrest Of 16 Individuals For Child Pornography.](#)
- + [San Francisco Bill Often Would Bar Notifying ICE Of Prisoner Releases.](#)
- + [Advocates Draw Attention Of Risk To Deportees Repatriated To Southeast Asia.](#)
- + [Continuing Coverage: Dinosaur Fossils Being Returned To Mongolia.](#)

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:

- + [Atlanta Airport Seeks To Reduce Checkpoint Wait Times.](#)
- + [TSA To Allow Local Training Of Security Officers At Sea-Tac Airport.](#)

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY:

- + [NEW FEMA Smartphone App Feature Lets Users Receive Disaster Preparation Reminders.](#)
- + [Four Counties In Texas Added To March Disaster Declaration.](#)

US CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES:

- + [Businesses Seek Speedier H-2B Visa Approvals.](#)
- + [Travel Industry Supports Visa Waiver Program.](#)

IMMIGRATION:

- + [Groups Threaten Renewed Arizona Boycott Over "Anti-Immigrant" Bills.](#)
- + [Court Ruling On Arizona Licenses For Undocumented Immigrants Questioned.](#)

US COAST GUARD:

- + [Coast Guard Planning Seasonal Closings At Some Great Lakes Stations.](#)

SECRET SERVICE:

- + [Ice Cream Maven's Money Stamping Campaign Risks Running Afoul Of Secret Service.](#)

TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS:

- + [Travel Agents Expect Strong Summer Travel Season Despite Terror Fears.](#)

CYBER NEWS:

- + [Senators Issue Clashing Statements On WhatsApp Encryption.](#)
- + [Rogers Warns China, Russia Can Launch Crippling Cyberattacks.](#)

- + White House Won't Endorse Or Oppose Senate Encryption Legislation.
- + MedStar Denies AP Report That Breach Was Result Of Failing To Update Software.
- + Connecticut Utility Agency Releases Plan To Improve Cybersecurity.
- + CNBC Analysis: Hackers Using Phishing Scams To Steal Tax Returns.
- + Bruzese: Companies Must Focus More On The Danger Of Intentional Data Leaks.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM:

- + Massachusetts HHS Urged To Drop Involvement In Countering Violent Extremism Program.
- + Advocacy Groups Criticize FBI's "Don't Be A Puppet" Website.

NATIONAL SECURITY NEWS:

- + US May Set Up More Small Outposts In Iraq To Support Recapture Of Mosul.
- + WTimes Analysis: DOD "Upbeat" Despite Growing ISIL Violence In Iraq.
- + Syrian Army Launches Counteroffensive Outside Aleppo.
- + Nusra Front Confirms Senior Leader Killed In US Airstrike.
- + ISIL Attacks Area Near Damascus.
- + ISIL Selling Syrian Artifacts On Black Market.
- + Former Bush Official: Obama Team Has Embraced Bush's Preemption Doctrine.
- + Combatants Vie For Control Of Afghanistan's Heroin Trade.
- + Thousands Of Afghans Fleeing For Europe.
- + Gates, Panetta, Hagel Criticize Obama's National Security Policies, White House Staff.
- + Republican Senators Seek To Block Proposal On Iran Dollar Use.
- + Stoltenberg: "Too Many" NATO Members Not Paying Enough.
- + South Korea: North Has Miniaturized Nuclear Warhead.
- + UN Envoy Urges Rapid Handover In Libya.
- + Egypt Threatens To Shut Down Center Documenting Torture.
- + NYTimes: Tensions Grow Over China's Moves In South China Sea.

Leading DHS News:

TSA HEAD TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/6, story 4, 2:00, Holt, 16.61M) reported Transportation Security Administration Administrator Peter Neffenger "told Congress his agency is trying to dramatically upgrade its approach to protecting US airports while warning the summer travel season could be challenging." He was shown saying, "We have greatly enhanced our oversight of cargo screening facilities, of the catering facilities." NBC (Costello) added, "At TSA checkpoints, airports nationwide reporting record passenger volume and delays this year." Meanwhile, the FBI is "urging bomb technicians, firefighters, police and chemical retailers to be watching for anyone gathering the ingredients for a homemade bomb." FBI Special Agent in Charge Timothy Gallagher said, "You can get them in a hardware store. You can get them in a supermarket and, you know, you can combine them and they can be quite destructive."

[USA Today](#) (4/6, Jansen, 5.45M) reports Neffenger told the Senate transportation committee that he was in the Brussels airport on the day of the bombings, adding, "Seeing the devastation, seeing the chaos of the airport environment and the evil behind it was a stark reminder of the importance of the work we do every day to protect travelers." Meanwhile, Senate Democrats are urging increasing the number of armed TSA Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response teams, which patrol airports and train stations, from 31 to 60. Neffenger said, "If I were to receive more VIPR teams, I would be able to put them to use."

[NBC News](#) (4/6, Costello, 3.58M) reports Sen. Bill Nelson (D) told Neffenger during the hearing, "The only person who's gonna get airports off their duff to limit access into their airports is you." Neffenger has "ordered a detailed vulnerability assessment of the nation's airports." Additionally, the agency opened a new academy in Georgia, "which will train 4,800 officers this year alone," and its Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Program "provides approximately \$45 million each year to law enforcement agencies to beef up their presence and the agency deploys teams of agents and local law enforcement to patrol public areas."

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/6, Levin, 2.92M) reports Neffenger, responding to a question about how well the agency is addressing threats to non-aviation targets, said, in the words of Bloomberg News, that “it relies mainly on voluntary actions by local authorities.” More than three fourths of the agency’s budget and 93 percent of its employees are devoted to aviation. Committee Chair Sen. John Thune (R), in a speech, called for the TSA to do more to protect potential non-aviation targets, and Sen. Bill Nelson (D) said, “It’s time to reexamine our transportation security strategy and refocus our efforts.”

Jeff Pegues, in a video on the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/6, 3.97M), reports on the hearings but adds, “don’t expect to see” sweeping changes in security at transportation hubs, as Neffenger talked about “reinforcing what TSA and other security personnel at airports across the country are already doing.” Pegues added that the challenges illustrated by the Brussels attacks “are not something new; it’s something they’ve been trying to address for the last several years.”

[The Atlantic](#) (4/6, Kelly, 2.95M) reports that the senators “seemed more interested in fact-finding – often on behalf of their local transportation hubs – than in breathing fire about the looming dangers of terrorism.” Instead of grandstanding on national security, “lawmakers used the hearing as a measured catchall for worries both broad and specific, pushing Neffenger on aspirations for the future of transportation security.”

The [Denver Business Journal](#) (4/6, Proctor, Subscription Publication, 41K) reports in its “Energy Inc.” blog that Neffenger said he “supports a proposal by Denver International Airport officials to move the passenger screening system from the Great Hall of DIA’s terminal,” calling it “a wonderful opportunity” that “solves some very real security problems in Denver and elsewhere.” He added, “We’re not going get to the checkpoint of the future right away, but we have an opportunity here...to do a white board on how to recreate the screening environment, to reduce friction to traveler, improve efficiency and (the) effectiveness of the system.”

DHS HAVING TROUBLE HIRING COMPUTER EXPERTS. The [New York Times](#) (4/6, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports DHS is having difficulty hiring computer experts “because it cannot match the pay of the private sector and does not have the same allure as intelligence agencies.” Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told a Senate hearing last month, “We are competing in a tough marketplace against a private sector that is in a position to offer a lot more money.” He added, “We need more cybertalent without a doubt in D.H.S., in the federal government, and we are not where we should be right now, that is without a doubt.” The Administration and Congress “approved the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014, which among other things emphasized recruitment of a cybersecurity work force for the government,” but the Department “has not been able to recruit a work force to match the threat.” DHS Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications Phyllis Schneck said, “What we are pitching to people is to explore a hybrid: Do a private sector career and then come and do some time in government.”

JOHNSON: VILIFYING MUSLIMS COUNTER TO US SECURITY INTEREST. [AFP](#) (4/6) reports Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson “compared current anti-Muslim sentiment to the anti-communist ‘Red Scare’ of the 1940s and ‘50s, suggesting that divisive statements by Republican presidential candidates are to blame.” Johnson said, “Efforts and dialogue that have the effect of vilifying American Muslims are counter to our homeland security interest.” Johnson discussed how his grandfather had to testify in front of the House of Representatives at “the height of the Red Scare.”

[Yahoo! Good Morning America](#) (4/6, Levine, 1.55M) reports that at a symposium sponsored by the International Peace and Security Institute, Johnson “took aim at recent remarks like those by Donald Trump and Sen. Ted Cruz calling for surveillance of Muslim communities in the United States,” as he “denounced some of the 2016 presidential campaign’s rhetoric.” Johnson said, “The overwhelming, overwhelming majority of American Muslims, including those who serve in our United States military...are patriotic, dedicated people who love this country and want to help us with public safety and secure our homeland, because they know it’s their homeland too.” He did note that, as ISIL is targeting American Muslims, “We must respond in countering that effort as a matter of homeland security, which is why when I talk about building bridges to communities, most often I am in fact talking about building bridges to American Muslim communities – because that is who the Islamic State is targeting.”

JOHNSON: AIRPORT EMPLOYEES WITH POSSIBLE TERRORIST TIES HAVE NOW BEEN VETTED.

[WJAX-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (4/6, Colli, 97K) reports on its website that Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said none of the private airline employees “flagged in last year’s Homeland Security Inspector General Report” as having possible terrorist ties are a threat. Johnson explained, “It’s not that they’re suspected terrorists. It’s that they hadn’t been vetted through all available databases,” adding, “We have since corrected that problem and the cases have been resolved.” In response to a question on strengthening the vetting of airline employees, Johnson said “we’re doing a better job of consulting all of the right databases when it comes to airport security and a host of other things.” Meanwhile, Senate Commerce Committee Co-Chair Sen. Bill Nelson “asked TSA Administrator Robert Neffenger why only three airports nationwide require all employees to go through security prior to starting their work days.” Neffenger replied that his agency “increased the inspection of employees five-fold in the last five months’, but agreed with Nelson that more can be done.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF ACCUSATIONS POSSESSIONS WEREN’T RETURNED TO

DEPORTEES. In continuing coverage, the [AP](#) (4/6, Contreras, Taxin) reports an administrative complaint filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico and other organizations alleges “that Border Patrol agents have been seizing immigrants’ property before deporting them to Mexico, in some cases to cities where they didn’t know anyone.” The complaint cited 26 cases in which they say immigrants suspected of being in the country illegally were deported without their belongings “and that the seizures put them in harm’s way.” The Department of Homeland Security “said it has a policy of safeguarding detainees’ property and returning their belongings when they are deported.” Agency spokeswoman Gillian Christensen said in a statement, “Any allegation of missing property will be thoroughly investigated.” Additionally, the ACLU of Southern California sued to have immigrants’ ability to pay considered when immigration courts set bond, so people won’t be jailed “solely because they are poor.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/6, Foley, 518K) reports the groups filed the complaint with DHS “and its agencies Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.” They alleged that “in some cases...agents intimidated them by saying they could be detained for more time if they tried to pick up their belongings.” Items taken include money, “wedding rings, glasses, identification needed to travel and work in Mexico, phones,” and jackets.

[FOX News Latino](#) (4/6, 230K) reports Perla Garcia, one of those identified in the complaint, “said that Border Patrol agents destroyed medicines she needed for cholesterol and liver problems.”

TSA HEAD TAKES CONGRESSIONAL HEAT OVER IPAD APP CONTRACT. [The Hill](#) (4/6, Zanona, 862K) reports Transportation Security Administration Administrator Peter Neffenger “took heat from lawmakers” during a Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing over a \$1.4 million contract that included the purchase of an iPad randomizer app to choose left or right in certain PreCheck lanes. Neffenger said, “The actual app cost significantly less, somewhere in the thousands.” He added, “It is not an app we need anymore.” Sen. Dean Heller (R) “pressed Neffenger...on what the agency is doing to enact oversight reforms and regain the public’s trust.” Neffenger said, “We’re working very hard on improving our oversight and controls, looking across every contract we have to ensure that the contract is appropriate and that the money is going to what we think it is.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

“OPERATION SAFEGUARD” RESULTS IN ARREST OF 16 INDIVIDUALS FOR CHILD

PORNOGRAPHY. The announcement of 16 arrests from a joint operation between HSI and the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice called “Operation Safeguard” for various child pornography charges received significant coverage in the New Jersey news market.

The [Observer \(NJ\)](#) (4/6, 128K) says the operation “targeted offenders who used an online file-sharing network to download and distribute child pornography, including videos of young children being raped.” The Observer points out the defendants were all charged with distribution of child pornography and possession of child pornography, and the arrests were made “between Feb. 10 and March 31.” The

Observer details how the investigation was conducted and says “investigators searched for telltale digital ‘fingerprints’ of known child pornography, as well as search terms used by those who download and share child pornography.” In addition, The Observer lists the names of all the individuals arrested, as well as the numerous local agencies that helped HSI in the investigation. The [Trentonian \(NJ\)](#) (4/6, Ketterer, 123K) reports “the defendants will face a mandatory minimum state prison sentence of five years without possibility of parole,” which is based on enhanced penalties from amendments made to New Jersey’s child pornography law in 2013.

The [NJTV Trenton \(NJ\)](#) (4/6, Vannozi) quotes HSI Cherry Hill Resident Agent in Charge Richard Reinhold as saying “since HSI started Operation Predator, our flagship initiative to target child predators in 2003, Homeland Security Investigation special agents have arrested more than 14,000 predators nationwide with more than 300 predators here in New Jersey.”

SAN FRANCISCO BILL OFTEN WOULD BAR NOTIFYING ICE OF PRISONER RELEASES. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/6, Ho, 3.37M) reports a San Francisco Board of Supervisors committee will consider a bill that would further tighten a city law prohibiting “holding jail inmates flagged by immigration agents for hours or days past their release date.” The bill “would bar city law enforcement officials from notifying U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents when an individual will be released from local custody, except in very limited circumstances.” The current law drew criticism when “a man wanted for deportation by federal authorities was instead released from San Francisco County Jail and was then accused of killing a woman.”

ADVOCATES DRAW ATTENTION OF RISK TO DEPORTEES REPATRIATED TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. [NBC News](#) (4/6, Wang, 3.58M) reports, “Asian-American and Muslim-American advocates are concerned about what has happened to a large group of South Asian men from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan who had been facing deportation.” The advocates had been using the hashtag #Deported2Death to draw attention to the men’s risk of religious and political persecution if repatriated. An ICE official said that 85 individuals were repatriated to Southeast Asia on Sunday “had been provided the opportunity to present their cases in immigration court, were issued final orders of removal, and had no outstanding stays that would prohibit their removal.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE: DINOSAUR FOSSILS BEING RETURNED TO MONGOLIA. The [Headlines & Global News](#) (4/6, MacDonald, 63K) reports, “Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents returned a lot of stolen dinosaur fossils that were taken from Mongolia Tuesday.” Peter Edge, HSI’s executive associate director, said, “Today’s ceremony is an excellent demonstration of the cooperation between HSI, our colleagues at the Department of Justice and our foreign counterparts with the Government of Mongolia.” He added, “A successful repatriation requires extensive cooperation among all parties involved, which is rewarded by the knowledge that we’ve returned what rightfully belongs to the people of Mongolia.”

Transportation Security Administration:

ATLANTA AIRPORT SEEKS TO REDUCE CHECKPOINT WAIT TIMES. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (4/6, Yamanouchi, 1.1M) reports Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport general manager Miguel Southwell is looking to test technology this summer that could speed up security screening. One system uses a secondary conveyor belt at the security checkpoint to “allow people to pass those who are slower in separating their items into bins.” The airport also will have “more staff and is more than doubling its number of canine units.” Still, Southwell said, “We are extremely happy with the progress TSA is making” in reducing wait times. He also “said there is not a need to privatize screening ‘as long as we continue to see progress made in a demonstrable way.’”

TSA TO ALLOW LOCAL TRAINING OF SECURITY OFFICERS AT SEA-TAC AIRPORT. The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (4/6, Connelly, 663K) reports Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell (D) asked Transportation Security Administration Administrator Peter Neffenger at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing “about a training backlog that has allowed only 17 to 19 of 32 available security lanes” at Sea-Tac Airport to be open at peak hours. Neffenger responded, “We are going to do local training at Sea-Tac,”

meaning that security officers can be trained at the airport “rather than having to travel to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia.”

The [Seattle Times](#) (4/6, Kamb, 1.12M) reports Neffenger said, “We have to mitigate what is going to be a very challenging summer season by pushing as many new hires as we can into the system, directing them to the airports of greatest needs,” including Sea-Tac. He added that he will visit the airport next week and meet with officials.

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

NEW FEMA SMARTPHONE APP FEATURE LETS USERS RECEIVE DISASTER PREPARATION REMINDERS. [Voice of America](#) (4/6, 60K) reports a new feature that has been added to FEMA’s smartphone app lets users receive “push notifications ‘to remind them to take important’” disaster preparation steps. The article quotes FEMA Deputy Administrator of Protection and National Preparedness Tim Manning, who said the feature “will make it easier for families to remember to take potentially life-saving actions that we all should be thinking about more often.” [Homeland Security Today](#) (4/6) has similar coverage of this story.

FOUR COUNTIES IN TEXAS ADDED TO MARCH DISASTER DECLARATION. The [AP](#) (4/6) reports it was announced on Wednesday that four Texas-based counties have been added to an existing federal disaster declaration. The announcement came from FEMA, according to the AP, which added that the declaration makes federal aid available to parts of Texas that were damaged by storms and flooding in March. With Wednesday’s announcement, 13 counties are now covered by the federal disaster declaration.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

BUSINESSES SEEK SPEEDIER H-2B VISA APPROVALS. [The Hill](#) (4/6, Needham, 862K) reports business groups, include the hotel, hospitality, and landscaping industries, “are pleading with” the Labor, Homeland Security, and State departments “to address what they say is a severe backlog in H-2B visa applications for temporary workers.” The businesses attribute the delays to “layers of new regulations requiring expanded searches for U.S.-based labor,” as well as regulations on wage levels and working conditions. However, “the Labor Department has blamed the delays, which started last year, on a sharp rise in visa applications.”

TRAVEL INDUSTRY SUPPORTS VISA WAIVER PROGRAM. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/6, Schnurman, 1.24M) reports officials at the Global Summit of the World Travel & Tourism Council “decried using fear of terror for political gain, and at the expense of the travel industry.” US Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow “said his organization will have a presence at both the Democratic and Republican conventions,” seeking “to help deliver a better understanding of” the Visa Waiver Program, which “he said boosts security while paving the way for increased travel.” He “said a key aim of his group is to bolster support for the Visa Waiver Program.”

Immigration:

GROUPS THREATEN RENEWED ARIZONA BOYCOTT OVER “ANTI-IMMIGRANT” BILLS. The [AP](#) (4/6, Christie) reports, “Latino and civil rights groups behind a 2010 boycott of Arizona” over legislation aimed at immigrants “are considering a renewed boycott” due to a number of bills in the state’s legislature they say “target illegal immigrants and strike fear in the immigrant community.” In a letter to Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey (R), Roberto Reveles, the founding President of the groups, which are united as the Somos America Coalition, asked “him to pressure the Legislature into killing the bills or to veto them if they reach his desk.” Ducey spokesman Daniel Scarpinato cast a boycott as “a stunt that should be widely and vocally condemned.”

[KTAR-FM](#) Glendale, AZ (4/6, Rummell, 17K) reports a bill that is “of the most concern to the group” would

prohibit parole for illegal immigrants convicted of certain crimes.

COURT RULING ON ARIZONA LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS QUESTIONED.

Noah Feldman, in a column on [Bloomberg View](#) (4/6, Feldman, 81K), writes that despite its appearance as “a big legal victory,” the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit’s ruling striking down Arizona’s refusing state benefits, including driver’s licenses, to immigrants illegally in the US, including those under the Administration’s deferred-action policy, “was based on precarious legal reasoning that’s vulnerable to reversal by the Supreme Court.” The decision is based on the doctrine of federal preemption, which has as its basis the supremacy clause of the Constitution. However, executive orders aren’t mentioned in the supremacy clause. Feldman says the court held that “Congress authorized the executive to decide who counts as lawfully present, so Congress, not the executive branch, preempted state laws to the contrary,” but that’s “a tricky argument, and I’m not sure it’s right.” Feldman suggests the court should have relied on the equal protection clause instead.

US Coast Guard:

COAST GUARD PLANNING SEASONAL CLOSINGS AT SOME GREAT LAKES STATIONS. The [AP](#) (4/6) reports the Coast Guard is “planning seasonal closings at some of its Great Lakes stations.” Coast Guard officials discussed this with first responders in Frankfort; “Coast Guard Captain Amy Cocanour says crews in Frankfort ‘would be here every day, definitely Memorial Day through Labor Day’” and during some other periods.

Secret Service:

ICE CREAM MAVEN’S MONEY STAMPING CAMPAIGN RISKS RUNNING AFOUL OF SECRET SERVICE. The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (4/6, Davis, 608K) reports Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream co-founder Ben Cohen stamps on dollar bills his message that “money is corrupting politics and practically everything else,” then gives the bills away. He encourages others to do the same. While the Cohen-led website that sells the stamps, ink, and other items reassures people this is legal, Charles Green, the special agent in charge of the Secret Service field office in Kansas City, said, “We see it as a violation of the law.” Cohen argues it is protected political speech and that his stamps don’t run afoul of the bans on defacing or advertising using money. However, Green said, “If this were going on in Kansas City, and they were stamping the bills here and making a big deal out of it, Secret Service would be going to them and saying, ‘Hey, this is illegal and you need to knock it off.’”

Terrorism Investigations:

TRAVEL AGENTS EXPECT STRONG SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON DESPITE TERROR FEARS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, D1, McCartney, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports despite terrorism fears, travel agencies are anticipating a strong summer travel season.

Cyber News:

SENATORS ISSUE CLASHING STATEMENTS ON WHATSAPP ENCRYPTION. [The Hill](#) (4/6, McCabe, 862K) reports that Sen. Tom Cotton on Wednesday issued a statement criticizing messaging platform WhatsApp for enabling of end-to-end encryption for all its users. “The WhatsApp and Facebook decision to add end-to-end encryption to all of WhatsApp’s services with no secure method to comply with valid search warrants continues a dangerous trend in the tech and data world,” Cotton said. “We cannot allow companies to purposefully design applications that make it impossible to comply with court orders. I strongly urge WhatsApp and Facebook to reevaluate their decision before they help facilitate another terrorist attack.” For their part, WhatsApp founders Jan Koum and Brian Acton said on Tuesday that they believed strengthened encryption would help protect users from cybercrime.

Also Wednesday, Sen. Ron Wyden, [The Hill](#) (4/6, Bennett, 862K) reports, issued his own statement lauding WhatsApp’s move. “This is especially important for human rights activists, political dissidents and

persecuted minorities around the world,” Wyden said. “While some continue to spread fear about modern technology, the fact is strong encryption is essential to Americans’ individual security.” According to Wyden, the desire of some lawmakers to regulate encryption is dangerous and unrealistic. “Attacking the use of strong encryption only empowers criminals, foreign hackers and predators who will take advantage of weak digital security,” Wyden said.

Continued Coverage Of Baker’s Comments On San Bernardino iPhone Probe. [Politico](#) (4/6, Byers, 1.07M) continues coverage of FBI General Counsel James Baker’s Tuesday remarks on the FBI’s dispute with Apple over San Bernardino shooter Syed Rizwan Farook’s iPhone. According to Baker, the FBI’s newfound ability to break into iPhones of the sort used by Farook presents new questions regarding the sharing of hacking exploits. “Normally, we don’t have such detailed real-time public discussions about precise surveillance tools,” Baker said. “There’s a significant amount of novelty for us in this current discussion. So we’re trying to figure it out, frankly.” Baker, Politico reports, declined to say whether the information discovered on Farook’s phone was useful to the FBI. “Good question, I’m not going to answer it,” he said, noting the ongoing investigation.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/6, Berman, Nakashima, 8.98M) reports that Baker also added that it was currently “too early” to say whether any of the information on the phone is useful. The FBI, he said, would also make a determination on what information to release about the phone’s contents after it has completed its analysis of the data. “If and when it becomes appropriate to disclose it, we will,” Baker said. “We understand the public interest. And we understand the need for the public to have faith and confidence in us.”

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (4/6, Nelson, 302K) reports that also Tuesday, FBI Los Angeles Assistant Director in Charge David Bowdich commented on the FBI’s investigation. “I will tell you we are taking our time. We want to make sure we are absolutely thorough,” said Bowdich. Echoing Baker, Bowdich said that the FBI is not “prepared to make a statement” on the contents of Farook’s phone “at this point.”

As Bureau Struggled With Farook’s iPhone, Requests To Open Locked Phones Flooded In. [USA Today](#) (4/6, Johnson, 5.45M) reports that as the FBI worked to crack the iPhone of San Bernardino attacker Syed Rizwan Farook, the agency received a deluge of requests from state and local authorities seeking assistance in efforts to unlock hundreds of damaged or encrypted devices tied to unrelated criminal probes. “Requests involving more than 500 such devices streamed into the bureau’s Computer Analysis Response Team and the agency’s Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory programs during a four-month period beginning last October,” USA Today says, citing the FBI. In a statement the FBI said it was responding to requests for assistance “on a case by case basis,” but could “not always able to accommodate the requested assistance.”

Poll: Americans More Concerned About Data Security Following Breach Of Farook’s iPhone. [Fortune](#) (4/6, Reisinger, 4.02M) reports “In a Fortune poll of more than 2,000 registered voters, 49% of respondents said that they were ‘more concerned’ about the privacy of their data following the FBI’s iPhone crack. Just 14% of registered voters said that they were ‘less concerned.’” In addition to privacy concerns, many respondents said the FBI’s recent iPhone breach will factor in to their next smartphone purchase. “Nearly a third of respondents said they’d be less likely to be an iPhone and 21% said they weren’t sure yet how the FBI crack would affect their buying behavior,” Fortune says.

Apple Officials: FBI iPhone Hacking Method Unlikely To Remain Secret. [Network World](#) (4/7, Heisler, 37K) reports in continued coverage that according to senior Apple engineers, the FBI’s method for hacking iPhones is unlikely to remain secret. Once the method is exposed, Network World says, Apple will be able to patch the holes in iPhone security.

Apple Fixes iPhone Security Flaw. [Mashable](#) (4/6, Schroeder, 1.72M) reports that Apple has fixed an iOS security flaw that allowed anyone to view the contacts stored in an iPhone without unlocking the device. The bug was fixed less than 24 hours after reports of its existence were picked up by the media.

ROGERS WARNS CHINA, RUSSIA CAN LAUNCH CRIPPLING CYBERATTACKS. The [Washington](#)

[Times](#) (4/7, Gertz, 285K) reports US Cyber Command Commander Rogers warned a Senate hearing this week “that Russia and China now can launch crippling cyberattacks on the electric grid and other critical infrastructures.” Rogers told the panel, “We remain vigilant in preparing for future threats, as cyberattacks could cause catastrophic damage to portions of our power grid, communications networks and vital services.” According to Rogers, “unlike other areas of military competition, Russia is equal to the United States in terms its cyberwarfare capabilities, with China a close second.”

WHITE HOUSE WON'T ENDORSE OR OPPOSE SENATE ENCRYPTION LEGISLATION. Citing unnamed sources, [Reuters](#) (4/6, Hosenball, Volz) reports that the White House will not support or oppose legislation sponsored by Sens. Richard Burr and Dianne Feinstein giving Federal courts stronger authority to compel tech companies provide law enforcement access to encrypted data. The reason behind the White House's decision is that federal agencies remain at odds over the legislation.

MEDSTAR DENIES AP REPORT THAT BREACH WAS RESULT OF FAILING TO UPDATE SOFTWARE. In continuing coverage, The [AP](#) (4/6, Abdollah) reports Medstar Health Inc. is denying the account of an anonymous source who told the AP on Tuesday that hackers “exploit[ed] software vulnerabilities that were the subjects of warnings in 2007 and 2010 to break into its corporate network.” The AP says MedStar was unclear in its denial as to whether “the two vulnerabilities had been already resolved or that hackers had found another method of breaking into the JBoss server.”

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/6, McDaniels, 712K) reports MedStar “has hired cybersecurity company Symantec to investigate the hack.” The Sun adds that a Symantec spokeswoman said “the 2007 and 2010 fixes...were not contributing factors in this event.”

CONNECTICUT UTILITY AGENCY RELEASES PLAN TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY. The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (4/6, Hladky, 518K) reports the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has released a 27-page plan “to strengthen protection of water, gas and electricity systems in Connecticut through voluntary, cooperative efforts with utilities.” The Courant interviews PURA's chairman Arthur House, who discusses the importance of utility cybersecurity, and the steps being taken to ensure that sensitive information discussed at proposed annual meetings will not be leaked.

CNBC ANALYSIS: HACKERS USING PHISHING SCAMS TO STEAL TAX RETURNS. [CNBC](#) (4/6, Taylor, 2.3M) analyzes the growing number of phishing scams that are resulting in the improper use of W-2 information to steal tax returns. CNBC details phishing attacks on several companies such as Seagate and Snapchat, both of which inadvertently turned over W-2 information to hackers after receiving fake emails from individuals purporting to be the company CEOs. CNBC points out “the surge in phishing email W-2 scams this year prompted the Internal Revenue Service to issue a warning to payroll and human resources professionals on March 1.” CNBC says victims have received “emails from addresses that look almost indistinguishable from legitimate email accounts within the company” that prompt them to turn over sensitive information. CNBC adds that experts interviewed say “the real solution lies in raising awareness.”

BRUZZESE: COMPANIES MUST FOCUS MORE ON THE DANGER OF INTENTIONAL DATA LEAKS. In an op-ed for [InfoWorld](#) (4/7, Bruzzese, 69K), author and tech-speaker J. Peter Bruzzese argues that companies must focus more attention on the dangers of intentional data leaks from sources within the companies, rather than focusing solely on outside threats. Bruzzese says companies should adopt User Behavior Analytics to monitor employees and detect any worrisome changes in patterns that might indicate a threat.

[Countering Violent Extremism:](#)

MASSACHUSETTS HHS URGED TO DROP INVOLVEMENT IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM PROGRAM. The [AP](#) (4/6, Marcelo) reports groups, including the Massachusetts chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations, petitioned state Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders to cut ties with the federal “Countering Violent Extremism” pilot program, arguing that participation “will only breed mistrust among Muslim and other

underserved communities and will undermine her agency's credibility and effectiveness." The program seeks "to develop new ways to prevent the recruitment of extremist group followers in the United States." While it is run by US attorneys in Minneapolis and Los Angeles, Sudder's office took control of the Boston pilot late last year in an effort to offer "a non-law enforcement approach."

ADVOCACY GROUPS CRITICIZE FBI'S "DON'T BE A PUPPET" WEBSITE. [US News & World Report](#) (4/6, Camera, 853K) says that more than a dozen advocacy groups are urging the FBI to pull down its "Don't Be a Puppet" website, which aims at educating students about violent extremism. The groups claim the website perpetuates stereotypes and profiling of Muslims and promotes the regulation of ideas. The website "gives the false impression that there is a path to becoming a violent extremist, and that teachers and community leaders should look for 'warning signs' that a person may be on what the site calls the 'slippery slope of violent extremism,'" the coalition of groups wrote in a Tuesday letter to FBI Director Comey. The involved organizations include the American Civil Liberties Union and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

National Security News:

US MAY SET UP MORE SMALL OUTPOSTS IN IRAQ TO SUPPORT RECAPTURE OF MOSUL. The [AP](#) (4/6, Baldor) reports a top US military official said Wednesday that the Pentagon "will consider opening more small military outposts that would provide artillery support and other aid to Iraqi forces" as they prepare to retake Mosul. Rear. Adm. Andrew Lewis, the vice director for operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "said there may be situations where the US would either open a base or reopen one that was used in the earlier Iraq war." [Reuters](#) (4/6, Coles, Kalin), however, reports that an Iraqi commander said yesterday that the first phase of the campaign to recapture Mosul has been delayed until more forces arrive.

WTIMES ANALYSIS: DOD "UPBEAT" DESPITE GROWING ISIL VIOLENCE IN IRAQ. The [Washington Times](#) (4/7, Scarborough, 285K) reports that "amid upbeat Iraq reports from the Obama administration, the Islamic State has unleashed a series of deadly bombings inside government-controlled territory near Baghdad and across the war-torn country." Yesterday, DOD "continued its optimistic appraisal," as "a war planner said Islamic State fighters are losing land and are restricted in maneuvers on the battlefield as coalition precision airstrikes destroy vehicles, locations and munitions."

SYRIAN ARMY LAUNCHES COUNTEROFFENSIVE OUTSIDE ALEPPO. The [AP](#) (4/6) reports the Syrian army, backed by Russian airstrikes, has launched a counteroffensive to recapture a village south of the city of Aleppo that was overrun by Nusra Front militants a few days earlier. Syrian activists said the counteroffensive, which started late Tuesday night, is aimed at retaking the village of Tel al-Ais, "which overlooks the Damascus-Aleppo highway." [Reuters](#) (4/6) reports the Russian Defense Ministry said yesterday that Russian aircraft hit Nusra Front positions near Aleppo.

NUSRA FRONT CONFIRMS SENIOR LEADER KILLED IN US AIRSTRIKE. [Reuters](#) (4/6) reports the Nusra Front confirmed Wednesday that their spokesman and veteran fighter Abu Firas al-Suri was killed in a US airstrike in Syria over the weekend.

ISIL ATTACKS AREA NEAR DAMASCUS. [Reuters](#) (4/6, Perry, McDowall, Barrington) reports that ISIL launched strikes yesterday in areas held by the government near Damascus. One of the attacks, near the Dumeir military airport, reportedly killed 12 Syrian soldiers.

ISIL SELLING SYRIAN ARTIFACTS ON BLACK MARKET. Richard Engel reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/6, story 6, 3:00, Holt, 16.61M) that an NBC News investigation has found evidence that ISIL is selling "priceless artifacts on the black market to fund its campaign of terror." According to Engel, ISIL militants smuggle artifacts from the towns they've captured in Syria and bring them over the border to small Turkish towns, where they seek to "make a discreet sale, often for tens of thousands of dollars." [Reuters](#) (4/6, Charbonneau) notes that in a letter released yesterday, Russian Ambassador to the UN Vitaly Churkin wrote, "Around 100,000 cultural objects of global importance, including 4,500 archaeological sites, nine of which are included in the World Heritage List of...UNESCO, are under the

control of the Islamic State...in Syria and Iraq. ... The profit derived by the Islamists from the illicit trade in antiquities and archaeological treasures is estimated at US \$150-200 million per year.”

FORMER BUSH OFFICIAL: OBAMA TEAM HAS EMBRACED BUSH’S PREEMPTION DOCTRINE.

Jack Goldsmith, an assistant attorney general in the Administration of George W. Bush, writes in an op-ed for [TIME](#) (4/6, Goldsmith, 18.01M) that “last week the State Department’s top lawyer, Brian Egan, gave an important but underreported speech that marked the final stage of the Obama administration’s normalization of once-controversial Bush-era doctrines about the conduct of war.” Specifically, adds Goldsmith, Egan “announced the Obama administration’s official embrace of the same preemption doctrine that justified the invasion of Iraq.” Egan embraced “all of the tenets of Bush preemption,” even if he discussed “the principle in the context of force against non-state actor terrorists.”

COMBATANTS VIE FOR CONTROL OF AFGHANISTAN’S HEROIN TRADE. The [New York Times](#) (4/6, Nordland, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports as the first poppy harvest season begins in Afghanistan, which “accounts for 90 percent of the world’s heroin,” unlike past years, “there will be no serious efforts to eradicate the opium crop...thanks to a combination of Taliban advances and out-of-control corruption, with both sides battling over the drug trade.” Maj. Gen. Abdul Jabar Qahraman, President Ashraf Ghani’s envoy for Helmand province, which is “the world capital of opium and heroin production,” says a big reason “Helmand has become so difficult is that so many of its combatants have a financial stake in seeing the continuation both of the drug trade and the war itself – something he hopes to undo by getting all sides talking to one another.”

THOUSANDS OF AFGHANS FLEEING FOR EUROPE. The [Washington Times](#) (4/7, Ashoori, Times, 285K) reports on the “tens of thousands of Afghans who have already left their homeland in the last year in search of better jobs and a better life in Western Europe.” According to analysis, “the lagging economy and rampant corruption, along with a worsening security situation, are threatening Afghanistan’s fledgling democracy despite the best efforts and huge investment of the US and its allies.” Despite those efforts, the Times adds, “Afghans don’t want to stay.” According to the UN, Afghans this year “represent 26 percent, or roughly 37,000, of the total Mediterranean Sea arrivals to Europe, making them the second-highest group after Syrians.”

GATES, PANETTA, HAGEL CRITICIZE OBAMA’S NATIONAL SECURITY POLICIES, WHITE HOUSE STAFF. On [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (4/6, 1.53M), Bret Baier reported on his weekend interviews with three of President Obama’s four defense secretaries. Baier said that “all of them shared one particular criticism: an inexperienced White House staff running wars and international affairs from inside the White House.” Robert Gates told Baier, “It was the operational micromanagement that drove me nuts,” adding that there were “clearly a number of people at the White House” who believed the military was trying to box Obama in. Leon Panetta said, “What I’ve seen in the last four years is this cautiousness and over correction. Which makes it appear that the United States is hesitant to take action. And that sends I think a message of weakness.” Chuck Hagel charged that Obama is “one of the most inexperienced presidents we’ve ever had,” adding, “I don’t think there’s one veteran on his senior staff.”

REPUBLICAN SENATORS SEEK TO BLOCK PROPOSAL ON IRAN DOLLAR USE. The [AP](#) (4/6, Lee) reports Republican Sens. Marco Rubio and Mark Kirk are trying to block an Administration proposal that would ease rules on dollar transactions to support legitimate trade business with Iran. On Wednesday, the two introduced legislation that would bar Treasury from “permitting foreign banks to conduct foreign currency trades in US dollars for transactions involving Iran.” [Reuters](#) (4/6, Zengerle, Wroughton) reports State Department spokesman Mark Toner acknowledged the US is advising banks and other businesses about how to conduct business with Tehran without violating US law, but that does not involve converting money to dollars. “These banks don’t want to violate existing sanctions,” he said, “but they are allowed to under certain condition to do business with Iran, so we do consider it as an obligation on how to counsel them.”

WPost: Iran Should Be Punished For Ballistic Missile Tests. A [Washington Post](#) (4/6, 8.98M) editorial says that while Iran has complied with the terms of last year’s nuclear agreement, it has also “aggressively exploited loopholes in the agreement and tried to create new ones” – “most seriously, it has repeatedly tested ballistic missiles.” The Post says that while action “is not likely before the US election,”

Congress should “mandate sanctions against all Iranian entities, including financial institutions, connected to the missile program and renew the broader Iran Sanctions Act,” which would send Iran “the message that its infractions will be costly.”

STOLTENBERG: “TOO MANY” NATO MEMBERS NOT PAYING ENOUGH. In an interview on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/6, 554K), NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that “too many” NATO members are spending too little on the alliance, “and every time we meet leaders from NATO countries in the different capitals, I’ll address this issue.” Later in the interview, when asked why NATO as an organization isn’t stepping in to fight ISIL the way it did against the Taliban, Stoltenberg [said](#) the “most important thing is that NATO allies in different ways are part of the fight.” He explained that NATO has begun to train Iraqi officers in Jordan and that NATO will “increase our presence” inside Turkey’s borders with Syria and Iraq.

Barbara Starr reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/6, 554K) that amid “worldwide questions about NATO’s relevance,” Administration officials are “adamant” the alliance is beneficial to US security. Starr added that the latest calculations show less than 11 cents of every \$100 spent on the US defense budget goes to NATO.

SOUTH KOREA: NORTH HAS MINIATURIZED NUCLEAR WARHEAD. Brian Todd reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/6, 554K) that South Korean officials have issued a “nerve-rattling” assessment that Kim Jong-un’s regime has successfully miniaturized a nuclear warhead to fit on a medium-range “Rodong” missile. Todd said the missile’s reported range has “daunting implications” because of its potential to strike the DMZ, Seoul, and US military installations across Japan. Meanwhile, recently released satellite images indicate “suspicious activity” at a North Korean complex that produces plutonium, which Todd said “could mean they are producing more [nuclear] bombs.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/6, Fifield, 8.98M) reports South Korean Defense Minister Han Min-koo said the North’s “recent test firings of 300-millimeter rockets suggested that it had almost completed the development of its multiple launch rocket system.” Han, the [New York Times](#) (4/6, Choe, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports, said Pyongyang “was likely to deploy the new system late this year at the earliest.”

WSJournal: Japan And Korea Are Not Free-Riders. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes against Donald Trump’s recent suggestion that the US withdraw from the Western Pacific. The Journal says that with Tokyo and Seoul paying almost half of local US military costs, stationing forces in the region costs US taxpayers less than if they came home. Furthermore, Japan and South Korea are paying more than \$30 billion for the four biggest US military construction projects in the Pacific, compared to just \$7 billion in costs to US taxpayers. The Journal concludes that Americans should be aware that those countries are paying their share and that US deployment in the region is critical to US security.

UN ENVOY URGES RAPID HANDOVER IN LIBYA. [Reuters](#) (4/6, Lewis) reports UN special envoy Martin Kobler on Wednesday urged a rapid and complete handover of power in Libya to a unity government that arrived in Tripoli a week ago, warning that a fragile peace may not hold if the new government is unable to deliver. [AFP](#) (4/6), however, reports that efforts by the unity government to assert control over Tripoli were “thrown into chaos Wednesday as the head of a rival Tripoli-based authority backed away from ceding power.” AFP says the reason for Khalifa Ghweil’s “U-turn was not immediately clear but could suggest a split within the Tripoli authority.”

EGYPT THREATENS TO SHUT DOWN CENTER DOCUMENTING TORTURE. The [AP](#) (4/6, Rohan) reports that for “more than two decades, a team of psychiatrists in downtown Cairo have provided...therapy for people who say they are victims of torture.” But now Egyptian authorities are “trying to shut down the Nadeem Center,” which produces “detailed documentation of police torture.” The AP says the move against the center is “part of an effort targeting a number of rights groups and non-governmental organizations that has raised sharp criticism of Egypt at home” and overseas.

NYTIMES: TENSIONS GROW OVER CHINA’S MOVES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA. The [New York Times](#)

(4/6, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes that amid tensions over China's provocations in the South China Sea, other Asian countries "are increasingly pushing back." Another result of China's actions is a new defense agreement allowing the US to use five bases in the Philippines "for the first time in more than 20 years." However, with China refusing to resolve disputes peacefully through international courts, "some sort of confrontation seems increasingly likely."

To keep the email to a manageable size, the national news summary is available on the [website](#).

Copyright 2016 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Services that include Twitter data are governed by Twitters' [terms of use](#). The DHS News Briefing is published seven days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.