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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016 5:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADING DHS NEWS:

- + [Growing Calls For TSA To Address Lengthening Airport Security Lines.](#)
- + [US Arrests Liberian War Criminal On Immigration Charges.](#)
- + [House Passes Bill Requiring DHS Conduct Comprehensive Security Assessment Of The Southwest Border.](#)
- + [Deputy Secretary Of Homeland Security Speaks At University.](#)
- + [Photo Of Johnson At BlueWaveNJ's Annual Gala.](#)

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT:

- + [Lawyer For Couple Accused Of Enslaving Housekeeper Blames Cultural Confusion.](#)
- + [California Bill Would Bar Local Governments From Contracting With Private Companies To Detain Immigrants.](#)

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION:

- + [DHS Urged To Stop, Punish Border Agents Taking Deportees' Possessions.](#)
- + [Continuing Coverage Of Judge Stopping Border Patrol From Locating Veteran In Texas.](#)

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:

- + [Sen. Paul Seeks To Arm More Pilots.](#)
- + [LAX Holds Emergency Drill.](#)
- + [House Passes TSA Fairness Act.](#)
- + [Paper Calls For Screening Airport Employees For Terrorism Ties.](#)

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY:

- + [Electrical Grid Hearing To Include Fugate Testimony.](#)
- + [Michigan Lawmakers Approve Flint Water State Of Emergency Extension.](#)

US CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES:

- + [US Commerce Secretary Warns Of Danger To Visa System.](#)
- + [Judge Puts Off Suit On Passport Marker Law.](#)

IMMIGRATION:

- + [Clinton Says She Would Create "Office Of Immigrant Affairs."](#)
- + [USA Today Analysis: SCOTUS Ruling On Immigration Could Spark More Legal Challenges.](#)
- + [Rubio Urges Congress To End Automatic Refugee Status For Cubans Immigrants.](#)
- + [Little-Used Charge In South Dakota EB-5 Visa Case.](#)
- + [Nebraska Legislature Passes Bill To Allow Professional Licenses For Immigrants.](#)
- + [Florida Immigrants To Rally In DC To Support Obama Immigration Programs.](#)
- + [GOP Lawmakers Awaiting Approval Of Visas To Visit Iran.](#)

SECRET SERVICE:

- + [Trump Campaign Manager Won't Be Prosecuted For Battery.](#)

- + Secret Service Planning For Trump Rally.

NATIONAL PROTECTION AND PROGRAMS:

- + Louisiana State House Refuses REAL ID Licenses, Supports Separate ID Cards.

OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS:

- + Author: 2015 Avian Flu Highlights US Vulnerabilities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE:

- + DHS S&T Deploys New Trusted Info Sharing Network Technology.

TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS:

- + Obama Touts Gains Against ISIL, Says US Is “Accelerating” Fight.
- + Pentagon: Phase Two Of Fight Against ISIL Has Begun.
- + Senate Republicans Wants Administration To Release Information On Gitmo Detainees.
- + ISIL Celebrates Brussels Bombers In Online Magazine.
- + Spain Arrests Man Suspected Of Supplying Arms To Jan. 2015 Paris Attacker.
- + ISIL Claims Responsibility For Clashes With Philippine Army That Killed 23.
- + Milbank: Release Of Benghazi Panel’s Report Timed For Political Advantage.

CYBER NEWS:

- + Rep. Hurd Aims To Expand DHS Role In State And Local Cybersecurity.
- + Burr, Feinstein Offer Draft Encryption Bill.
- + FBI Anti-Encryption Effort In 2003 Seen As Precursor To Current Dispute.
- + House Panel Approves Bill To Require Government To Get Warrant To Read Old Email.
- + Sen. Carper Blames Congress For IRS Cybersecurity Problems.
- + CIO Scott Discusses Cybersecurity Hiring At Baltimore Event.
- + President Obama’s Cybersecurity Commission Set To Hold First Meeting On Thursday.
- + PC Magazine Analysis: As Threat Of Ransomware Grows, Consumers Must Remain Aware Of The Risk.
- + Rockhurst University Employee Data Breached.
- + Underwriters Labs Creates IoT Cybersecurity Standard, But Denies Requests For Free Peer Review.
- + Organizations Increasingly Focused On “Cybersecurity Culture”.
- + Researchers Find Chinese Hacking Of US Companies Declines Following September Agreement.
- + US Cyber Command Tasked With Taking On ISIS.
- + Will: US Needs “Cyberdeterrent Capacity.”

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM:

- + Social Media Services Battle To Stop Spread Of ISIL Propaganda.

NATIONAL SECURITY NEWS:

- + New Round Of Syrian Peace Talks Begins In Geneva.
- + Syria Holds Parliamentary Election.
- + Scuffles Break Out In Iraqi Parliament Over Stalled Cabinet Vote.
- + Talabani: Kurdistan Government Needs Financial Support.
- + Sex-Trafficking Scandal Involving Young Syrian Women Shocks Lebanon.
- + Treasury Official Argues Against New Iran Sanctions After Missile Tests.
- + Carter To Highlight Strong Military Ties During Visit To Philippines.
- + Russian Jets Buzz US Warship In Baltic Sea.
- + Defense Officials: North Korean Missiles A Growing Threat To US.
- + North Korea Struggles To Block Outside Information.
- + WSJournal: Defections A Sign Kim’s Regime Is Feeling Pressure.
- + WPost Analysis: Submarines Have Key Role In South China Sea Security.
- + Israel Employs “Pinpointed Strategy” In West Bank.

Leading DHS News:

GROWING CALLS FOR TSA TO ADDRESS LENGTHENING AIRPORT SECURITY LINES. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/13, story 9, 1:50, Holt, 16.61M) reported on the “growing calls for the TSA to fix” the increasing wait times at airport security check points “overwhelmed by an increase in passengers and not enough people on the job.” NBC (Costello) added, “The TSA’s security checkpoints are looking more like choke-points.” TSA Administrator Peter Neffenger was shown saying, “So when the TSA says be prepared for high volumes at the airport, it’s because there are just that many more people traveling.” Costello said, “The TSA admits it’s simply struggling with attrition and understaffed, having underestimated the sudden surge in passenger volume nationwide.” To deal with the issue, “TSA is hiring 200 new officers each week and moving dog teams from slow to busy airports to screen passengers standing in line.”

On its website, [NBC News](#) (4/13, Schuppe, 3.58M) reports American Airlines has joined the “growing chorus of Transportation Security Administration critics who say the agency isn’t doing enough to make sure passengers make their flights.” American spokesman Ross Feinstein said in a statement, “The lines at TSA checkpoints nationwide have become unacceptable,” with customers waiting for more than an hour. Feinstein added, “As we approach spring and summer, we are concerned that these lines will grow even longer.” However, the TSA is “in a tough spot: make sure no terrorists get on a plane, but also avoid inconveniencing millions of law-abiding travelers while fighting budget cuts.”

[CBS News](#) (4/13, 3.97M) reports on its website, “Extremely long TSA lines and wait times hitting up to 90 minutes caused spring break chaos...and prompting demands the TSA fix the problem now.” The [Bergen \(NJ\) Record](#) (4/14, Berger) reports, “Transportation Security Administration staff shortages are a national problem,” and “frustrated travelers...have taken to social media to complain of security waits of 30 minutes to more than one hour that they have described as ‘ridiculous’ and ‘a disaster.’” TSA spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein “said the agency is also screening more carry-on luggage than usual as passengers try to avoid newly implemented checked bag fees.” She added, “Our number one goal is to provide world-class security and sometimes that takes time.”

Airline Industry Group Encourages PreCheck Enrollment. [The Hill](#) (4/13, Zanona, 862K) reports a poll from Airlines for America (A4A) found that air travelers’ “level of satisfaction was...higher among those enrolled in the Transportation Security Administration’s PreCheck program.” With the industry expecting longer security wait times, organization officials “encourage more passengers to enroll in TSA PreCheck.” A4A chief economist and vice president John Heimlich said on a press call, “It is paramount that the carriers work collaboratively with the TSA and customs and [the Federal Aviation Administration], anyone involved in the entire journey, to make it as smooth as possible.” He added, “We would love to see enrollment in the expedited screening program rise.”

US ARRESTS LIBERIAN WAR CRIMINAL ON IMMIGRATION CHARGES. The [AP](#) (4/13) reports US Attorney Zane Memeger announced Liberian war criminal Mohammed Jabbateh is being detained on immigration charges. He has been charged with “lying on his immigration forms while seeking asylum and residency nearly two decades ago.”

[Reuters](#) (4/13) reports Memeger said Jabbateh hid the fact that he was an officer of the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia and the crimes he’d committed there. He has been accused of committing or ordering murder, torture, public rape, and the enslaving of civilian noncombatants. Homeland Security Investigations acting Special Agent-in-Charge Jack Staton said in a statement, “The United States has always welcomed refugees and those fleeing oppression, but we will not be a safe haven for alleged human rights violators and war criminals.” Memeger had been living near Philadelphia since the late 1990s.

HOUSE PASSES BILL REQUIRING DHS CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST BORDER. The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/13, Theobald, 975K) reports the House passed a bill requiring the Department of Homeland Security to complete “a comprehensive security assessment of the southwest border” within six months. The bill “requires the Border Patrol to issue a strategic plan by March 1, 2017, and every five years after that.” The bill now goes to the Senate. Bill author Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ), chairwoman of the Border and Maritime Subcommittee of the House

Homeland Security Committee, “has been critical of DHS for offering inconsistent estimates of how secure the border is.”

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY. The [Anderson \(IN\) Herald Bulletin](#) (4/13, Bibbs, 53K) reports Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, speaking at Anderson University, said that “radicalization of domestic terrorists, cybersecurity and encryption, and the potential chilling effect on travel and tourism because of increased vigilance at airports are some of the matters that weigh heavily on” DHS officials. He also said, “We try to counter radicalization,” adding that radicalization diminishes, in the words of the Herald Bulletin, “with a strong foundation of faith, family and purpose.”

PHOTO OF JOHNSON AT BLUEWAVENJ’S ANNUAL GALA. The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (4/14, 98K) runs a photo of Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson during his “surprise visit to the Montclair-based BlueWaveNJ’s annual gala to salute longtime friends and gala honorees Rosemary Iverson and James E. Johnson.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

LAWYER FOR COUPLE ACCUSED OF ENSLAVING HOUSEKEEPER BLAMES CULTURAL CONFUSION. [Reuters](#) (4/13, Malo) reports Douglas Brown, a defense attorney for Firas Majeed and Shatha Abbas, who are accused of enslaving a woman to be their live-in maid, said the case arises from cultural confusion and misunderstandings due to money and language differences between his clients, who are from Iraq, and the victim, from Indonesia. Dave Shaw, special agent with Homeland Security Investigations in San Diego, said in a statement, “Forced labor, which often involves individuals who are held in isolation, degraded, and most alarming, stripped of their basic human freedom, has no place in a modern society.”

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (4/13, Davis, 534K) reports Dubai physician Dr. Haider Kubba, the brother-in-law of Abbas, is denying accusations of withholding pay and keeping the “housekeeper virtually captive before sending her to” the US. She “told agents with U.S. Homeland Security Investigations that she began working for Kubba’s family in Dubai and was not paid wages and [was] locked inside the home for five years, only being allowed out to take out the family’s trash, according to the complaint.” She also said that he wouldn’t return her passport and didn’t let her go. In emails he said that the maid requested he hold her wages and was free to return to Indonesia but refused to do so.

CALIFORNIA BILL WOULD BAR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM CONTRACTING WITH PRIVATE COMPANIES TO DETAIN IMMIGRANTS. [Southern California Public Radio](#) (4/13, 75K) reports a California bill “aims to stop California cities and counties from contracting with private prison companies that detain immigrants,” but the city of Adelanto is pushing back. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement pays the city “about \$4 million a month” under a contract “for detention space for up to 1,455 immigrants at \$112.50 per detainee, per day” in an immigrant detention center run by the GEO Group. Adelanto nearly went bankrupt last year, and City Council member John “Bug” Woodard “said the GEO contracts are vital to the city’s economy.” However, the bill’s backers say local governments only would be barred from working with for-profit detention contractors, not “contracting detention space directly to ICE.” The bill would still affect such contracts in other ways, as it “would make it mandatory for all immigrant detention facilities in California to comply with federal standards guidelines that are now optional.”

Customs and Border Protection:

DHS URGED TO STOP, PUNISH BORDER AGENTS TAKING DEPORTEES’ POSSESSIONS. Vicki B. Gaubeca, Director of the ACLU New Mexico Regional Center for Border Rights, writes in an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (4/13, Gaubeca, 862K) “Congress Blog” that US Border Patrol agents are taking the possessions of those deported from the US. Gaubeca calls for Americans “to stop the wholesale robbery of people by our government and demand that U.S. Border Patrol agents treat noncitizens with the same dignity and humanity that we would want for ourselves.” No matter what one feels about immigration policy, “we can

all agree that robbing people and abandoning them in an unknown place – taking their hard-earned money, cell phones or photo ID – isn't just wrong, it's cruel." Gaubeca says the Department of Homeland Security "must investigate and change its policies regarding the retention and return of personal belongings, and it must hold accountable the agents who abuse these policies."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF JUDGE STOPPING BORDER PATROL FROM LOCATING VETERAN IN TEXAS. In continuing coverage, the [AP](#) (4/13) reports Judge Thomas Ludington barred the US Border Patrol from ordering Anthony Gazvoda, a war veteran, "to Texas and marking him as AWOL if he doesn't report." Gazvoda is seeking an assignment in Michigan because "the culture and environment in Laredo, Texas, reminds him of his time in Afghanistan while with the Army and triggers PTSD."

Transportation Security Administration:

SEN. PAUL SEEKS TO ARM MORE PILOTS. [Vice](#) (4/13, Mimms, 1.65M) reports Sen. Rand Paul "is pressing Congress to pass legislation allowing all pilots aboard commercial flights in the US and internationally to carry firearms." Under the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Flight Deck Officer program, thousands of pilots currently can carry concealed weapons aboard their flights as deputized members of law enforcement, having taken "special training courses from federal Air Marshals." Paul's bill would make more pilots eligible for the program and add an additional five training facilities to the current one. However, the Obama Administration "has sought to cut funding for the existing program, arguing that the Transportation Security Administration's pre-flight screening of passengers and locks on cockpit doors make the program unnecessary."

LAX HOLDS EMERGENCY DRILL. The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (4/13, 301K) reports on Los Angeles International Airport's "2016 LAX Air Exercise, a two-hour, unrehearsed drill designed to test the ability of hundreds of emergency-response personnel to react to a disaster on the airfield." This year an aircraft striking a vehicle on the ground while landing was simulated. The scenario included "actual explosions on the tarmac to simulate the crash" and 150 volunteers posing as victims. Among the agencies participating in the drill were Transportation Security Administration, Customs and Border Protection, and the FBI.

HOUSE PASSES TSA FAIRNESS ACT. The [Salina \(KS\) Journal](#) (4/14, Unruh, 88K) reports the House passed the TSA Fairness Act, which would "require the Transportation Security Administration to place screeners at small and rural airports with commercial air service." The legislation would affect 29 airports. In a release, Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R) said, "This legislation will reverse the denial by TSA and ensure they stop discriminating against smaller rural communities like Salina."

PAPER CALLS FOR SCREENING AIRPORT EMPLOYEES FOR TERRORISM TIES. In an editorial, the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (4/14, 333K) calls for the Transportation Security Administration to require all airports screen their employees for ties to terrorism; otherwise "the TSA might as well unplug airport scanners and dismiss screeners."

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

ELECTRICAL GRID HEARING TO INCLUDE FUGATE TESTIMONY. [The Hill](#) (4/13, Cama, 862K) reports in a multi-item "Overnight Energy" story that FEMA Administrator Fugate is scheduled to testify during a Thursday "hearing on the possibility of a cyberattack or other major failure in the electrical grid." Fugate will testify before members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee.

MICHIGAN LAWMAKERS APPROVE FLINT WATER STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENSION. [MLive \(MI\)](#) (4/13, Lawler, 617K) reports a state lawmaker said members of the Michigan Legislature have approved extending the timeline for a Flint water state of emergency. State Sen. Arlan Meekhof added that the timeline, which has been extended to August 14, now matches up with one that FEMA officials put into place. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said, "The approval of the emergency extension further demonstrates the state is committed to continue working with the city to provide strong support and continue drawing on all resources available to support Flint residents during the city's recovery." [Reuters](#)

(4/13, Klayman) also covers this story.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

US COMMERCE SECRETARY WARNS OF DANGER TO VISA SYSTEM. The [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (4/13, Millward, 898K) reports Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker said at the World Travel and Tourism Council's annual summit that the visa waiver "programme is at risk and we need your help." Following the terrorist attacks in Brussels, Paris, and San Bernardino, "there is all party support for measures to tighten the programme." The appeal "to travel chiefs was seen as an attempt to enlist their support in persuading European politicians go climb down."

JUDGE PUTS OFF SUIT ON PASSPORT MARKER LAW. The [AP](#) (4/13, Thanawala) reports US District Court Judge Phyllis Hamilton held it would premature "to immediately block a law that requires a marker to be placed in the passports of people convicted of sex offenses against children." She ruled that only when the law had caused some harm could it be challenged.

Immigration:

CLINTON SAYS SHE WOULD CREATE "OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS." The [New York Times](#) (4/13, Robbins, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reported that Hillary Clinton on Wednesday appeared "at the Midtown Manhattan headquarters of the Service Employees International Union, where she met with immigrants and accepted the endorsement of the New York State Immigrant Action Fund, a group focused on promoting immigrant rights." At the event, Clinton said that as president, "she would create an Office of Immigrant Affairs to coordinate programs on the federal, state and local levels to further her agenda to promote a comprehensive overhaul of the immigration system." As president, Clinton also said she'd "provide \$15 million in grants to support 'community navigators' who would assist immigrants in pursuing legal opportunities, including seeking temporary relief from deportation." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) also reports on the story.

USA TODAY ANALYSIS: SCOTUS RULING ON IMMIGRATION COULD SPARK MORE LEGAL CHALLENGES. [USA Today](#) (4/13, Wolf, 5.45M) reports the Administration's "last-ditch effort to offer more than 4 million undocumented immigrants protection from deportation reaches a short-handed Supreme Court on Monday, but the eight justices may not have the final word." A 4-4 vote "would hand a victory to Texas and 25 other states that have successfully blocked the program in lower courts, but it could unleash new challenges." USA notes that states and cities "who favor the program could try to fight the nationwide injunction imposed by a lone judge on the Mexican border and upheld by the nation's most conservative federal appeals court. 'Basically, you'd have a judicial mess,' says David Leopold, an immigration attorney and former president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. 'You'd have absolute chaos in the courts.'"

Texas Driver's License Fees Seen As Key Issue In Immigration Challenge. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Bravin, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that a key issue in the immigration challenge involves the fees Texas charges for driver's licenses. The state's standing to bring the legal challenges rests on its claim that it would be required to subsidize the cost of licenses to individuals who qualify for the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans, which would provide work authorization and temporary reprieves from deportation to millions of undocumented immigrants whose children are US citizens. Texas charges \$24 for a driver's license, but argues it costs nearly \$200 to process each application, and the state contends in a legal brief that, since immigrants with temporary status can request licenses, "Texas therefore would lose millions of dollars if even a small fraction of DAPA-eligible aliens applied for driver's licenses."

RUBIO URGES CONGRESS TO END AUTOMATIC REFUGEE STATUS FOR CUBANS IMMIGRANTS. The [Miami Herald](#) (4/13, Rosen, 803K) reports Sen. Marco Rubio on Wednesday urged Congress to end the automatic refugee status for Cubans, placing them in the same category as other immigrants. Rubio said that although he is the "son of Cuban immigrants" and "live[s] in a community where Cuban exiles have had an indelible imprint," he believes "this provision of law, this distinction, is no longer justified."

Rubio explained, “This current policy is not just being abused, it’s hurting the American taxpayers.” Rubio offered a measure making the change as an amendment to a FAA funding bill.

LITTLE-USED CHARGE IN SOUTH DAKOTA EB-5 VISA CASE. The [AP](#) (4/13, Nord) reports that Joop Bollen, who is “accused of diverting more than \$1.2 million” from when he ran South Dakota’s EB-5 visa program, is charged with disposing of secured property, “a little-used felony charge that has been filed in much simpler cases” in which property that’s collateral for a loan is damaged or improperly sold. Bollen’s attorney, Reed Rasmussen, argues that his client is being made a scapegoat and that civil litigation would be more appropriate. Meanwhile, South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley “said he’s frustrated he can’t bring conflict-of-interest charges.”

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE PASSES BILL TO ALLOW PROFESSIONAL LICENSES FOR IMMIGRANTS. The [AP](#) (4/13, Schulte) reports the Nebraska state Senate passed a bill to allow undocumented immigrants “with temporary legal status to work in more than 170 professions, including jobs as teachers, nurses and doctors.” The chamber’s 33-11 vote is enough to override the “likely veto by Gov. Pete Ricketts,” who “said the bill is too broad and is unfair to immigrants who followed the legal process to establish residency.” Bill opponent state Sen. Bill Kintner (R) said, “We didn’t cause the problem. We shouldn’t have to fix the problem.”

FLORIDA IMMIGRANTS TO RALLY IN DC TO SUPPORT OBAMA IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS. The [AP](#) (4/13, Bustos) reports, “A group of Florida immigrants are headed to Washington” to hold a rally in support of President Barack Obama’s Deferred Action for Parents of Americans. With the Supreme Court hearing arguments Monday in a lawsuit on the programs, immigrants are making “a national effort to make their voices heard.”

GOP LAWMAKERS AWAITING APPROVAL OF VISAS TO VISIT IRAN. The [AP](#) (4/13, Lardner) reports that “more than two months ago,” several Republican congressmen visited the Iranian Interests Section in Washington to apply for visas to travel to Iran. According to the AP, “they still don’t have an answer,” so they wrote a letter to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif “asking him what gives.” Reps. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), Lee Zeldin (R-NY), and Mike Pompeo (R-KS) have planned what the AP calls “a Republican fantasy trip,” which includes visiting “American hostages held by the Iranians” and receiving briefings on the January detention of 10 American sailors, as well as tours of three Iranian nuclear sites.

Secret Service:

TRUMP CAMPAIGN MANAGER WON’T BE PROSECUTED FOR BATTERY. [Politico](#) (4/13, Gold, Caputo, 1.07M) reports Palm Beach County State Attorney David Aronberg has decided not to prosecute Corey Lewandowski, Donald Trump’s campaign manager, for battery against “former Breitbart reporter Michelle Fields, sources with knowledge of the situation told POLITICO.” Trump has “helped lay the foundation for Lewandowski to raise a ‘defense of others’ argument,” partly by saying Fields “was where she shouldn’t have been by slipping inside the perimeter of Secret Service agents who were in charge of protecting him. An anonymous Secret Service agent told DailyMail.com that Fields was told to stay away from Trump.”

SECRET SERVICE PLANNING FOR TRUMP RALLY. [WGRZ-TV](#) Buffalo, NY (4/14, 140K) reports on its website that the head of the Secret Service’s Buffalo Field Office said the agency is, in the words of WGRZ, “in the process of developing a comprehensive security plan for Donald Trump’s rally at First Niagara Center.” The Secret Service will collaborate with local law enforcement agencies.

National Protection and Programs:

LOUISIANA STATE HOUSE REFUSES REAL ID LICENSES, SUPPORTS SEPARATE ID CARDS. The [AP](#) (4/13, Deslatte, Press) reports the Louisiana state House passed a bill that would continue to ban issuing licenses that comply with the federal REAL ID law, but would allow people to “pay for a special state-issued identification card compliant with the federal act.” In contrast, the state Senate passed a bill allowing individuals to “choose whether they want a REAL ID-compliant license or not,” and Gov. John

Bel Edwards backs this approach.

Office of Health Affairs:

AUTHOR: 2015 AVIAN FLU HIGHLIGHTS US VULNERABILITIES. In a piece for the [New York Times Magazine](#) (4/14, MM54, 3.79M), Maryn McKenna, the author of “Superbug,” reports the 2015 avian bird flu cost the US roughly \$3 billion and 15,693 jobs, which “emphasizes the vulnerability of farms to outbreaks – leaving the United States open to an economic catastrophe, or possibly even a human one.” Among farmers who endured the flu, “and others watching elsewhere” in the US, “there is a pervasive uneasiness, because after a year of scrutiny, federal and academic scientists still cannot say for sure how their properties became infected.” The USDA and trade associations have since put together “more detailed plans that, if carried out, could better protect farms from the flu and from one another.” In the piece, McKenna notes that one of the Department of Homeland Security’s first responsibilities, set by presidential directive, was to protect “the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies.”

Science and Technology Directorate:

DHS S&T DEPLOYS NEW TRUSTED INFO SHARING NETWORK TECHNOLOGY. [Homeland Security Today](#) (4/14) reports the Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) announced the Backend Attribute Exchange, a new system “to streamline and improve secure information sharing between” DHS and its partners. The agency said the new system “will simplify user identification and verification between different organizations for the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) by eliminating redundancies while ensuring proper security.”

Terrorism Investigations:

OBAMA TOUTS GAINS AGAINST ISIL, SAYS US IS “ACCELERATING” FIGHT. President Obama on Wednesday highlighted recent US-led successes against ISIL, while indicating Washington will intensify its effort. Media reporting of the President’s comments at CIA Headquarters was fairly limited, focusing mostly on his quotes and including little analyses.

The [AP](#) (4/13, Lederman, Freking) reports Obama “claimed progress Wednesday in the US-led fight against the Islamic State group, even as political turmoil in Iraq and renewed violence in Syria threatened to jeopardize hard-fought gains.” [USA Today](#) (4/13, Korte, 5.45M) reports Obama “hinted at no changes in US strategy, saying the current military, intelligence and diplomatic efforts are depriving ISIL of fighters, money and leadership.” However, the President also indicated the final solution must be of a diplomatic nature, saying, “The only way to truly destroy ISIL is to end the Syrian civil war that ISIL has exploited.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/13, Bennett, Hennigan, 4.1M) reports Obama “said that the ranks of Islamic State fighters have fallen to the lowest level in two years, that the group has not had a successful offensive in nearly a year, and that ‘we continue to take out their leaders, their commanders and those plotting terrorist attacks.’” [Politico](#) (4/13, Mccaskill, 1.07M) reports Obama said ISIL’s leadership has suffered “a bad few months” and then began “ticking through a number of leaders who have been taken out.” Obama added, “And in the days and weeks ahead, we intend to take out more. Every day, ISIL leaders wake up and understand that it could be their last.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Obama said the US is “accelerating” the fight against ISIL “on all fronts” – using both military action and political negotiations. Obama said, “If you target Americans, you will have no safe haven. We will find you.” Obama also said, according to [Reuters](#) (4/13, Mason), “We have momentum and we intend to keep that momentum.”

[NBC News](#) (4/13, 3.58M) reports Obama said the anti-ISIL effort “remains a difficult and a complex one,” while [The Hill](#) (4/13, Fabian, 862K) says he “acknowledged the fight remains difficult, citing recent attacks carried out by ISIS in Belgium, Turkey and Iraq.” Obama said, according to The Hill, “These depraved

terrorists still have the ability to inflict horrific violence on the innocent, to the revulsion of the entire world.” However, the President said ISIL’s “barbarism only stiffens our unity.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/13, Nakamura, 8.98M) reports Obama also “urged Americans on Wednesday to remain resilient against threats posed” by ISIL and urged the country to resist fear and remember the “Boston Strong” message that came following the Boston Marathon bombing three years ago. Obama said, “I want to remind Americans again what Boston taught us: how to be strong, how to be resilient.” Obama added, “We have to refuse to give in to fear. We have to stay true to our values of liberty and diversity and openness.” [ABC News](#) (4/13, Marshall, 4M) reports on its website that Obama added, “In other words, we carry on. Terrorists like ISIL and al-Qaeda, they can’t destroy a great nation like the United States of America.”

PENTAGON: PHASE TWO OF FIGHT AGAINST ISIL HAS BEGUN. [The Hill](#) (4/13, Kheel, 862K) reports the Pentagon said Wednesday the first phase of military operations against ISIL is finished and the second phase has begun. Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said, “Phase one of the military campaign is complete, and we are now in phase two, which is to dismantle this enemy. We believe that by degrading them in phase one and then dismantling them in phase two, we believe that that will set us up for phase three, which, of course, is the ultimate defeat of this enemy.” According to Warren, while phase one “focused on stopping ISIS from advancing and eliminating the group’s ability to operate as a conventional force,” phase two “is focused on fragmenting ISIS and liberating strategically important territory.”

SENATE REPUBLICANS WANTS ADMINISTRATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION ON GITMO DETAINEES. [The Hill](#) (4/13, Carney, 862K) reported in its “Floor Action” blog Senate Republicans are seeking to force the Administration to “publicly release information about Guantanamo Bay detainees several weeks before they plan a detainee transfer to another country.” Legislation introduced Wednesday by Sen. James Inhofe would require the Pentagon to “make information about a detainee publicly available at least 21 days before releasing or transferring them.” As part of that disclosure, the defense secretary “would have to release the detainee’s name, where they’ll be transferred or released to, their ‘risk profile,’ and a summary of the agreement with detainee’s new host country.”

ISIL CELEBRATES BRUSSELS BOMBERS IN ONLINE MAGAZINE. [Reuters](#) (4/13, Macdonald) reports ISIL celebrated the suicide bombers of the Brussels attacks in the group’s online magazine Dabiq on Wednesday. ISIL also confirmed investigators’ beliefs that Najim Laachraoui, who blew himself up at Brussels airport, also made explosives for the November Paris attacks. Dabiq also confirmed investigators’ conclusions that Mohamed Belkaid, who was killed in a March 15 raid in the Brussels suburb of Forest, had traveled with Laachraoui to Europe from Syria with both posing as Syrian refugees.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Pop, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Dabiq also claimed that Khalid and Ibrahim el-Bakraoui, the brothers who both blew themselves up in the Brussels attacks, were responsible for “all preparations for the raids in Paris and Brussels.” That contrasts with French investigators who say Abdelhamid Abaaoud was the mastermind behind the Paris attacks.

SPAIN ARRESTS MAN SUSPECTED OF SUPPLYING ARMS TO JAN. 2015 PARIS ATTACKER. The [AP](#) (4/13, Giles) reports Spanish police arrested Frenchman Antoine Denive on Tuesday for allegedly supplying weapons to Amedy Coulibaly, who killed four people in January 2015 attacks in Paris that left 17 victims dead. Denive, who was arrested in Rincon de la Victoria on a European arrest warrant, denied the allegations before the National Court in Madrid on Wednesday, but a judge “ordered him kept in jail.” He was arrested along with a Serbian man and a Montenegrin man who are “also allegedly tied to arms trafficking.”

ISIL CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLASHES WITH PHILIPPINE ARMY THAT KILLED 23. [Reuters](#) (4/13, Abdelaty) reports ISIL claimed responsibility for clashes between roughly 120 Muslim rebels linked to the terrorist group and Philippine soldiers that left 23 people dead earlier this week. The Philippines army said troops attacked a stronghold of ISIL-linked militants on the island of Basilan. Reuters adds that the militant group was led by an insurgent for whom the State Department has offered a bounty of up to \$5 million.

MILBANK: RELEASE OF BENGHAZI PANEL'S REPORT TIMED FOR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. In his [Washington Post](#) (4/13, 8.98M) column, Dana Milbank says House Benghazi Chairman Trey Gowdy has said to expect a final report from his panel "before summer." According to Milbank, the report could be "on track to drop by mid-July, just before Congress recesses for the conventions and at a time when Republicans will be in need of a distraction from the Trump-Cruz standoff," or "in September, in the campaign's homestretch." Either of these would "confirm what critics of the panel have said all along," that "the panel is a political exercise designed to damage [Hillary] Clinton." Milbank predicts "a lot of findings questioning Clinton's honesty (she told her family the Benghazi attack was the work of terrorists but misled the American public), judgment (her policy led to the Libya attack) and humanity (she was indifferent to diplomats' security)," which will "dovetail nicely with the general-election campaign Republicans plan to run against Clinton."

Cyber News:

REP. HURD AIMS TO EXPAND DHS ROLE IN STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY. [Government Computer News](#) (4/13, Schneider, 501) interviews IT Subcommittee chairman Rep. Will Hurd, who is advocating a broader role for DHS in helping state and local governments with issues of cybersecurity. Rep. Hurd introduced legislation in 2015 called the State and Local Cyber Protection Act, which "would require DHS' National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center to help state and local agencies identify both system vulnerabilities and possible protections, provide technical assistance to deploy continuous diagnostic and mitigation services as well as offer training to their personnel." Government Computer News points out that the legislation has not been taken up in the Senate after being passed in the House in December.

BURR, FEINSTEIN OFFER DRAFT ENCRYPTION BILL. Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr and ranking Democrat Dianne Feinstein have issued a formal draft of legislation giving courts the power to order technology companies to help authorities break into encrypted devices of communications, [Reuters](#) (4/13, Hosenball, Volz) reports. A statement from Burr and Feinstein said they intend to "solicit input from the public and key stakeholders before formally introducing the bill."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, B1, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says the proposal could exacerbate the disagreement between the government and tech companies, and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (4/13, Strohm, 289K) says the proposal "adds fuel" to the ongoing fight over "whether companies must give law enforcement agencies access to e-mails, texts, phone calls and other data." It has already drawn opposition from "major technology industry associations, as well as a growing number of lawmakers," who argue it "would force companies to create 'backdoors' into their products and services that could make consumers and users less secure and expose data to hackers, spies and criminals." The [Washington Post](#) (4/13, Demirjian, 8.98M) quotes a statement from Sen. Ron Wyden which said, "This legislation would effectively prohibit Americans from protecting themselves as much as possible," adding that it would leave people "vulnerable to stalkers, identity thieves, foreign hackers and criminals," and "provide an incentive to would-be terrorists to use non-American encrypted products and apps to continue their conversations."

[The Hill](#) (4/13, Bennett, 862K) said the bill "is expected to face long odds in the Senate," where in addition to "the outside pushback," it must "compete with an alternative effort from Sen. Mark Warner." Warner's measure, introduced with House Homeland Security Chairman Michael McCaul, would "establish a national commission that would explore how police can get at encrypted data without endangering Americans' privacy."

FBI ANTI-ENCRYPTION EFFORT IN 2003 SEEN AS PRECURSOR TO CURRENT DISPUTE. The [New York Times](#) (4/13, Apuzzo, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that according to newly uncovered records, FBI agents in 2003 were granted permission by a judge to remotely install software onto an animal welfare group's computers after the bureau's surveillance efforts were thwarted by encrypted email technology. The animal rights activists, "believed to be sabotaging operations of a company that was using animals to test drugs," were convicted of conspiracy to violate the Animal Enterprise Protection

Act a year later, the Times says. Though it is not known whether the FBI's anti-encryption tactic worked, documents regarding the investigation, the newspaper says, "provide an unusual, if dated, glimpse at the cat-and-mouse game that the F.B.I. has been playing for years with people who use technology to keep their affairs secret."

Source: Nothing Of Significance Found On Farook's iPhone So Far. [CBS News](#) (4/13, 3.97M) reports on its website that according to a source, no significant information has been found on San Bernardino shooter Syed Rizwan Farook's iPhone so far. "Investigators spent months trying to gain access to data on the locked iPhone...believing that it might hold information on the plans or contacts of the attackers, who killed 14 people on December 2, 2015," CBS says.

Continued Coverage: FBI Bought Hacking Technique From "Gray Hat" Hackers. [Ars Technica](#) (4/13, Kravets, 705K) continues coverage of a Washington Post report that the FBI paid so called "gray hat" hackers for information on how to open Farook's iPhone. "The outlet says the undisclosed hackers who assisted the FBI are 'ethically murky' because they are somewhere in between 'white hats' who disclose their exploits to companies so they can be fixed, and 'black hats' who are in the business of stealing private data," Ars says. The website could not immediately verify the Post's report.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/13, 8.98M) posts a video to its website summarizing facts from the San Bernardino iPhone case.

Cybersecurity Exec: Encryption Debate Years From Resolution. [Bloomberg News](#) (4/13, Syeed, 2.92M) reports that according to David DeWalt, CEO of cybersecurity firm FireEye, the debate between the government and powerful corporations over cybersecurity will continue for multiple years. "We now have corporations, for the first time in history, as powerful as the United States," DeWalt said. Companies, he added, are becoming increasingly "polarized" on how to respond to requests for data from the government.

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES BILL TO REQUIRE GOVERNMENT TO GET WARRANT TO READ OLD EMAIL. [USA Today](#) (4/13, Kelly, 5.45M) reports the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday unanimously approved the Email Privacy Act, which would "stop the government from being able to read Americans' old emails without a warrant." The measure, which "would replace a 1986 law that allows government investigators to peruse emails at will if the communications are at least six months old," would "require federal officials to obtain a warrant before they can read or view emails, texts, photos or instant messages – regardless of when the data was sent." USA Today calls the vote "Congress' first real move toward updating the 30-year-old Electronic Communications Privacy Act," which "considers old emails to be 'abandoned' and allows federal agents to read them without obtaining a warrant."

SEN. CARPER BLAMES CONGRESS FOR IRS CYBERSECURITY PROBLEMS. [The Hill](#) (4/12, Bennett, 862K) reports the top Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee, Sen. Tom Carper, is blaming Congress "for forcing the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to compromise on digital security." The Hill says that Sen. Carper "called out his fellow lawmakers for failing to give the [IRS] proper funds to improve its cybersecurity" during IRS Commissioner John Koskinen's testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday. The Hill adds that Sen. Carper "is worried that continued funding shortages will make it impossible for Koskinen to keep up in his battle against hackers."

CIO SCOTT DISCUSSES CYBERSECURITY HIRING AT BALTIMORE EVENT. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/13, Detsch, 442K) reports US CIO Tony Scott spoke at an event in Baltimore, organized by Passcode, which aimed "to explore the newest ideas and approaches to close the cybersecurity skills gap." The Monitor presents six takeaways from CIO Scott and other speakers such as thinking about cybersecurity in a global manner, and the importance of hiring employees who are able to adapt constantly to new threats.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CYBERSECURITY COMMISSION SET TO HOLD FIRST MEETING ON THURSDAY. [Reuters](#) (4/13, Rampton) reports President Obama's recently announced Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity will hold its first public meeting on Thursday. Reuters says the panel is a mixture of academia and private sector employees. Reuters adds that the commission is tasked with

making long-term recommendations to improve the nation's cybersecurity by early December.

PC MAGAZINE ANALYSIS: AS THREAT OF RANSOMWARE GROWS, CONSUMERS MUST REMAIN AWARE OF THE RISK. In a more than 2,500 word analysis, [PC Magazine](#) (4/13, Heater, 2.33M) details the history of ransomware, recent high-profile cyberattacks, and tips to keep a computer ransomware-free. PC Magazine says the unique "moral quandary" presented by ransomware is "either pay the ransom – thereby funding the activities of the criminals who hacked into their system – or lose the files forever." PC Magazine offers tips to avoid ransomware such as "install security software, keep your operating system and applications up to date, and don't visit any suspicious sites or open email attachments from unknown sources."

ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE DATA BREACHED. The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (4/13, Bradley, 608K) reports Missouri-based Rockhurst University announced that their employee data records were breached on April 4. The Star says that the hacker stole personal information, including social security numbers, from around 1,300 employee IRS W-2 forms. The Star adds that the University has notified its employees of the breach, and "also said it is arranging identity theft and credit monitoring protection at no cost for two years to the employees."

UNDERWRITERS LABS CREATES IOT CYBERSECURITY STANDARD, BUT DENIES REQUESTS FOR FREE PEER REVIEW. [Ars Technica](#) (4/13, Porup, 705K) reports that safety standards organization UL (formerly Underwriters Laboratories) has created new Internet of Things (IoT) device cybersecurity standards, designated as the UL 2900 certification. Ars Technica says the problem with UL's new certification is their "refusal to freely share the text of the new standard with security researchers" to allow for peer review. Ars Technica interviews UL's chief of cybersecurity technical services Ken Modeste, who defended the company's decision to deny security researchers a chance to review the certification for free by "pointing out that numerous government and industry stakeholders have seen the standard and contributed to its development, and that UL charges rates comparable to organizations like the IEEE or IEC."

ORGANIZATIONS INCREASINGLY FOCUSED ON "CYBERSECURITY CULTURE". [Government Computer News](#) (4/13, Major, 501) reports that companies and agencies are starting to put more emphasis on "making sure their employees aren't taking the bait on attacks." Government Computer News says that proper cybersecurity culture is about "constantly train[ing] both new and current employees on risk factors and actions that could open the door to an attack," so that employees are encouraged "to make the right decisions."

RESEARCHERS FIND CHINESE HACKING OF US COMPANIES DECLINES FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER AGREEMENT. The [Financial Times](#) (4/13, Lynch, Dyer, Subscription Publication, 1.36M) reports security researchers have found a decline in the amount of Chinese hacking attempts on US companies following a September agreement between the nations.

US CYBER COMMAND TASKED WITH TAKING ON ISIS. The [Financial Times](#) (4/13, Khalaf, Subscription Publication, 1.36M) reports the US cyber command will target ISIS as part of an offensive cyber warfare strategy based on an order by Defense Secretary Ashton Carter.

WILL: US NEEDS "CYBERDETERRENT CAPACITY." In his [Washington Post](#) (4/13, 8.98M) column, George Will stresses the damage cyber attacks could cause in the US and argues the country "needs a cyberdeterrent capacity – the ability to do unto adversaries anything they might try to do unto us."

Countering Violent Extremism:

SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICES BATTLE TO STOP SPREAD OF ISIL PROPAGANDA. In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, A1, Stewart, Maremont, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports social media services like Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, with the help of online hackers and others, have been fighting the spread of ISIL material online by quickly deleting the accounts of those who post material, while ISIL supporters have responded by opening new accounts as quickly as the old ones are

removed. The battle has become an important front in the effort to stem the spread of ISIL extremism.

National Security News:

NEW ROUND OF SYRIAN PEACE TALKS BEGINS IN GENEVA. [Reuters](#) (4/13, Depetris, Miles) reports UN special envoy Staffan de Mistura began a new round of Syrian peace talks on Wednesday in Geneva by meeting members of the main opposition High Negotiations Committee. A Syrian government delegation, meanwhile, is expected to arrive on Friday. Ahead of the start of yesterday's talks, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Abdulrahim, Ballout, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Secretary of State Kerry spoke with de Mistura to express concern about fighting on the ground in Syria and efforts by the Assad regime to hinder humanitarian access, the State Department said. President Obama, meanwhile, told reporters during a visit to CIA headquarters that the cease-fire was "tenuous and under strain." [USA Today](#) (4/13, Dorell, 5.45M) says the prospects for the new round of talks "are complicated by a recent spike in fighting."

Further "complicating" the talks, Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad told the [AP](#) (4/13, Karam, Aji) that the opposition should "let go of its dream" of President Bashar Assad stepping down. Mekdad told the AP that a transitional government amounts to a coup d'etat and "will never be accepted." Said Mekdad, "This will not happen, not now, nor tomorrow nor ever."

SYRIA HOLDS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/13, story 3, 2:05, Pelley, 11.17M) reported Syria held national elections on Wednesday, but none of the more than 3,000 candidates who sought seats in parliament "represented genuine opposition, so every vote was really an endorsement of President Bashar al-Assad." Elizabeth Palmer added that it would be an "understatement" to say the election was flawed, considering millions of Syrians weren't able to vote since they have either fled or live in rebel-controlled areas or active battle zones. As peace talks resumed Wednesday in Geneva, the [Washington Post](#) (4/13, Naylor, Zakaria, 8.98M) says Assad "took a major jab at the process" by holding elections "denounced as a farce by the opposition," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/13, Bulos, 4.1M) says the results are "not expected to be any different from that of previous elections, which have produced a quiescent parliament." [Reuters](#) (4/13, Davison, Bassam) reports Britain and France dismissed the election as "flimsy facade" and a "sham."

SCUFFLES BREAK OUT IN IRAQI PARLIAMENT OVER STALLED CABINET VOTE. The [Washington Post](#) (4/13, Salim, 8.98M) reports that "schoolyard-style chaos descended" on the Iraqi parliament Wednesday as lawmakers "scuffled and threw water bottles at one another." Amid the "bickering and brawls...more than 100 parliament members signed a petition calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, President Fouad Massoum and the speaker of parliament, Salim al-Jabouri" as "about the same number" staged a sit-in in the parliament building. In reaction, Jabouri "said he was looking to dissolve the assembly, raising the prospect of early elections." [Reuters](#) (4/13, Hameed, Chmaytelli) notes that dissolving parliament requires the approval of the majority of the MPs, or the approval of the president at the request of the prime minister.

TALABANI: KURDISTAN GOVERNMENT NEEDS FINANCIAL SUPPORT. [Reuters](#) (4/13, Mohammed) reports Kurdistan Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani said Wednesday that his government needs financial support to plug a monthly deficit of \$100 million and would accept conditions that might be placed on the aid. "We have absolutely no problems with any conditions that (would) be placed on financial assistance given to us," Talabani said.

SEX-TRAFFICKING SCANDAL INVOLVING YOUNG SYRIAN WOMEN SHOCKS LEBANON. The [AP](#) (4/13, Mroue) reports the discovery of a sex-trafficking ring involving 75 Syrian female victims at a hotel in Maamelteine, Lebanon in late March "deeply shocked" the country, as it is considered the worst sex-trafficking scandal in the country "in decades." Sandy Issa, a Lebanese investigative journalist who was able to interview some of the victims, described their stories like "something out of a horror movie." Victims who refused to work as prostitutes were "raped and tortured until they submitted," according to Lebanese women's rights activists. After the discovery, the Health Ministry sealed a clinic belonging to gynecologist Riad al-Alam, who reportedly performed nearly 200 abortions "for trafficked Syrian women

who got pregnant.”

TREASURY OFFICIAL ARGUES AGAINST NEW IRAN SANCTIONS AFTER MISSILE TESTS.

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/13, Foroohar, 2.92M) reports acting Undersecretary of Treasury Adam Szubin on Wednesday “argued against imposing new sanctions on Iran after its ballistic missile tests last month,” but said Tehran “would remain blocked from the US financial system.” Speaking to a conference in Washington, Szubin said, “New mandatory non-nuclear sanctions legislation would needlessly risk undermining our unity with international partners,” and “it is important to make sure our sanctions tools remain effective and are not overused.”

CARTER TO HIGHLIGHT STRONG MILITARY TIES DURING VISIT TO PHILIPPINES. [Reuters](#) (4/13, Torbati, Mogato) reports Defense Secretary Carter arrived in the Philippines on Wednesday to highlight the strong military ties with the nation as China pursues its claims in the disputed South China Sea. He arrived as the two countries conduct joint military exercises and the US plans to expand its presence at five Philippine bases.

RUSSIAN JETS BUZZ US WARSHIP IN BALTIC SEA. All three networks reported last night on footage released Wednesday by the Pentagon of two Russian jets buzzing a US Navy destroyer on patrol in the Baltic Sea. Both ABC and NBC led with the story, and reaction from the White House. Martha Raddatz reported in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/13, lead story, 2:10, Muir, 14.63M) that crew members of the USS Donald Cook recorded video of the Russian jets passing within 30 feet of the warship in “one of the most aggressive Russian actions against the US military since the end of the Cold War.” US officials say the war planes “simulated an attack.” The US ship “repeatedly radioed the Russian pilots,” but “the transmissions were ignored.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (4/13, 1.53M) indicated a Russian helicopter also circled seven times as it took pictures of the American warship.

In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/13, lead story, 2:15, Holt, 16.61M) reported the “dangerously close” encounters offered a “chilling echo of the Cold War.” US officials say the ship was in international waters in the Baltic Sea, 70 miles from the Russian coast. The ship’s commander condemned Russia’s behavior as “unsafe” and “unprofessional.” EUCOM on Wednesday warned Russia’s actions “could unnecessarily increase tensions or cause serious injury or death.” The Administration calls it a “provocation,” and is planning to lodge a diplomatic protest, according to the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/13, story 2, 2:25, Pelley, 11.17M). The [New York Times](#) (4/13, Davis, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) quotes press secretary Josh Earnest as saying, “Any peacetime military activity must be consistent with international laws and norms,” noting that there had been “repeated incidents” over the last year in which the Russian military planes have come close to other air and sea traffic in “provocative” actions. However, he “declined to say whether or how the administration planned to raise the issue with Russia.” The [AP](#) (4/13, Burns) similarly says it is “unclear when or if the US government would formally protest the Russian actions.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Barnes, Lubold, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports the Navy said the incidents are still under investigation, and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/13, Hennigan, 4.1M) says US officials are “using diplomatic channels to address the Russians.”

DEFENSE OFFICIALS: NORTH KOREAN MISSILES A GROWING THREAT TO US. [Reuters](#) (4/13, Brunnstrom, Ali) reports US officials said Wednesday that while US intelligence believes North Korea’s ability to reach the US with a ballistic missile is currently low, it is essential for the US to continue investing in missile defense because the North’s capabilities will improve. Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Brian McKeon told a Senate hearing North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs are a growing threat to the US and its East Asian allies. McKeon said, “Although the reliability of an untested North Korean ICBM is likely to be very low, North Korea has used its Taepodong-2 launch vehicle to put a satellite into orbit, thus demonstrating technologies applicable to a long-range missile.” Admiral Bill Gortney told the panel that while US intelligence believes the North’s ability to hit the US is low, it is sensible to assume the North has that ability.

NORTH KOREA STRUGGLES TO BLOCK OUTSIDE INFORMATION. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Gale, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) highlights efforts by Kim Jong-un’s regime to keep information about life outside North Korea from spreading, noting that the North’s once strong blockade of outside

sources of news and information has become weaker in the face of increased radio broadcasts into the country and the prevalence of media devices like memory cards and USB drives.

WSJOURNAL: DEFECTIONS A SIGN KIM'S REGIME IS FEELING PRESSURE. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) cites last week's defection of 13 North Koreans to the South from China as an indication Kim Jong-un's hold on the North is weakening.

WPOST ANALYSIS: SUBMARINES HAVE KEY ROLE IN SOUTH CHINA SEA SECURITY. In an analysis on its "Checkpoint" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (4/13, Lamothe, 8.98M) reports while security concerns about the South China Sea "often focus on the ships that traverse it," another "element of maritime security has received less attention: submarines." According to Adm. Scott Swift, the top officer of the US Pacific Fleet, submarines "are a 'critically valuable asset' to him." Swift said, "It gives me much more open access to areas that would be more contested in a conflict for surface units, for instance, or air units, potentially." The Post notes speculation on the part of "some national security analysts" that "part of China's desire to take over all or part of the South China Sea is to create a sanctuary for its submarines."

ISRAEL EMPLOYS "PINPOINTED STRATEGY" IN WEST BANK. The [New York Times](#) (4/13, Hadid, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on Israel's "pinpointed strategy" in the West Bank, which targets "mainly individual villages sporadically," calling it "a stark departure from the widespread closings and curfews Israel imposed on West Bank cities during the second intifada." According to the Israeli military, "the closings are aimed only at apprehending suspects and preventing further attacks in a wave that is far less severe, sustained or widespread than previous uprisings." The "calibrated approach," the Times notes, "has helped contain international condemnation of Israel's crackdown."

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