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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

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Leading DHS News:

MORE THAN 1,100 ARRESTED IN OPERATION SHADOWFIRE. The [New York Times](#) (3/29, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports, "Federal authorities have arrested more than 1,100 people since February as part of" Operation Shadowfire, "an enforcement campaign against gangs that traffic guns, drugs and people across United States borders." ICE spokeswoman Sarah Rodriguez is cited advising that "the gangs caught in the dragnet were not small-time operators," but rather, "We are talking about sophisticated organizations who are involved in human trafficking, who are involved in drug smuggling, gun smuggling." An ICE statement is cited saying, "Of the 1,133 people arrested during the five-week operation, more than 900 were members or associates of gangs, including MS-13, the Sureños, the Norteños, the Bloods and several others based in prisons." The Times notes that a majority of enforcement actions took place in western cities, Atlanta, and San Juan, though "there were also arrests along the East Coast." Most arrests were of American nationals.

[Reuters](#) (3/28) identifies 915 of the 1,133 arrested as gang members and associates, and 239 as foreign nationals. Reuters notes that ICE routinely participates in law enforcement operations that target US citizens and non-citizens alike due to the agency's international criminal organization expertise.

[Fox News](#) (3/28, 9.42M) quotes ICE Director Sarah Saldaña saying in a statement, "This operation is the latest example of ICE's ongoing efforts, begun more than a decade ago under Operation Community Shield, to target violent gang members and their associates, to eradicate the violence they inflict upon our communities and to stop the cash flow to transnational organized crime groups operating overseas."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/28, Noble, 285K) says the operation "comes at a time that law enforcement officials in the D.C. area have become concerned about an increasing level of violence in the region they

associate with the MS-13 gang.” However, “gang experts question the degree to which the busts will tamp down on gang-related crime in the long term.” Retired Los Angeles County Sheriff’s sergeant Richard Valdemar is quoted saying, “The sweeps are like band aids, they look good on the 5 o’clock news but they have no effect on the actual gangs,” unlike RICO investigations. ICE spokeswoman Sarah Rodriguez “said some of those arrested are being charged as part of RICO investigations but she declined to say how many or where the investigations were centered because they are ongoing.” Cal State University gang researcher Alex Alonso also was “critical of the sweeps, calling them ‘rhetoric and propaganda’ meant to build support for law enforcement programs and deportation policies.”

In its Operation Shadowfire report, The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/29, Gass, 442K) notes, “The agency has been the focus of criticism in North Carolina recently, after it was accused of using schools and bus stops to arrest teenagers who came into the country amidst the wave of unaccompanied minors fleeing violence in Central America in 2014.”

DHS OFFICIAL TO LEAD DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH. [Prothom Alo](#) (3/28) reports, “A delegation, led by US Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) assistant secretary for international affairs Alan Bersin, arrives here on Tuesday to discuss potential areas of collaboration, especially aviation security and law enforcement.” Officials “will hold a series of meetings with Bangladesh government officials to engage on security issues during their three-day stay in Dhaka.” The [Daily Star \(BGD\)](#) (3/28, 1K) also reports, based on a US Embassy press release, and adds, “The delegation will be in Dhaka till March 31.”

Customs and Border Protection:

CBP TO INVESTIGATE CUBAN MIGRANTS WITH GUNSHOT WOUNDS. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (3/28, 605K) reports on one group of Cuban migrants’ “harrowing departure from the island on a raft during which they and five others were wounded by gunfire.” One migrant is cited saying he believes the assailants “were trying to steal the raft,” adding, “We decided to keep going. ... We boarded the raft, and then decided to at least make it to American waters so the Coast Guard could help.” The Sun Sentinel adds, “The relatively minor nature of the gunshot wounds, and the rarity of firearms in the hands of anyone but Cuban police left these rafters answering questions about their stories,” though three of the migrants “have all denied to news reporters that they caused their own injuries in order to be brought into the US.” Frank Miller of CBP is cited saying the agency will handle an investigation into the matter “in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard.”

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/29, 803K) reports, “None of the gunshots impacted vital organs or arteries.”

Transportation Security Administration:

TSA BUDGET REQUEST EXAMINED IN HOUSE HEARING. [Homeland Security Today](#) (3/28) reports, “The House Committee on Homeland Security’s Transportation Security Subcommittee recently held a hearing to examine the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2017.” HST breaks down the agency’s requested budget, then adds, “TSA’s proposed budget spurred criticism in its request – or lack thereof – of additional funds to protect surface transportation.” The subcommittee “also scrutinized TSA for not cutting funding for their Behavior Detection Program.” Administrator Neffenger is quoted defending the proposed amount: “This budget provides funding to sustain and strengthen the critical mission of TSA, protecting the nation’s transportation system and ensuring the freedom of movement of people and commerce.”

AMERICAN AIRLINES PILOT CHARGED WITH OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE AFTER FAILING TWO BREATHALYZER TESTS. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/28, story 11, 1:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported on the American Airlines pilot arrested and charged with “being drunk before takeoff in Detroit.” ABC’s Clayton Sandell explained that John Maguire, 50, allegedly failed two breathalyzer tests, and was “charged with operating under the influence.” Maguire was arrested on “Saturday morning after TSA officers at a crew checkpoint say they smelled alcohol.” The airline canceled the flight, causing all the passengers to be booked on other flights. ABC cites the FAA in reporting “every year, on average, ten pilots are busted for intoxication.” [ABC News](#) (3/28, Chadbourn, 4M) reports on its website that Maguire

was charged, but no date has been set for his arraignment. Michael Conway, director of public affairs at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, explained that Maguire failed a breathalyzer test and was arrested and given a second test. The flight was American Airlines Flight 736.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (3/28, Lawrence, 989K) reports the offense is a misdemeanor. Maguire was, according to Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy's office, "seated in the cockpit of the plane when he was questioned and investigated before being arrested." American Airlines spokeswoman Laura Nedbal called the incident "a serious matter" and said the airline is "assisting local law enforcement and the Federal Aviation Administration with the investigation."

KENTUCKY WOMAN BYPASSES TSA SECURITY IN NASHVILLE. The [Tennessean](#) (3/28, 478K) reports that Naja Eva Haynes of Oak Grove, Kentucky "is facing criminal charges after Metro police say she bypassed Transportation Security Administration security without being screened and boarded a plane at the Nashville International Airport." A spokesman for Delta Airlines "said Haynes was able to access the Boeing 737 because she pushed passed several airline agents to get on board." Haynes reportedly refused to provide identification to a gate agent or to police, who "forcibly removed her from the plane." A TSA spokesman "said Monday that its office opened an investigation after the incident and placed an employee on non-screening duty pending final determination of the investigation. That employee...has since resigned."

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

FOUR PARISHES ADDED TO LOUISIANA FLOOD DISASTER DECLARATION. The [AP](#) (3/28) reports four Louisiana parishes have been added to a federal flood disaster declaration. According to an announcement from Sen. David Vitter's office, the newly covered parishes are Jackson, Rapides, Red River and Sabine. [WVUE-TV](#) New Orleans (3/28, 44K) publishes similar online coverage of this story.

HIGH WIND ADVISORIES IN SEVERAL EASTERN US CITIES FOLLOWS TORNADO STRIKE IN KENTUCKY. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/28, story 6, 1:25, Muir, 14.63M) broadcast that with high wind advisories stretching from the nation's capital to Boston on Monday, there was a warning to lock down cranes in New York City. The potential for dangerous winds follows a "confirmed EF2 tornado" strike in Kentucky. Affected residents were cleaning up from that event on Monday.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY HELD AT UTAH CAPITOL. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/28, 388K) reports that "about 150 immigrants from more than 50 nations took their citizenship oaths" at Utah's Capitol. A USCIS release is cited saying, "Nearly 700,000 immigrants were naturalized in fiscal 2015."

Immigration:

STATES ARGUE EXECUTIVE ACTIONS UNDERMINE CONGRESS. [Congressional Quarterly](#) (3/29, Subscription Publication, 967) reports, "Texas and 25 other states argued in a Supreme Court brief filed Monday that the Obama administration flouted Congress with executive actions that could give benefits to millions of undocumented immigrants." The states' brief "comes ahead of oral arguments in the high-stakes legal challenge to President Barack Obama's actions announced in November 2014." The brief is quoted arguing that the Administration's defense of its policy "is a dangerously broad conception of executive power; if left unchecked, it could allow future executives to dismantle other duly enacted statutes." The states also "highlight how Congress never gave the president 'carte blanche to grant lawful presence to any alien it chooses to remove.'"

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/28, Kriel, 1.99M) reports, "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a brief with the US Supreme Court Monday arguing against President Barack Obama's plan to shield from deportation nearly 5 million people here illegally and give them temporary work permits." Paxton, whose office "is leading the legal charge against Obama's plan," is quoted saying, "Rewriting national

immigration law requires the full and careful consideration of Congress, not the political will and assertion of one person. As the president himself said numerous times, he alone does not have the authority to grant millions of unauthorized aliens a host of benefits, including work authorization.”

TRUMP RHETORIC MOTIVATING “UNPRECEDENTED GET-OUT-THE-VOTE EFFORT AMONG IMMIGRATION ADVOCATES.” The [Miami Herald](#) (3/28, 803K) reports that immigration advocates “have moved beyond the name-calling” at Donald Trump rallies “and are participating in efforts help legal immigrants gain citizenship, in part so they can vote.” Trump’s “political rhetoric about Mexicans” reportedly “motivates those involved in the ‘Donald Trump wave,’ an unprecedented get-out-the-vote effort among immigration advocates.” Fort Worth, Texas political consultant Juan Hernandez is quoted saying, “Trump is a great incentive for Hispanics to become citizens and vote against that type of thinking – anti-immigrant, anti-woman, anti-American. ... I say that as a Republican.”

US Coast Guard:

FOUR SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOLLOWING SUBMARINE DRUG SMUGGLING BUST. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/28, story 12, 0:15, Muir, 14.63M) broadcast that members of the US Coast Guard recently broke up a submarine drug smuggling operation. Four suspects found on the sinking sub have been arrested, according to the report, which added that the sub was carrying “more than six tons of cocaine.” The drug shipment is “worth \$200 million.”

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/28, Sernoffsky, 3.37M) reports officials said on Monday that a Bay Area Coast Guard crew intercepted the submarine off the coast of Central America. The officials added that members of the Coast Guard have seized more than 200,000 pounds of drugs from such vessels this fiscal year.

The [Navy Times](#) (3/28, Myers, 229K) reports Vice Adm. Charles Ray said on Monday that such seizures are an “indication of the adaptability and the unlimited resources of these organizations that are moving these drugs.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/28, Vives, 4.1M) reports the vehicle that sank earlier this month is officially referred to as a self-propelled semi-submersible (SPSS). Ray stated, “Transnational organized crime groups continue to adjust their tactics to avoid detection indicated by a recent rise of SPSS vessels.” Ray added, “Despite these efforts, we will continue to execute an offensive strategy that targets, attacks and disrupts these dangerous criminal networks.”

US, CANADIAN COAST GUARD TO TRAIN FOR ARCTIC CRUISE SHIP “CATASTROPHE.” [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/28, Goldenberg, 3.71M) reports, “On 13 April, coast guard officials from the US and Canada will train for a cruise ship catastrophe: a mass rescue from a luxury liner on its maiden voyage through the remote and deathly cold waters between the Northwest Passage and the Bering Strait.” The possibility of such an event “is becoming all too real” as “the loss of Arctic sea ice cover, due to climate change, has spurred a sharp rise in shipping traffic – as well as coast guard rescue missions – and increased the risks of oil spills, shipping accidents, and pollution.” The Guardian adds that the cruise ship *Crystal Serenity* will sail these waters, from Seward, Alaska to New York City. The ship’s scale “and the potential for higher-volume traffic in the Arctic has commanded the attention of the coast guard, government officials and local communities, all trying to navigate an Arctic without year-round ice.”

Secret Service:

SECRET SERVICE RULES OUT GUNS AT GOP CONVENTION. While [McClatchy](#) (3/28, Chokshi, 22K) says an online petition to allow the open carry of firearms at the RNC convention “has collected more than 42,000 signatures as of Monday morning, putting it well on its way to a current goal of 50,000,” [Reuters](#) (3/28) reports the Secret Service said Monday it will not permit people to carry guns at the event, citing its authority to rule out guns at sites visited by protectees. The agency told an ABC News affiliate in Cleveland, “Only authorized law enforcement personnel working in conjunction with the Secret Service for a particular event may carry a firearm inside of the protected site. ... Individuals determined to be carrying

firearms will not be allowed past a predetermined outer perimeter checkpoint, regardless of whether they possess a ticket to the event,” according to [Washington Times](#) (3/28, Blake, 285K).

WOMAN ARRESTED AT WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL. [Reuters](#) (3/28) reports that the Secret Service announced the arrest of a woman at the annual White House Easter egg roll because she attempted to move a temporary security barrier. Reuters says the arrest happened around the same time that an armed man entered the US Capitol Visitor Center. A Secret Service official denied any relation between the arrest and the Capitol incident.

Another [Reuters](#) (3/28) story reports that the Secret Service, as a precautionary measure, temporarily closed the White House complex’s north and south fence lines, as police reported gunfire at the US Capitol Visitor Center.

TOMBSTONE BEARING TRUMP’S NAME REMOVED FROM CENTRAL PARK. [The Hill](#) (3/28, Hensch, 862K) “Ballot Box” blog reports, “New York City officials have removed a tombstone bearing Donald Trump’s name from Central Park.” The object “listed Trump’s birth year of 1946, but it did not specify a year of death,” and its epitaph is quoted reading, “Make America Hate Again,” a “twist on Trump’s ‘Make America Great Again’ campaign slogan.” Secret Service office of public affairs special agent in charge Martin Mulholland is quoted saying, “We’re not going to comment on protective procedures or protective knowledge like that.”

National Protection and Programs:

CHARLOTTE TRANSIT SYSTEM DEBUTS “SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING” APP. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (3/28, 610K) reports that a new “See Something, Say Something” mobile app “allows cellphone users to report suspicious behavior or other concerns directly to the Charlotte Area Transit System.” The app “is a move by CATS to plug into the US Department of Homeland Security’s national campaign that goes by the same name.”

BROOKS: BRUSSELS ATTACKS BRING NEW FOCUS ON PROTECTION OF SOFT TARGETS. Chuck Brooks, former DHS official and vice president for government relations and marketing at Sutherland Government Solutions, writes in [Federal Times](#) (3/28, 117K), “In response to the recent terrorist attacks in Brussels, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said there is “no credible or specific intelligence regarding a similar plot that has been uncovered” in the US. Regardless, the Brussels attacks have certainly brought a new focus by DHS, the intelligence community and law enforcement to mitigate future threats to soft targets.” The “open and accessible” nature of democratic societies make securing soft targets a “difficult challenge”; nonetheless, “the emergence of new capabilities could enable DHS to address these vulnerability issues, and there are protocols and systems that can make a difference.” Brooks concludes, “Increased vigilance, shared intelligence, continued specialized training, and more investments in security technologies, canine detection capabilities, and dedicated security personnel to patrol common spaces will all serve to make us safer.”

Terrorism Investigations:

EGYPTAIR FLIGHT HIJACKED, FORCED TO LAND IN CYPRUS. [Reuters](#) (3/29) reports an EgyptAir flight from Alexandria to Cairo was hijacked on Tuesday and landed in Cyprus, Egyptian officials said. The pilot was threatened by a passenger strapped with explosives, who forced him to land in Larnaca, Cyprus. The [AP](#) (3/29, Hadjicostis, Hendawi) reports that according to Egyptian and Cypriot officials, “some of the women and children were allowed to get off the aircraft” in Larnaca. It “was not immediately clear if one or more hijackers were involved.” According to [BBC News](#) (3/29, 2.09M), EgyptAir said negotiations had resulted in the release of “all those on board apart from the crew and four passengers.”

NYTIMES A1: ISIL BEGAN SENDING OPERATIVES TO EUROPE TWO YEARS AGO. The [New York Times](#) (3/29, A1, Callimachi, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports in a front-page story that “a body inside the Islamic State...was obsessed with striking Europe for at least two years before the deadly assaults in Paris last November and in Brussels this month.” During that time, the group dispatched “a

string of operatives trained in Syria, aiming to carry out small attacks meant to test and stretch Europe's security apparatus even as the most deadly assaults were in the works." According to officials, the "signs of this focused terrorist machine were readable in Europe as far back as early 2014," but local authorities "repeatedly discounted each successive plot, describing them as isolated or random acts, the connection to the Islamic State either overlooked or played down."

MEDIA ANALYSES: RELEASE OF SUSPECT A SETBACK FOR BRUSSELS ATTACK

INVESTIGATION. The release of a suspect who was believed to be the so-called "man in white" seen in airport surveillance video of the Brussels airport bombers is being cast a setback for the investigation and another mistake by Belgian authorities. While other aspects of the investigation, including the charging of three people with participating in terrorist activities, does garner media attention, the release of the suspect is the dominant focus of much of the reporting.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/28, Mufson, 8.98M) says after freeing suspect Faysal Cheffou, who "had been taken into custody and initially charged with participating in a terrorist attack," Belgian police on Monday "issued a fresh call to help identify 'the man in white,'" the only one of the three Brussels airport attackers believed to have survived the bombings. According to prosecutors, Cheffou, who is "thought to resemble the attacker shown in the airport surveillance image," declined "to answer questions and there was not enough evidence to hold him." [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/28, story 2, 2:25, Holt, 16.61M) called Cheffou's release "a stunning setback for investigators," and NBC contributor Malcolm Nance said "Belgian authorities are beleaguered."

Noting that officials released surveillance video from the moments before the airport blasts, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/28, story 7, 2:30, Muir, 14.63M) described the release of the footage as "a call for help from Belgian authorities," and The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/28, story 3, 2:25, Pelley, 11.17M) said Belgian authorities "had to admit they are no closer to putting name to the face" of the suspect. CBS also said the "constant police bungling is no laughing matter." Similarly, [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/28, 6:06 p.m. ET, 1.53M) said US officials are now involved in the investigation "as Belgian and European investigators are widely criticized and overwhelmed."

Sen. Richard Burr said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/28, 554K) while increased cooperation and US involvement would benefit the investigation, "at the end of the day, this is one that will be led by the Belgians." Burr went on to express doubts about European ability to maintain their ongoing "24/7 footing for security" indefinitely. Also on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/28, 554K), law enforcement analyst Tom Fuentes criticized Belgian authorities' investigative methods, comparing them to the Keystone Cops. Likewise, both [Reuters](#) (3/28, Lewis) and the [New York Times](#) (3/28, Higgins, Breedon, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) cast the development as a setback for the investigation, and the Times describes it as "another blunder" by Belgian authorities.

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/28, A1, Barnes, Pop, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says investigators are focusing attention on two right-handed gloves found on a bus that left the airport shortly after the attacks. US officials said both tested positive for explosives and are suspected to match gloves worn by the attackers

Also Monday, [USA Today](#) (3/28, Solis, 5.45M) reports, Belgian authorities "charged three people detained during Sunday's raids with participating in terrorist activities." According to broadcaster RTBF, prosecutors ordered Yassine A., Mohamed B. and Aboubaker O. "be held on terrorism-related charges." However, the [AP](#) (3/28, Dahlburg) says it was unclear if they "were linked to the attacks themselves," and the prosecutors "provided no details of the alleged actions committed by the suspects."

In his [Washington Post](#) (3/28, 8.98M) column, Marc Thiessen faults Belgium for its "failure to effectively interrogate" Salah Abdeslam, arguing such an interrogation "could have foiled last week's deadly terror attacks." Officials failed to ask Abdeslam "about future attacks," and they "compounded that error by holding multiple news conferences in which they bragged about his arrest and boasted how well he was cooperating." Thiessen argues Abdeslam's case "demonstrates the need for some form of secret detention and an intelligence-driven approach to interrogating captured high-value terrorists."

Investigations Reveal Complexity Of ISIL Operations. The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/28, story 4, 1:40, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that while “investigators are finding ISIS operatives throughout Europe,” and some suspects have been arrested, “police have barely begun to pick apart the complex net were of terrorist cells.” CBS detailed some of the arrests for various crimes both related and unrelated to the Brussels attack, which indicate “that ISIS has spun a web more complex than anyone had imagined.”

DOJ DROPS LEGAL ACTION AGAINST APPLE AFTER CRACKING FAROOK’S IPHONE. In a move the [Washington Post](#) (3/28, A1, Zapotosky, 8.98M) describes as “stunning,” the Justice Department has withdrawn its legal action against Apple after an outside method “brought to the FBI this month by an unidentified entity” was successful at bypassing the locking function on San Bernardino shooter Syed Farook’s iPhone, [USA Today](#) (3/28, Johnson, 5.45M) reports. In a two-page filing in a California federal magistrate’s court, DOJ lawyers wrote, “The government has now successfully accessed the data stored on Farook’s iPhone and therefore no longer requires the assistance from Apple Inc.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/28, 4.1M) quotes the statement as saying, “Although this step in the investigation is now complete, we will continue to explore every lead, and seek any appropriate legal process, to ensure our investigation collects all of the evidence related to this terrorist attack. The San Bernardino victims deserve nothing less.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/28, Benner, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says “law enforcement’s ability to unlock an iPhone through an alternative method raises new questions, including about the strength of Apple’s security on its devices.” In addition, it “creates potential for new conflicts between the government and Apple, as how the government broke into the phone remains unknown.” The [Washington Times](#) (3/28, Morton, 285K) similarly says it is “unclear whether the surprise ending to this legal standoff will affect future battles over privacy and national security or if the FBI might still seek to use the tactic in the future if agents again find themselves unable to gain access to an encrypted cellphone.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/28, A1, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says DOJ spokeswoman Melanie Newman indicated that although gaining access to Farook’s iPhone is no longer a concern, the larger battle over encryption-protected technology will likely go on, saying, “It remains a priority for the government to ensure that law enforcement can obtain crucial digital information to protect national security and public safety, either with cooperation from relevant parties, or through the court system when cooperation fails. We will continue to pursue all available options for this mission, including seeking the cooperation of manufacturers and relying upon the creativity of both the public and private sectors.”

While the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/28, story 2, 1:10, Pelley, 11.17M) said “at least for now, a major point of contention” between the Administration and privacy advocates “has been put to rest,” [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/28, story 5, 1:05, Holt, 16.61M) reported authorities “say the data extracted from the phone is encrypted and will take some time to decode.” Sen. Richard Burr told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (3/28, 6:08 p.m. ET, 554K) the data on the phone “is absolutely crucial” to the investigation, but the difficulty in accessing it is “just one example of what I fear we will face in the future many, many times,” in both criminal and terrorist investigations.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/28, story 3, 1:35, Muir, 14.63M), Apple CEO Tim Cook said he understood FBI Director Comey’s claim that accessing the phone was about “14 people who were slaughtered.” However, Cook said, “To place a backdoor in the iPhone, we believe it does put hundreds of millions of customers at risk.”

KERRY’S REMARKS ON GOP RACE SPARK CRITICISM ON FOX. On [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#)’s (3/28, 8:14 p.m. ET, 767K) “Impact Segment,” guest host Eric Bolling, contributor Pete Snyder, and former Obama campaign advisor David Tafuri discussed Secretary of State Kerry’s “very provocative comments” about the Republican presidential campaign. Snyder called the remarks “unbelievable” and “a joke,” criticizing Kerry’s activities over the past year.

CBS News Examines GOP Candidates’ Plans To Prevent Terror In US. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/28, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 11.17M), Major Garrett reported on how Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and John Kasich would work to prevent a terror attack on the US homeland. Cruz “wants law enforcement to patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods before they become radicalized.” Trump “supports Cruz’s proposal

and remains focused on immigration,” favoring a ban on Muslims entering the US. Kasich and Cruz “opposed that idea, but both favor tight restrictions on immigration from war-torn parts of the Middle East.” In addition, Trump has “called for a return to waterboarding of terror suspects” and heavy bombing of ISIL, a point on which “Cruz concurs, even if the air war inflicted civilian casualties.”

A [New York Times](#) (3/28, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial blasts Trump’s foreign policy positions, saying in “recent spate of interviews” he was “unable or unwilling to clarify his disturbing views” on a number of “critical national security issues, which sometimes shift from one minute to the next.” the Times says Trump “is confronting most of these issues for the first time, and many of his thoughts are contradictory and shockingly ignorant.”

WSJournal: Trump Would Accelerate NATO Withdrawal. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/28, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes on Trump’s criticism of NATO and US membership in it, saying he would most likely accelerate the Administration’s decreased focus on Europe. The Journal says while Trump is mistaken on the alliance’s importance in fighting terrorism and safeguarding the West against Russian hostility, his criticisms serve as a warning that Europe should invest more in NATO both for its own sake and to ensure American interest is politically viable.

WIDOW: OBAMA SHIELDING SAUDI ARABIA FROM ACCOUNTABILITY FOR 9/11 ATTACKS. In a [Huffington Post](#) (3/28, 518K) op-ed headlined “Obama of Arabia,” 9/11 widow and activist Kristen Breitweiser, accuses the President of keeping hidden from the American public “28 pages of the Joint Inquiry of Congress (an investigation into the US government intelligence failures prior to 9/11),” which “allegedly prove that the Saudis had a controlling hand in funding the 9/11 attacks that killed 3,000 innocent people.” Breitweiser says 9/11 families have tried to hold Saudi Arabia accountable in court, but the Kingdom “was dismissed from the 9/11 case on grounds of foreign sovereign immunities protection under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA),” and when they sought Supreme Court review of the case, “the US Department of Justice (at the direction of President Obama) has written ‘Letters of Interest’ recommending that the Supreme Court deny hearing our case thereby allowing the Saudis to remain excused from our case via their FSIA shield.”

DOZENS OF GITMO DETAINEES AWAIT HEARINGS ORDERED BY OBAMA IN 2011. The [Miami Herald](#) (3/28, Rosenberg, 803K) reports dozens of detainees in the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba are still waiting for reviews before the Periodic Review Board as ordered by the President in 2011. Attorney Shane Kadidal of the Center for Constitutional Rights said that at the current rate, “it seems utterly implausible that they can complete these hearings before the end of the president’s term.” Moreover, the Herald notes, “these are baseline hearings that decide not that a captive can leave – just whether the State Department can start looking for a country to take him in.” Once a country is found, “a second intelligence analysis ensues to determine whether the security arrangements offered by the would-be host country are robust enough.”

CIA TOOK NAKED PHOTOS OF DETAINEES BEFORE SENDING “FOR TORTURE.” [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/28, Ackerman, 3.71M) reports the CIA “took naked photographs” of detainees being “sent to its foreign partners for torture.” The images, some of which “a former US official” described as “very gruesome,” raise “new questions about the seeming willingness of the US to use what one medical and human rights expert called ‘sexual humiliation’ in its post-9/11 captivity of terrorism suspects.”

MEMBER OF MINNESOTA ISIS SUSPECT’S DEFENSE TEAM IS ACCUSED OF ‘PREACHING JIHAD’. [KSJR-FM](#) Collegeville, MN (3/28, Ibrahim, 45K) reports Federal Prosecutors expect to file a motion Tuesday to disqualify a man serving as law clerk for Minnesota ISIS suspect Mohamed Farah because prosecutors say the clerk, Hassan Mohamud, has a history “preaching about jihad.” KSJR-FM says that prosecutors have not yet given full detail about “Mohamud’s preaching,” but will seek to disqualify him and two defense attorneys. KSJR-FM adds that a hearing will be held Friday based on the judge’s order for prosecutors “to explain whether there are grounds to disqualify” the defense attorneys.

SOURCES TELL FOX NEWS BRUSSELS SUICIDE BOMBERS WERE LISTED IN US DATABASES. [Fox News](#) (3/28, 9.42M) reports in its “Daily Bret” blog that law enforcement sources confirmed to “Fox News that the two brothers named as suicide bombers in the Brussels airport attack were listed in US

intel databases and known to FBI.” Fox News adds that the one source said the intelligence for the two brothers was “for cross-referencing purposes – essentially so FBI and other U.S. agencies had awareness of the names if they were to come up over the course of another investigation.”

MISSISSIPPI WOMAN TO PLEAD GUILTY TO TERRORIST CHARGE. The [AP](#) (3/28, Amy) reports Jaelyn Young, of Vicksburg, Mississippi, “plans to plead guilty to a terrorism charge Tuesday,” and “faces up to 20 years in prison.” The AP says that Young is alleged to have “tried to go to Syria to join the Islamic State group.” The AP adds that court filings in the case say Young and her boyfriend “contacted undercover FBI employees online stating they wanted help to travel to Islamic State group territory.” The AP points out that Young and her boyfriend, Muhammad Dakhalla, were arrested before boarding a flight to Istanbul on August 8.

Cyber News:

FBI INVESTIGATING CYBERATTACK ON D.C.’S MEDSTAR HOSPITALS. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/28, story 4, 0:30, Muir, 14.63M) reported on “what appears to be a massive cyber attack” against MedStar medical offices and hospitals on Monday, which affected emergency rooms and hospital computer networks. ABC added there are “hundreds of thousands of patients in that network,” and the FBI is investigating. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/28, McDaniels, Duncan, 712K) reports MedStar Health staff had “to resort to paper medical records and transactions.” The Sun adds that the hospital “quickly shut down all computer system interfaces to prevent a computer virus from spreading,” and “no patient medical records or other information was compromised,” according to a statement from the hospital. The Sun says that patients were still seen at the nonprofit’s ten regional hospitals, despite the fact that staff could not log into the computer network. [Fox News](#) (3/28, 9.42M) reports it received a statement from the FBI saying it is “looking into the nature and scope of the matter.” Fox News adds that an anonymous law enforcement official “says [the] FBI is assessing whether the virus is so-called ransomware.” [In Homeland Security](#) (3/28), The [AP](#) (3/28), [WUSA-TV](#) Washington (3/28, 106K), [CNN](#) (3/28, Pagliery, 3.96M), [The Hill](#) (3/28, Bennett, 862K), and [Reuters](#) (3/28, Finkle, Volz) also reported on Monday’s cyberattack of Medstar Hospitals.

WPost Analysis: Healthcare Providers Hold Information Valuable To Hackers. The [Washington Post](#) (3/28, Peterson, 8.98M) analyzes the recent string of high-profile cyberattacks on healthcare providers and says the reason hackers are targeting the healthcare sector is because it “has a lot of information that could be valuable to criminals.” The Post says that healthcare providers “have a bunch of personal information that could be used for traditional financial fraud,” and they possess even more valuable information such as health insurance information that “can be used to commit medical fraud.”

ICE’S CYBER CRIMES CENTER EXPANDS TO RESPOND TO NEW THREATS. [Homeland Security Today](#) (3/28, Vicinanza) reports the ICE Cyber Crimes Center, or C3, expanded over the summer “to enhance the agency’s ability to disrupt and defeat increasingly sophisticated cyber criminals operating around the globe.” Homeland Security Today interviewed C3 Acting Deputy Associate Director Patrick Lechleitner, who said, “In addition to child exploitation and computer forensics units, we have added a third unit: the computer crimes unit. This is the resource driving innovation when it comes to computer-enabled crimes, such as network intrusion of online theft of intellectual property and intrusion of export control data.” Homeland Security Today adds that C3 played a pivotal role in the sophisticated investigation and takedown of drug marketplaces Silk Road and Silk Road 2.0.

OLCOTT: IMPROVEMENTS IN DATA COLLECTION WILL RAISE CYBERSECURITY REPORT CARD GRADES. In an op-ed for [The Hill](#)’s (3/28, Olcott, 862K) “Pundits Blog,” Jacob Olcott, vice president of business development for BitSight Technologies, says that the recently released annual cybersecurity report cards for federal agencies shows that only the General Services Administration earned an A grade. Eight agencies earned A grades in 2014. Olcott argues that report card scores would improve if the government took steps to “modernize its data collection process,” and “move toward automated reporting of agency data to continuously evaluate the effectiveness of agency cybersecurity.” Olcott also urges the government to “reassess the accuracy of the data that it is collecting,” and “create more useful metrics to better evaluate the effectiveness of an agency’s program.”

FT: HACKERS WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT THROUGH PROXIES BLUR LINES BETWEEN THIEVES, SPIES. The [Financial Times](#) (3/28, Dyer, Lynch, Subscription Publication, 1.36M) analyzes the blurring lines between hackers working as spies for a government and hackers working for private security forces who may be contracting with nation-states.

Another [Financial Times](#) (3/28, Hollinger, Editor, Subscription Publication, 1.36M) story discusses defense companies' efforts to provide cybersecurity services for businesses.

HUMAN-RIGHTS GROUP QUESTIONS SECURITY OF CHINESE WEB BROWSERS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/28, Osawa, Dou, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab released a report highlighting security vulnerabilities among China's top three web browsers due to lackluster encryption methods. The Journal says that Citizen Lab found that Tencent's QQ Browser, Alibaba's UC Browser, and Baidu's Browser had potential flaws that could make a user's personal information vulnerable because of the browsers' collection of user information in a non-encrypted or weakly encrypted fashion.

MORGAN: WOMEN NEEDED IN CYBERSECURITY FIELD. In an op-ed for [Forbes](#) (3/28, 8.72M) Steve Morgan, CEO at Cybersecurity Ventures and Editor-In-Chief of the Cybersecurity Market Report, details a recent study that says "only 11% of the world's information security workforce are women." Morgan says the SANS CyberTalent Immersion Academy for Women, The Women's Society of Cyberjutsu, Women in Cyber Project, and Women in Cyber Security (WiCyS) "are several organizations and programs devoted to women in cybersecurity." Morgan tells women "the cybersecurity field needs you, and they will be lucky to have you!"

FBI SEEKING BUSINESS HELP IN INVESTIGATING NEW RANSOMWARE. [Reuters](#) (3/28, Finkle) reports the FBI released an advisory on March 25 to businesses and security experts asking for help in investigating MSIL/Samas.A ransomware. Reuters adds that MSIL/Samas.A ransomware is different from typical ransomware because it attacks and encrypts an entire network's data. Reuters says that the FBI advisory asks for victims of ransomware to immediately contact the FBI's CYWATCH cyber center.

DHS CYBER OFFICIALS TAKE ON NEW RESPONSIBILITIES. [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (3/28, Miller, 11K) says DHS "seems to be on a never-ending find-and-replace mission when it comes to cybersecurity experts." FNR reports that Danny Toler "is moving to be the career deputy assistant secretary in the Cybersecurity and Communications Office after serving as the head of network security deployment for the last 16 months," according to NPPD undersecretary Suzanne Spaulding, who also announced that "Brian Gattoni, current Network Security Deployment (NSD) branch chief for systems engineering and acquisition, will take over as acting director of NSD once Toler begins his new position."

National Security News:

DEATH TOLL RISES FROM PAKISTAN TERROR ATTACK. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/28, story 3, 2:30, Holt, 16.61M) reported the death toll from Sunday's terror attack in Pakistan has climbed to 72 "and at least 320 others injured." More than half of the fatalities were children in an attack targeting Christians. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/28, story 8, 0:20, Muir, 14.63M) noted that "a Taliban faction, which publicly supports ISIS, has now claimed responsibility."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/28, story 5, 2:05, Pelley, 11.17M) reported Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif gave a televised address "promising the nation that he would do whatever it takes to uproot terrorism," although CBS said that is "easier said than done." The Pakistani government on Monday "ordered a crackdown on extremists by police and also by thousands of paramilitaries." The [AP](#) (3/28, Gannon, Khan) quotes Sharif as saying in his "emotional" televised address, "We will not allow them to play with the lives of the people of Pakistan. ... This is our resolve. This is the resolve of the 200 million people of Pakistan."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/28, 6:06 p.m. ET, 1.53M) said the country began "three days of mourning" on Monday, with schools and businesses closed while "thousands of Islamist supporters took to the

streets” to demonstrate against government crackdowns. The [New York Times](#) (3/28, Hassan, Masood, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) highlights the sense of “shock and grief” in Pakistan, while the [Washington Post](#) (3/28, A1, Hussain, 8.98M) reports that “a spokesman for Pakistan’s armed forces, Gen. Asim Bajwa, said security agencies had begun operations to find the culprits.” Citing unnamed Pakistani officials, [Reuters](#) (3/28, Zahra-Malik, Bukhari) reports that Sharif’s government has decided to launch a full-scale paramilitary Rangers operation similar to the one conducted in Karachi for over two years.

The [New York Times](#) (3/28, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes, “The Pakistani people have suffered too much from the ravages of the Taliban, and the hypocrisy of Pakistan’s leaders.” Now “the question...is whether Mr. Sharif can succeed where his predecessors have so tragically failed.” David A. Andelman, an author and editor emeritus of World Policy Journal, writes in [USA Today](#) (3/28, 5.45M) that militants in the region “are waiting...for the American withdrawal and at the same time for a more accommodating attitude among the leadership of Pakistan toward their wants and needs,” and that “the danger is that such wants and needs could extend into the arsenal of nuclear arms that Pakistan is expanding at breakneck spe[e]d.”

WTimes Analysis: Attacks Spark Fears Of “Global War On Christianity.” The [Washington Times](#) (3/28, Richardson, 285K) runs a story headlined “Global War On Christianity Feared As Radical Islamists Warn Of More Attacks” in which it says that “the deadly Easter Sunday attack by a suicide bomber in Pakistan has sent fears soaring of an expanding war on Christianity globally.” The report primarily features comments from Christian spokespersons from organizations including the American Center for Law and Justice and the Knights of Columbus.

US CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISIL NOW FOCUSED ON NORTHERN IRAQ. [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (3/28, 5:51 p.m. ET, 554K) continued coverage of the retaking of Palmyra and the US campaign against ISIL, saying “US forces are focusing their efforts on some key areas, and all of it indeed could lead to more US troops headed to Iraq.” Correspondent Barbara Starr continued, saying “much of the secret action” is focused on the area between Mosul and Tal Afar, which “is now a critical focus for coalition air strikes with ISIS moving large amounts of personnel, equipment and money between the two.”

EXPERTS ASSESS DAMAGE TO PALMYRA. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/28, story 9, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported on images out of Palmyra of damage from ISIL’s occupation, “showing scorched patches of earth, but many of its ancient buildings [are] still intact.” Although parts of the city’s museum were “knocked over or removed,” experts found “much more remains than they thought.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (3/28, 6:08 p.m. ET, 1.53M) said “Syrian experts are expressing shock” at the condition of Palmyra after ISIL’s time in control of the city.

In the wake of their success at retaking Palmyra, meanwhile, Syrian government forces, with the support of Russian airstrikes, on Monday battled ISIL insurgents around the city, [Reuters](#) (3/28, Barrington) reports. According to the Syrian army, Palmyra will now be a “launchpad” for operations against ISIL in Raqqa and Deir al-Zor.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/28, Ballout, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says while it was expected that Palmyra would be left in ruins after 10 months of ISIL occupation, Maamoun Abdulkarim, Syria’s antiquities director, said many of the city’s antiquities have survived. Said Abdulkarim, “The panoramic view of Palmyra – the colonnades, the baths, the arches, and most of the temples – [is] surprisingly still intact.” The [New York Times](#) (3/28, Fahim, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Abdulkarim “said 80 percent of the Unesco World Heritage site that encompasses the 2,000-year-old ruins remained intact,” adding “the militants appeared to have deliberately slowed their assault on the ruins, fearing that they would stir a revolt among the local population.” However, “archaeologists abroad expressed shock at the damage inside the Palmyra Museum, where Syrian state television showed shattered statues and other artifacts torn from their mountings and damage apparently caused by shelling.” In a separate story, the [New York Times](#) (3/28, Farrell, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on efforts by cultural organizations to “create precise three-dimensional digital models of the threatened heritage monuments in Palmyra, Syria, in case the originals are damaged beyond repair.”

ABADI GIVEN THURSDAY DEADLINE TO RESHUFFLE CABINET. The Iraqi parliament has given

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi a Thursday deadline “to present a cabinet of technocrats as Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr expanded his protest movement for reform,” [AFP](#) (3/28, Faraj) reports. AFP cites “sources” in parliament who said “170 lawmakers out of 245 present voted in favour of the deadline.” In “a move meant to tackle corruption and Iraq’s massive budget crunch,” Abadi “has promised to reshuffle the government by replacing party-affiliated ministers with technocrats,” but he “has faced resistance from ministers within his own Shiite bloc who are reluctant to give up their positions and attendant privileges.”

IN MESSAGE TO “BROTHER OBAMA,” FIDEL SAYS CUBA NEEDS NOTHING FROM “THE EMPIRE.” Media reports are casting Fidel Castro’s piece in [Granma](#) – which according to the [New York Times](#) (3/28, Ahmed, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) is “the official Communist Party newspaper” – as unexpectedly hostile, following the sense of reconciliation and détente generated by President Obama’s visit. As the [Miami New Times](#) (3/28, Elfrink, 148K) puts it, much “like your curmudgeonly great-uncle fuming at the Christmas party over how the Jell-O is too warm and the kids are just too damn loud, Fidel Castro apparently did not catch rapprochement fever last week.” The [Washington Times](#) (3/28, Boyer, 285K) reports that yesterday, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest “suggested that Mr. Obama’s trip had gotten under Mr. Castro’s skin,” saying, “The fact that the former president felt compelled to respond so forcefully to the president’s visit is an indication of the significant impact of President Obama’s visit to Cuba.”

[USA Today](#) (3/28, Gomez, 5.45M) describes Fidel’s letter, addressed to “Brother Obama,” as “testy,” and notes that “many” had “wondered how Fidel...has been reacting to the rapid changes that have taken place in Cuba since he stepped down due to an illness in 2008.” The [Havana \(CUB\) Times](#) (3/28, Patterson) says Fidel “came out swinging in his first public reaction,” and “rejected the idea of reconciliation ‘after a merciless blockade that has lasted almost 60 years.’” Fidel also “recalled ‘those who died in the mercenary attacks on ships and Cuban ports, an airliner full of passengers detonated in midair, mercenary invasions, and multiple acts of violence and force.’”

[PBS NewsHour](#) (3/28, Andersen, 154K) noted that Fidel “was not absolute in his criticism of the president,” praising “Obama’s ‘humble origin and natural intelligence,’ which were ‘evident’ during the trip.” However, as the [Washington Post](#) (3/28, DeYoung, 8.98M) reports, Fidel also bemoaned Obama’s “‘syrupy’ words about brotherhood and shared history, and his call to leave behind the enmity of the past,” which he said “were enough to give Cubans ‘a heart attack.’” He concluded, “We don’t need any gifts from the empire.”

The [New York Daily News](#) (3/28, Edelman, 3.7M) describes the elder Castro as “bristling,” and says he engaged “in an ex-post-facto dialogue with pointed critiques of perceived slights and insults, including Obama’s failure to give credit to indigenous Cubans and Castro’s prohibition of racial segregation after coming to power in 1959.” In fact, the [Daily Caller](#) (3/28, Carroll, 443K) reported, Castro “proudly” declared “racism and discrimination were ‘swept away’ in Cuba after ‘the Revolution.’” [Reuters](#) (3/28, Frank) notes that Castro wrote, “My modest suggestion” to Obama “is that he reflects (on the US role in South Africa and Cuba’s in Angola) and not now try to elaborate theories about Cuban politics.” According to [The Blaze](#) (3/28, Lucas, 1.68M), Castro also bemoaned “help that racist South Africa had received from [Ronald] Reagan and Israel.”

[The Hill](#) (3/28, Fabian, 862K) noted on its website that Castro went on to tout his country’s ability “to produce food and material wealth we need with the effort and intelligence of our people.” However, added The Hill, “by most measures, Cuba’s economy is on life support.” The [New York Post](#) (3/28, Sheehy, 2.92M) runs a similar report under the headline “Fidel Castro Was Not Impressed With Obama.”

[AFP](#) (3/28) reports that Obama, “who met Raul but not Fidel Castro during his three-day visit last week, defied the regime’s warnings not to wade into Cuba’s internal affairs, meeting with anti-Castro dissidents and calling for democracy and greater freedoms.” Obama said “in an unprecedented speech carried live on Cuba’s tightly controlled” state television, “Voters should be able to choose their governments in free and democratic elections.” Castro wrote in response, “Nobody has any illusion that the people of this noble and selfless country will surrender glory and rights and the spiritual wealth that has come through the development of education, science and culture.”

Osmel Ramirez Alvarez, writing for the [Havana \(CUB\) Times](#) (3/28, Ramirez), says Obama's "speech had a profound impact on the Cuban people" as "a powerful act of demystification," because "we had spent decades seeing US presidents only as part of bad news and suddenly seeing one, in the flesh, here in Cuba, telling us he was our friend, was an unforgettable experience." To Ramirez, while "the concrete repercussions of Obama's visit remain to be seen...there is no doubt it will give great impetus, not only to the policy of rapprochement he's implemented, but also to change in Cuba." Reporting from Havana, the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (3/28, Perez, 131K) interviews several Cubans "now that life is back to normal," and finds them generally positive and hopeful following Obama's message to Cuba. One of them, however, quips, "What he has to do is to take us to the US."

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/28, 803K) reports that "more than 20 migrants from Cuba came ashore in the Lower Keys Monday morning." That follows the arrival on Saturday of "26 migrants, seven of them with gunshot wounds, [who] were found on a raft off Key West." The Herald adds that "in separate incidents last week, 58 Cuban migrants intercepted at sea on several vessels were repatriated."

OBAMA TO DISCUSS NORTH KOREA WITH ABE, PARK ON THURSDAY. The [AP](#) (3/28) reports President Obama will discuss the threat posed by North Korea during a meeting Thursday with South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The leaders will meet on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington. In a statement, [Reuters](#) (3/29) reports, the White House said, "This meeting will be an opportunity for the three leaders to discuss common responses to the threat posed by North Korea and to advance areas of trilateral security cooperation in the region and globally." Reuters notes the President will also meet separately on Thursday with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Trump's Comments On Nuclear Arms Met With Bewilderment In Seoul, Tokyo. The [Washington Post](#) (3/28, Fifield, 8.98M) reports Donald Trump's "suggestion that South Korea and Japan should have their own nuclear arsenals so they can protect themselves – and so the United States doesn't have to – has been met with bewilderment in the region." A spokesman for South Korea's defense ministry said Monday that he had no comment on Trump's remarks, but "did, however, tell reporters that the alliance with the United States remained strong." In Tokyo, chief cabinet secretary Yoshihide Suga "said that there would be no change in Japan's policy of not having nuclear weapons."

WPOST ANALYSIS: OBAMA'S NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION RECORD "MIXED." The [Washington Post](#) (3/28, 8.98M) reports President Obama's "track record is mixed on the issue that he elevated to a top priority" – nuclear nonproliferation. The Post says he has "won an agreement to limit Iran's nuclear program, persuaded about a quarter of the countries with loose nuclear materials to move them off their soil, and signed with Russia a new START treaty that includes new weapons limits." But in his fiscal 2017 budget, Obama has proposed "deep cuts in spending on programs to stop nuclear proliferation while leaving intact military spending on a new generation of weapons."

JAPAN OPENS RADAR STATION NEAR DISPUTED EAST CHINA SEA ISLANDS. [Reuters](#) (3/28, Kubo, Kelly) reports Japan on Monday began operations at a radar station in the East China Sea near a group of disputed islands. The new base on Yonaguni will serve as a listening post, but could also be used as a base for military operations in the region.

KILLING OF DISARMED PALESTINIAN BY ISRAELI SOLDIER SPARKS DEBATE. The [Washington Post](#) (3/28, Eglash, 8.98M) reports a video "appearing to show an Israeli soldier fatally shooting an alleged Palestinian assailant as he lay injured on the ground has opened a fierce debate among Israelis over whether the soldier's actions constitute murder or heroism." The Post says it is "a question that has divided some of Israel's political and military leaders," with some leaders and "tens of thousands of citizens" voicing support for the soldier, "even as military prosecutors investigate him on suspicion of murder."

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: ISIL LACKS SUPPORT IN YEMEN. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/28, Fitch, Batati, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports ISIL is struggling to gain support in Yemen as the country's Al Qaeda branch thrives. ISIL fighters, for example, are estimated to number in the hundreds, compared with several thousand for Al Qaeda.

SAUDIS CONFIRMS PRISONER SWAP WITH HOUTHIS. The [New York Times](#) (3/28, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Saudi Arabia on Monday confirmed a “large prisoner swap” with Houthi rebels – 109 Yemenis for nine Saudis – “in what appeared to be meant as a signal that the two sides would honor a cease-fire planned for April 10.”

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

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