

THE HOMELAND SECURITY *NEWS CLIPS*

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TODAY'S EDITION

Leading DHS News

Kenney Rejects U.S. Request To Reverse 'Sanctuary City' Status (PHILLY).....	3
Kenney Should Compromise With DHS « CBS Philly (KYWTV) ..	4
TSA Warns Of Long Lines This Summer, Plans To Test New Systems (MYAJC)	4
600 Passengers Miss Flights In 1 Day In Charlotte (NYT)	5
TSA Warns Of Even Longer Lines At US Airports (VICE)	6

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Russian Man Dies At San Diego Immigration Detention Center (AP)	7
Immigrant Family Detention Center Granted Child-care License (AP)	8
Texas Immigrant Detention Center Gets Childcare License (BUZZFEED)	8
Half Of Immigrant-Led Households Collect Welfare As Admission Rules Go Unenforced (WT)	9

Customs and Border Protection

Claustrophobic? Don't Even Think Of Joining The Border Patrol's 'Tunnel Rats' (LAT)	10
Tight Squeeze: Economics Make Border Drug Tunnels Narrower (LAT)	11
CBP Needs To Know When Drones Are In The Sky (FEDTIMES)	12
After 9 Years, Family Reunites At The U.S.-Mexico Border (CNNMONEY)	13

Transportation Security Administration

Paraplegic Former Olympian 'Humiliated' After TSA Pat-down (CNN)	14
'Humiliated' Olympic Gold Medalist Gets Apology After TSA Airport Screening (YGMA)	14

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Obama's Visit To Flint Sparks Political Finger-pointing (WP)	15
What An 8-Year-Old Girl In Flint Wants From President Obama (TIME)	16
Obama Adviser To Flint: We Still Have Your Back (DETN)	17

US Citizenship and Immigration Services

New Immigration Fight Looms In Congress (POLITICO)	18
--	----

Immigration

Farmers Face Huge Losses Over Migrant Worker Delays (MYAJC)	20
---	----

Directorate For Management

Auditors Criticize Pentagon For Wasting Property And Ammunition (HUFFPOST)	21
--	----

Science and Technology Directorate

DHS Pitches Silicon Valley: Innovate With Us (FEDTIMES)	22
---	----

Terrorism Investigations

The Many Ways Terrorists Communicate Online (FORTUNE) ..	23
Terrorists Prefer To Chat On Telegram And Email With Gmail (CNNMONEY)	24
FBI's Boston Chief Rejects Muslim Bans, Mass Surveillance (BOSH)	25
Surveillance Goes To Court – POLITICO (POLITICO)	26
US Intelligence Community Scored Data On More Than 96,000 'Targets' Last Year (FGHIT)	28
NSA And CIA Double Their Warrantless Searches On Americans In Two Years (INTRCPT)	28
National Intelligence Office's Top Lawyer Fires Off Spirited Defense Of Bulk Surveillance, Third Party Doctrine (TECHDIRT)	29
The Yale Law Journal – Forum: The Fourth Amendment In The Information Age (YALELJ)	30
Requests For Data Rise Sharply Under Secretive U.S. Surveillance Orders (REU)	36

Cyber News

DHS Sweetens Cyber Workforce Recruiting With New Bonuses (WFED)	36
The Future Of Encryption Is In These Politicians' Hands (WIRED)	37
US Bank Workers, ADP Hit By Tax Refund Thieves (CNBC)	38
Cyber Thieves Siphon Tax Forms From ADP Payroll Data (CNNMONEY)	38
Brazil's Latest WhatsApp Ban Is Pushing Users To Other Encrypted Messaging Apps (WP)	39
Brazil's WhatsApp Ban Is A Harbinger Of International Encryption Battles (TECHREV)	40

Australia Seeks To Bolster Tech Credentials With Cyber Budget (REU).....	40
It's Not If You'll Get Hacked, It's When And How Badly You'll Get Hurt (KCSTAR).....	40
Iran's Cyber Army – The Latest In A Series Of Maleficence (HILL).....	41

National Security News

ISIS Kills Navy SEAL (DAYBEST)	42
Defense Secretary Ashton Carter Says American Killed In Combat In Iraq (WT).....	43
US Navy SEAL Killed During IS Attack In Iraq (VOA).....	44
ISIL Kills U.S. Navy SEAL In Northern Iraq (USAT)	44
Navy SEAL Died In Combat Against ISIS In Iraq, Carter Says (MILIT)	59
Navy SEAL Killed In Iraq After Islamic State Punches Through Front Line (WP)	60
Navy SEAL Killed In Combat In Iraq, U.S. Officials Say (LAT)...	61
US Combat Death In Iraq Reflects Intensifying War (AP)	62
U.S. Navy SEAL Killed In Islamic State Attack In Iraq (WSJ)....	63
Islamic State Kills U.S. Navy SEAL In Northern Iraq (REU)	63
Third U.S. Combat Death Comes As American Troops Edge Closer To The Front Lines In Iraq (WP).....	63
Navy SEAL Is Killed In Northern Iraq In Fight With ISIS (NYT) ..	65
U.S. Mulls Expansion Of Military Force In Mideast To Battle ISIS (WT)	65
How To Put The Middle East Back Together (WP)	66
The White House's Iraq Delusion (WP)	67
'Politically Correct' Obama Admin Weakening Military: Ex-Navy SEAL (WT).....	67
Kerry Hopes To Salvage Frayed Syrian Peace (HILL)	68
Kerry Warns Assad Of 'Repercussions' Over Syria Truce Violations (AFP).....	68
Syria Conflict: Assad Strategy Won't End Civil War, Says Kerry (BBC)	69
Kerry Vows Not To Let Aleppo Fall To Assad (WT).....	69
Kerry Warns Assad To Start Transition By Aug. 1 _ Or Else (AP).....	70
Kerry Says Confident Syria Ceasefire Can Be Reached, Warns Assad (REU).....	71
Moscow Hopes For Truce 'Within Hours' As Fighting Rocks Aleppo (AFP)	71
Russia, U.S. Push To Revive Syrian Cease-fire Amid New Fighting (USAT).....	72
U.S. And Russian Officials Will Sit Side By Side To Monitor Syria Cease-fire (WP).....	72
Another Aleppo Hospital Is Hit, This Time On Government-Held Side (NYT)	73
Rebel Shelling Hits Aleppo Hospital Amid Cease-fire Efforts (WP).....	74
Renewed Fighting Kills Some Two Dozen In Aleppo, Syria (WSJ).....	75
Fla. Businessman Paid \$10K For Va. Senator's Trip To Meet Syrian President Assad (WP).....	75

U.N. Security Council Condemns Attacks On Health Workers In War Zones (NYT)	76
Edward Snowden: 'Governments Can Reduce Our Dignity To That Of Tagged Animals' (GUARD).....	77
Snowden Cheers On Increasing Pace Of Government Leaks (HILL).....	80

National News

Obamacare Customers Overpaid \$8M By IRS (WT).....	80
Blue Mass Honors Fallen Police Officers Amid Increased Targeting Fears (WT)	81
Obama To Meet With Michigan Gov. Snyder In Flint (POLITICO).....	82
Rick Snyder Wants Obama To Drink Flint Water (HUFFPOST) 82	
Despite Obama Visit, Flint Aid Faces Battle In Congress (DETN).....	83
U.S. Racism, Class Discrimination To Blame For Flint Water Scandal: U.N. (WT)	85
Lawsuit Challenges Senate Inaction On Garland (POLITICO)...	85
New Fed Bailout-Prevention Rule To Reach Beyond Banks (WSJ).....	86
Workers Are Getting A Bit More Of The Economic Pie (and Shareholders Less) (NYT).....	86
White House Tells Federal Agencies: Start Preparing For A New President (WP)	87
Sanders: Clinton Team Thinks Race 'Is Over. They're Wrong' (AP).....	88
Sanders' Indiana Primary Win Slows Clinton's March To Nomination (BLOOMPOL)	88
Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders Hope To Score Indiana Primary Win (INDYSTAR).....	88
Sanders Wins Indiana, Keeping His Movement Alive (LAT)	90
Surprise Indiana Win Vaults Bernie Sanders Toward Convention (WT)	91
Slumping Sanders Aims For Indiana Upset (POLITICO)	93
Clinton Still On Track For Nomination Despite Indiana Setback (HILL)	94
Clinton Looks Ahead, While Sanders Hopes For Symbolic Win In Indiana (USAT).....	94
Bernie Sanders Seeks Indiana Win As Hillary Clinton Looks To November (WSJ)	95
Independents Are Souring On Hillary Clinton (WSJ)	95
Poll: Sanders Trails Clinton By Double Digits In Calif. (HILL)....	95
Poll: Bernie Up With Independents, But Hillary Still Holds Sway Capitol Weekly (CAPCA).....	95
Poll: Sanders Leads By 8 Points In West Virginia (HILL)	96
Should Bernie Leave The Race? New Poll Points To 'Stay' (CSM).....	97
Poll: Majority Of Democrats Want Sanders To Stay In The Race Through Convention (MSNBC)	97
Pro Golfers Really Don't Like Hillary Clinton, According To Anonymous Poll (USAT)	98
SI Anonymous Player Poll: PGA, Champions, LPGA Pros Sound Off (GOLF)	98
Clinton: FBI Hasn't Contacted Me For Email Interview (HILL)..	101

Once A Clinton Stronghold, Appalachia Now Trump Country (AP).....	101	John Kasich Insists Donald Trump Can Still Be Stopped (WT) 117	
Hillary's Appalachian Trial (WSJ).....	102	Trump, Sanders Lead In West Virginia (PPPD).....	118
Trump Virtually Clinches Republican Presidential Nomination (AP).....	102	Poll: Trump Holds 39-point Lead In West Virginia (HILL).....	118
Donald Trump Looks For Knockout Blow In Indiana (USAT) ...	103	Cruz Unleashes Fury At Trump Over Lee Harvey Oswald Comment (REU).....	119
Trump Hopes To Land Decisive Blow In Indiana Showdown With Cruz (REU).....	104	Cruz: Trump Is An 'Utterly Amoral' Bully, Narcissist, Pathological Liar (HILL).....	119
After A Big Win In Indiana, Donald Trump Can Reach The 1,237 Delegate Total Needed For Nomination With A Big Night In California Next Month (MCT).....	104	Ted Cruz Urges Indiana To Stop Donald Trump, Pull Country Back From The 'abyss' (WT).....	120
Trump Sees A Decisive Indiana Victory At Hand, Gears Up To Take On Clinton (WP).....	105	Ted Cruz: Media Executives 'Have Made A Decision To Get Behind Donald Trump' (POLITICO).....	120
Donald Trump Wins Indiana In A Crushing Blow To Ted Cruz (NYT).....	107	Anti-Trump Republicans Confront A Dilemma: Are They Ready To Help Elect Clinton? (WP).....	121
Cruz Drops Out After Trump Wins Big In Indiana (INDYSTAR)107		Turns Out Some Republicans Would Rather Disown Their Party Than Vote For Donald Trump (HUFFPOST).....	122
Trump Conquers (POLITICO).....	108	Republican Leaders Face A Decision On Donald Trump (WSJ)122	
Trump Wins Indiana, Clearing Path To Nomination (HILL).....	109	Charles Koch Doesn't Like The GOP Race, But Don't Expect Him To Back Clinton (WP).....	123
Donald Trump Gains Clear Path To Nomination (WSJ).....	110	After Indiana, Defining Choices Loom: Our View (USAT).....	123
Yes, It's Early, But Donald Trump Would Have Uphill Battle Against Hillary Clinton (NYT).....	110	Trump's GOP Won't Be Party Of No: Jill Lawrence (USAT)	124
It's Donald Trump's Party Now (NYT).....	111	Obama Says Donald Trump Is Not Qualified To Be President (WT).....	126
Ted Cruz Dropping Out Of The Republican Presidential Race (WP).....	112	Trump Dominates TV News, Draws 3 Times As Much Coverage As Cruz, 15 Times More Than Kasich (WT).....	126
Ted Cruz Was Right: GOP Voters Wanted An Anti-establishment Candidate, Just Not Him (LAT).....	113	TV News Touts Trump, Crushes Cruz And Gives Bernie A Shot At Hillary (NWSBSTR).....	126
Ted Cruz Drops Out Of Presidential Race (POLITICO).....	114	Why Donald Trump Might — Or Might Not — Pick Florida's Rick Scott For Ticket (USAT).....	127
Ted Cruz Stayed On Message Even As He Lost His Way (NYT)115		As Trump Rises, House Republicans Lose That Sense Of Security (NYT).....	128
Ted Cruz 'Too Strategic For His Own Good' (USAT).....	116	House Panel Near Unveiling New Puerto Rico Debt Bill (REU)129	
Trump On Cruz: 'He Is One Hell Of A Competitor' (POLITICO)117		Oil Price Upheaval Finally Hits Refiners (WSJ).....	129
Exiting 2016 Race, Republican Cruz Leaves Himself A Path Forward (REU).....	117		

LEADING DHS NEWS

Kenney Rejects U.S. Request To Reverse 'Sanctuary City' Status

[Philly \(PA\)](#), May 3, 2016

Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson came to Philadelphia on Tuesday with a big ask: Persuade Mayor Kenney to flip the script on Philadelphia's status as a "sanctuary city."

He didn't succeed.

Kenney, after meeting Johnson in City Hall, said in a statement that he "stressed the need for federal immigration reform," and reiterated his commitment to keeping Philadelphia a place where immigrants are not unduly targeted by law enforcement.

"The mayor did not decide to change any policy as a result of his discussion with Secretary Johnson," Kenney spokeswoman Lauren Hitt said.

In January, as one of Kenney's first acts in office, he barred almost all cooperation between city law enforcement and federal immigration agents, which had been the city's policy until an eleventh-hour reversal by Kenney's predecessor, Michael Nutter.

By returning Philadelphia to sanctuary city status, Kenney refused to join the Department of Homeland Security's Priority Enforcement Program (PEP), which is administered by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. PEP calls for local officials to notify ICE when immigrants in custody are about to be released.

Johnson said that the issue is a matter of public safety, and that ICE targets only dangerous and violent people. Critics contend PEP can lead to overly aggressive enforcement against people for minor infractions.

Taking questions from reporters Tuesday, Johnson said: "The mayor and I had a good dialogue. ... It was the first time I met him. ... Building this type of bridge cannot be accomplished in one meeting, and we're going to keep at it."

The trip wasn't a total loss for Johnson.

He met with immigration activists; spoke with Muslim, Arab, and interfaith groups about a DHS program to counter violent extremism; and reviewed with staff security plans for the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in July.

The session with the activists, however, went about as well as his meeting with the mayor.

Meeting behind closed doors in City Hall, the advocates pushed back against PEP, and raised concerns about alleged deficiencies at the Berks County Residential Center, an ICE-supervised facility where immigrant parents and children are incarcerated while their applications for asylum are pending.

The advocates peppered Johnson with questions about an institutional rape that occurred at the facility last year, and complaints about medical care at the facility.

"This was a meeting about accountability, and to hear that Johnson had not heard of the convicted rapist who raped a woman in front of a child at Berks was alarming," said Erika Almiron, executive director of Juntos, a Latino support group with offices in South Philadelphia and Norristown.

"Our sanctuary city policy reduces deportations, keeping families together and helping Philly grow and thrive," said Peter Pedemont of New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia. "Any change ... will erase all the positive steps we've taken."

Councilwoman Maria D. Quiñones-Sánchez, who also attended the meeting, said Johnson had not proven his case that ICE doesn't have "enough tools to get bad guys off the street."

Kenney Should Compromise With DHS « CBS Philly

[KYW-TV Philadelphia](#), May 3, 2016

PHILADELPHIA — (CBS) — With Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in Philadelphia meeting with Mayor Jim Kenney over his edicts not to cooperate with the department in the reporting of undocumented immigrants, former Mayor and Governor Ed Rendell is recommending compromise.

Rendell, during an interview with Rich Zeoli on Talk Radio 1210 WPHT, hopes the two sides can reach an agreement for better cooperation.

"There are arguments for being a sanctuary city because some of the people that are sought really shouldn't be deported, but I think, on balance, and again, I hate to second guess a sitting Mayor, because there's only one Mayor, I think we should try to work out an agreement with Secretary Johnson about how this can be done with some form of review for people that we think shouldn't be deported and still cooperate. I would try to reach an agreement if I were still Mayor, but I know that Mayor Kenney feels very strongly about this. He's been doing it, pushing for increased immigration into Philadelphia for a long time."

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He acknowledged Kenney's passionate stance on the issue and also pointed out the benefits acquired through increased immigration.

"Mayor Kenney feels very strongly about this. Jim Kenney deserves an enormous amount of credit because, as a Councilman, even dating back to the time that I was Mayor and Jim was in Council, he was the one always agitating that we should be a more open and friendly city for immigrants. Now, you can do that without becoming a sanctuary city, but Jim feels very strongly about that and Philadelphia has moved significantly to get an immigrant population, and good immigrants who help our workforce."

TSA Warns Of Long Lines This Summer, Plans To Test New Systems

[Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), May 3, 2016

If you plan to take a flight this summer, the Transportation Security Administration makes no bones about it: Even with added staffing and other efforts to speed security screening, lines and wait times could be long.

And this month, the TSA is temporarily closing one of its smaller checkpoints in the Atlanta airport's domestic terminal, which will send more people to the main checkpoint.

For about three weeks starting Thursday, Hartsfield-Jackson International's smaller South security checkpoint will be closed for construction. The TSA will rebuild two lanes at the South checkpoint to test a new system in partnership with Delta Air Lines that is aimed at moving more people through the lanes in less time.

The re-engineered lanes are one initiative the TSA is using to try to avoid a summer of logjams at Hartsfield-Jackson International, where both passenger counts and wait times have been climbing.

"Think about how holiday travel looks," TSA administrator Peter Neffenger said in a meeting Tuesday with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "The kinds of volume that we're seeing now in some senses rivals what we would normally have seen around holiday periods. And that could be extended throughout the summer."

During the work at the South checkpoint, which is down a corridor near the Delta Air Lines check-in area, some staff will be moved to the more heavily used main checkpoint near the atrium. That could help lines move more quickly there.

TSA is still advising that travelers get to the airport two hours before their flight time.

Hartsfield-Jackson earlier this year threatened to privatize its security checkpoints as it pushed for more TSA staff and canine units. TSA now says it expects to have about 120 more workers this summer, a 10 percent increase from last year.

Still, with limited resources, growing passenger counts and “a challenging environment right now” with the terrorist threat, Neffenger said “we need to change the model of screening.”

He said European airports including London Heathrow and Amsterdam Schiphol use more advanced technology to process passengers than U.S. airports, prompting him to consider similar systems here.

The two new South checkpoint lanes will use automated conveyor belts and RFID radio frequency identification technology to help move bags and people more quickly, a system used at the Amsterdam airport among others. The new lanes will also feature multiple spots for passengers to prepare their bags at the same time, reducing the logjam effect when one person is slow or unaware of restrictions.

How much will the new system help to shorten waits? The busy Memorial Day travel period should give an indication, according to Neffenger.

The TSA has also boosted its use of dogs that can detect explosive residue to partially pre-screen people in line.

Budget cuts have reduced TSA's staffing by 5,600 frontline workers compared with 2011, said Neffenger, who has been in the job about 10 months. He said legislation passed in December will stem the cuts this year, and TSA is also adding 768 workers nationally this summer.

600 Passengers Miss Flights In 1 Day In Charlotte

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

Security lines at airports are getting longer – much longer – and wait times could reach epidemic levels when air travel peaks this summer, according to airlines, airports and federal officials. Charlotte Douglas International Airport has been cited as a prime example of the problem.

A combination of factors – fewer Transportation Security Administration screeners, tighter budgets, new checkpoint procedures and growing numbers of passengers – is already creating a mess at airports around the country.

While federal security officials say they are hiring and training hundreds of additional screening officers, matters are not expected to improve anytime soon.

At Charlotte Douglas International Airport, about 600 passengers missed their flights on Good Friday because an inadequate number of screeners led to waits exceeding three hours, airport officials said. Brent Cagle, the airport's interim director, complained to the TSA, calling the episode a “fiasco.”

“This situation could have been avoided, had the TSA had the proper staffing (or overtime budget necessary) to meet customer demand,” Cagle wrote in a letter to the security agency.

Kevin Frederick, federal security director for the TSA in Charlotte, has said the airport is adequately staffed to meet security and customer service needs.

“I believe we have enough resources,” Frederick said last month. He confirmed that about 60 TSA positions are being eliminated as a result of the new automated baggage screening system, but he said that won't affect the number available to staff security checkpoints.

He also said it doesn't make sense to staff many of Charlotte's 17 operable checkpoints at times of low passenger traffic.

Airline and airport officials have said they fear that the slowdown will last through the year, and could cause travel chaos in July and August, when more than 220 million passengers are expected to fly during those peak travel months.

“This is going to be a rough summer; there is no doubt about it,” said Gary Rasicot, who was recently appointed to a newly created position as the TSA's chief of operations. “We are probably not at the staffing level we would like to be to address the volume. This is why we are talking about people getting to the airport a little earlier than planned.”

Rasicot said the agency planned to assign 768 new officers to the busiest airports by June 15. The agency is also allocating an extra \$26 million for overtime pay, and is looking for ways to move its explosive-sniffing dogs where they will have the most effect on reducing wait times.

Already, passengers have reported epic lines. Social media are replete with travelers complaining of lines that exceed an hour's wait, stretch to the curb, snake to other terminal levels or even extend into different concourses.

Atlanta, Miami, New York, Seattle, Denver and Chicago, among others, have all experienced similar problems in recent months.

TSA lines at checkpoints nationwide have become unacceptable. Lines grew in January, February and March, and now in April, too. We are really concerned about what happens in the summer.

Ross Feinstein, spokesman for American Airlines, the largest carrier at Charlotte Douglas International

TSA officials say the main reason for the longer lines is an increase in the number of travelers.

“Where it starts is actually a volume issue,” said Rasicot, who was previously a senior official with the U.S. Coast Guard, as was the TSA's administrator, Peter V. Neffenger. “It's really a good-news story. The economy is doing well. Americans are traveling more. And this equates with record numbers at our checkpoints.”

At the same time, he said, the number of screeners had declined by about 5,800 because of tighter budgets. The agency now has 42,350 agents assigned for security checks.

“We need to stop losing people, and we need to add more,” he said.

He said some airlines were helping by assigning their own employees to perform some tasks, such as directing passengers to the right lanes or advising them on when to take off their shoes.

Still, many passengers complained that the agency seemed ill-prepared to handle the crowds.

Ben Cheever, a support engineer for an online security firm, recently missed a flight in Seattle despite getting to the airport two hours before his 6 p.m. departure to San Diego. Two lines spilled into the airport lobby, he said. A third was reserved for passengers who had signed up to a trusted traveler program called TSA PreCheck that allowed them speedier access.

After 90 minutes, TSA opened a couple of extra lanes, but he still missed his flight. "It was too little, too late," he said. The next day, he showed up three hours before time. "It was the most miserable business trip I've ever had."

American Airlines said that the slower lines had forced it to delay flights and rebook passengers. In a one-week period in March, the airline said, about 6,800 of its passengers missed flights after being stuck in security lines.

"TSA lines at checkpoints nationwide have become unacceptable," said Ross Feinstein, a spokesman for American Airlines, the largest carrier at Charlotte Douglas. "Lines grew in January, February and March, and now in April, too. We are really concerned about what happens in the summer."

There are other factors at play beyond fewer screeners and bigger crowds.

For one, passengers are carrying more bags on board to avoid paying fees for checked luggage.

Then there is the screening process itself, which has become more deliberate and thorough. Last year, after the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general uncovered widespread lapses, the agency made changes that slowed the screening process.

For example, the TSA stopped randomly assigning some passengers to the PreCheck lanes even though they were not enrolled.

It also eliminated a program that allowed officers trained in behavior detection to direct some passengers through PreCheck lanes after checking them for explosives using trace detection samplings.

Now, agents send unvetted passengers through the PreCheck lanes after they have been checked by explosive-sniffing dogs while in line.

The TSA said it still assigns PreCheck clearance to a small number of passengers when they receive their boarding passes using a program based on information that TSA collects from airlines.

Airlines and the TSA say that one way to shorten the wait is to sign up for PreCheck. Under that program, eligible passengers go through the speedier lanes without having to

take off their shoes and belts or to remove laptops and other electronic devices from their bags.

So far, 7 million people have enrolled in one of several trusted traveler programs, but that figure falls far short of the 25 million that the agency would like to sign up.

But even passengers with PreCheck have had close calls.

Anne Marie Harrison, a wine saleswoman who has signed up for PreCheck and who flies out of Newark Liberty International Airport about twice a month, said she nearly missed her flight after waiting more than an hour recently.

That day, the security line started downstairs, in the baggage check-in area. That was odd, she said, especially for a Sunday morning when the airport is usually empty.

"Something needs to be done," she said. "It is just crazy."

TSA Warns Of Even Longer Lines At US Airports

[Vice](#), May 3, 2016

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is warning travelers in the United States to expect even longer waits than usual at airport security checkpoints in the coming months, with the agency's new chief of operations saying that chronic understaffing and more thorough screening procedures mean "this is going to be a rough summer."

"We are probably not at the staffing level we would like to be to address the volume," the TSA's Gary Rasciot told the New York Times, in anticipation of the busy travel months to come. "This is why we are talking about people getting to the airport a little earlier than planned."

As it stands, wait times at airport security checkpoints are unpredictable. A rudimentary poll among friends found that people waited anywhere between 25 minutes to two hours to remove their shoes, pass through a metal detector, and have their bags scanned at US airports in the past year. Last month, at Charlotte Douglas International Airport, 600 passengers reportedly missed their flights after understaffing led to waits exceeding three hours. Brent Cagle, the airport's interim director, filed a complaint and told The Charlotte Observer that the entire episode was a "fiasco."

The glacially slow screening process isn't necessarily an indication that TSA is being thorough, either. Since its inception, the agency, which was hastily established at a cost of \$1.3 billion by the George W. Bush Administration as an arm of the Department of Homeland Security in wake of the 9/11 attacks, has routinely failed undercover tests. Last year, checkpoint screeners failed to detect mock explosives and weapons in 95 percent of undercover tests carried out by Homeland Security.

Related: 'It's Embarrassing': Airport Security Forced YouTube Star JusReign to Remove His Turban

On Monday, undercover Homeland Security agents tested TSA's passenger screening thoroughness at Minneapolis-St Paul International airport. The TSA screeners reportedly failed nine out of 12 tests. The result of another test, in which an undercover agent slipped through a body scanner with a mock explosive strapped to his or her leg, was deemed "inconclusive" because the machine wasn't calibrated properly.

While letting fake bombs slip past, TSA agents are notoriously vigilant about confiscating lotions and other liquids in containers larger than 100 milliliters, along with a broad range of toys and other seemingly innocuous items. In 2011, the website Salon compiled a list of contraband seized by TSA agents that included a butter knife from an airline pilot, a teenage girl's purse with an embroidered handgun design, a four-inch plastic rifle from a GI Joe toy on the grounds that it was a "replica weapon," a toddler's plastic Star Wars lightsaber, and a liquid-filled baby rattle from airline pilot's infant daughter.

Members of congress and security experts have frequently lambasted TSA its ineffectiveness. Bruce Schneier, a security expert, described TSA's practices as "security theater" in his book *Beyond Fear: Thinking Sensibly About Security in an Uncertain World*.

"When people are scared, they need something done that will make them feel safe, even if it doesn't truly make them safer," Schneier wrote on his blog. "Often, this 'something' is directly related to the details of a recent event: we confiscate liquids, screen shoes, and ban box cutters on aeroplanes. But it's not the target and tactics of the last attack that are important, but the next attack. These measures are only effective if we happen to guess what the next terrorists are planning."

Watch the VICE News documentary *Terminal Insecurity*:

Rasciot told the Times that TSA is going to do its best to keep waits at checkpoint lines to a minimum this summer. He said the agency plans deploy 768 additional officers to the busiest airports by June 15 — about a week before the summer officially begins. TSA did not respond to a request for comment from VICE News.

Anthony Roman, a former pilot and founder of the security company Roman & Associates, told VICE News that TSA's system has improved dramatically since Peter Neffenger was appointed administrator last year, and that's why airport lines seem longer.

While Roman recognizes there is a staffing issue, he also notes that TSA is saddled with the difficult task of balancing public safety and public satisfaction. "There's a constant tug of war... and there will always be unhappy passengers."

"You have to provide reasonable safety for the public, while protecting the privacy and dignity of those people you're

trying to protect," Roman said. "You also have to remain unpredictable by changing your procedures according to the severity of a fluctuating threat. It's never going to be perfect."

Related: Rand Paul Wants to Allow Every Airline Pilot to Carry a Gun

To avoid lengthy waits and missed flights, TSA has urged people to sign up for PreCheck, which offers special lanes where travellers aren't required to remove their shoes, take off their belts, or unload laptops and other electronic devices. So far, only 2.5 million people have paid the \$85 application fee and gone through the enrollment process — far short of the 25 million passengers the TSA had hoped to recruit.

A bill introduced after the recent deadly attacks the airport in Brussels, Belgium, proposes what is essentially an overhaul of airport security. The measure would bring in "new safeguards against terrorism," and streamline security checks to address concerns over maddeningly long lines. It would also establish new security measures to protect against attacks similar to the ones in Brussels, particularly around "soft" targets like airport baggage claim areas and ticket counters.

The new bill passed the senate 95-3 and awaits a vote by the House. That means change could be on the horizon — but probably not in time for you to go on vacation this summer.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS **ENFORCEMENT**

Russian Man Dies At San Diego Immigration Detention Center

[Associated Press](#), May 3, 2016

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Authorities say a Russian man has died at a San Diego immigration detention center. The cause of death is undetermined.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Tuesday that 46-year-old Igor Zyazin had been in its custody since April 24. He had presented his Russian passport at San Diego's San Ysidro port of entry, bordering Mexico.

Officers found him unresponsive before 10 p.m. Sunday at the Otay Mesa Detention Center. He was pronounced dead on his way to the hospital.

ICE says he was waiting for an interview with immigration officials to determine next steps in his case. He was deported in 2009 and had no criminal history in the U.S.

ICE says he is the sixth detainee to die in its custody since October. Its detention centers have about 30,000 beds.

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Immigrant Family Detention Center Granted Child-care License

[Associated Press](#), May 3, 2016

HOUSTON (AP) — One of the nation's largest detention centers for families caught crossing the southern U.S. border has received a temporary residential child-care license, amid discussions over whether the federal government will keep using such facilities.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services granted the six-month license last week to the 500-bed facility in Karnes City, southeast of San Antonio, agency spokesman Patrick Crimmins said Tuesday. The private prison firm that runs the facility for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, GEO Group Inc., had requested it after a federal judge said last year that kids couldn't stay in the centers because they weren't approved to care for children.

Immigrant advocates criticized the decision to grant the temporary license, citing reports of inadequate medical care and other issues as reasons why such facilities shouldn't get licenses. One group, Grassroots Leadership, said Tuesday that it and two mothers detained at Texas facilities with their children had sued in Austin to stop the licensing.

The license approval for the Karnes City facility comes as apprehensions of unaccompanied immigrant children along the southwest border increased by 78 percent for the period from Oct. 1 through March 31 compared to a year earlier, and the number of apprehensions of families more than doubled.

ICE has indicated in recent months that it's looking to change how it houses families and children caught along the U.S.-Mexico border, possibly making changes at the Karnes facility. But ICE would not address Tuesday when it might make any changes. Instead, ICE spokeswoman Jennifer Elzea called the licensing of Karnes "an important step" in improving oversight and transparency of family detention centers.

The Karnes City facility and a 2,400-bed facility in Dilley, also located south of San Antonio, opened in 2014 in response to the arrival of tens of thousands of mothers and children from Central America.

"Anyone who has been to either of these facilities understands that they are prison facilities," said Bob Libal, executive director of Austin-based Grassroots Leadership. "The real question is, does an agency have the right to license a prison as a child-care facility? We think that the answer is no. They would have to go to the Legislature to get that approval."

Among the changes ICE has telegraphed, the agency has sought potential service providers to run state-licensed residential care facilities for families and children held by the agency, ideally in Arizona, California, New Mexico and/or

Texas. ICE asked for information for facilities that could accommodate up to 1,000 beds "which could be provided at a single location, but would ideally be comprised of several service locations with up to 500 beds at each facility."

Asked during a congressional hearing in March if her agency would stop using Karnes and Dilley for family detention in fiscal year 2017, ICE director Sarah Saldaña said it probably would convert Karnes into housing for adult males and possibly also children. She said the facility at Dilley "will continue to exist."

An inspection at the Karnes facility in March before the temporary license was granted found six deficiencies. Those included: on one occasion observing a child in a bedroom without his or her mother or a staff member present, and discovering that an employee was not qualified for their position.

The deficiencies were corrected before the temporary license was issued, Crimmins said. He said during the six-month term of the temporary license, at least three unannounced inspections of Karnes would take place. If any problems are found, they would need to be addressed before a permanent license could be issued.

A similar application for a child-care license for the Dilley facility, which is run by Corrections Corporation of America, is still pending, Crimmins said.

An inspection in April of that facility found 12 deficiencies. Those included: all playgrounds showing worn AstroTurf and exposed seams creating a potential tripping hazard, and unsecured medical supplies such as scalpels and used syringes seen on top of counters.

No temporary license for the Dilley facility will be issued until these problems are corrected, Crimmins said.

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Texas Immigrant Detention Center Gets Childcare License

[BuzzFeed](#), May 3, 2016

Texas has awarded a for-profit prison company a childcare license, a move that could help the detention center get around a federal court order and detain undocumented immigrant women and their children.

The Texas Department of Family Protective Services issued the six-month initial license to the Karnes County Residential Center on Friday, a move that has angered immigrant rights advocates who have been critical of conditions inside the facilities which have housed hundreds of Central Americans fleeing violence and poverty back home.

The license bolsters the Obama administration and immigration official's efforts to circumvent the decision of a federal judge in California who ruled minors couldn't be held

in facilities that weren't licensed for child care. However, even if the facility obtained a license the judge also said the children would also need to be held in non-secure facilities that don't physically restrict them from going outside the facility.

Last year's ruling also ordered hundreds of women and children be released from three family detention centers, including the one at Karnes, Texas, citing "widespread and deplorable conditions."

Jennifer D. Elzea, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said in a statement that the license played an important role in maintaining the integrity of their immigration system.

"Licensure of the Karnes County Residential Center...represents an important step forward in ICE's commitment to enhancing oversight and transparency of its family residential centers," she said.

But critics say it amounts to an end-around a court decision meant to address deplorable conditions at detention centers.

Jonathan Ryan, executive director of the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services in San Antonio, called the license "concerning."

"We're disappointed that this license was granted," Ryan told BuzzFeed News. "It's particularly concerning that the very department charged with protecting children has anointed this prison as suitable for the care of children."

Complaints of physical and sexual assault have come out of the Karnes County Residential Center for years, Ryan said, as well as substandard medical and mental health care.

The belief that the license will make it easier for the state to ensure children are being taken care of is false, Ryan said, because the Texas Department of Family Protective Services has always been able to inspect the facility and has been aware of the complaints.

An inspection report obtained by BuzzFeed News found six deficiencies at the detention center. One noted that a child was left alone in a bedroom without their mother or staff member present. Another stated that one of two employees were not qualified.

Inspectors also found that records they reviewed didn't have a child's allergies and chronic health conditions on the outside of the file or "in a clearly visible location."

The current license is only valid for six months, during which the Texas Department of Family Protective Services will conduct three unannounced inspections before granting GEO Group, which operates the facility, a permanent license.

The Corrections Corporation of America, which operates the facility in Dilley, has also applied for a license and could release its six-month initial license soon, said Mary Walker, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Family Protective Services.

Apart from the Karnes detention center, there are two other facilities that house women and children. One in Dilley,

Texas, and another in Leesport, Pennsylvania. As of Tuesday, there were 1,905 women and children in ICE detention.

In January, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services told the Berks County Residential Center it was revoking its child residential facility license because the it was operating as a detention facility for immigrant families, including adults.

Half Of Immigrant-Led Households Collect Welfare As Admission Rules Go Unenforced

By Stephen Dinan

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

Immigrants are supposed to be beneficial to the U.S. — so much so that federal law requires them to prove they won't end up on the public dole if they are legally admitted.

But it's a stricture honored more in the breach than in compliance, according to statistics obtained by the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which found that of the millions of legal immigrants living in the U.S. and collecting welfare or other public benefits, only a single person was kicked out of the country over the last three years for becoming a public burden.

That seems to fly in the face of federal policies that, dating back to the very first broad immigration law in the 1880s, have demanded that immigrants prove they will be able to support themselves.

New immigrants can be denied if they can't show their financial means, and those already in the country can be deported if they fail to live up to the bargain — but that hardly ever happens, according to FAIR's data.

The group had asked the Executive Office for Immigration Review, which hears the cases, for data on five countries: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Cuba and Colombia. EOIR said it found just three cases brought between 2013 and 2015, all of them against Mexicans, and only one of those charges was sustained.

EOIR said it didn't have data for all nationalities.

No enforcement means more impoverished immigrants willing to test their chances, said Ian Smith, the FAIR investigator who obtained the data.

"Like all removal grounds, they're supposed to deter that behavior, and it's there to make sure that [those] people come into this country are at least somewhat desirable," he said. "It was supposed to be a filtration mechanism. It's like anything. If you don't enforce it, the deterrence element gets turned off."

More than half of immigrant-led households use at least one welfare program, according to research by the Center for Immigration Studies. By comparison, 30 percent of households led by native-born U.S. citizens take welfare.

Immigrants from Mexico and Central America have the highest rate, with nearly three-quarters using at least one program. The Caribbean is second, with a 51 percent use rate.

The center said that's not surprising given that welfare is inversely related to education, meaning the less educated someone is, the more likely he or she will be poor and will take welfare. Central American and Mexican immigrants are overwhelmingly less educated, according to the center's findings.

But making charges stick against immigrants on the dole is exceedingly difficult, analysts say.

While the law doesn't define "public charge," court cases and guidance the Clinton administration issued in the late 1990s has restricted when agents can pursue cases.

According to those requirements, many welfare programs don't even count against immigrants, and even when they do, states or federal agencies must have tried to get the immigrant to repay the money, a judge has to have sided with the government's case, and the immigrant must have refused to comply in order for a public charge case to stick. The violation also must have occurred in the first several years after an immigrant was admitted.

"Collectively, the various sources addressing the meaning of public charge suggest that an alien's receipt of public benefits, per se, is unlikely to result in the alien being deemed removable on public charge grounds," the Congressional Research Service concluded in a report earlier this year.

Mr. Smith, the FAIR investigator who obtained the new data from the government, said it's time to loosen the requirements.

"More programs, not just cash programs, should be made out of bounds for immigrants when it comes to public charge removability. America's bountiful welfare system is a major magnet for unskilled foreigners to come here," he said.

A top EOIR official told FAIR that the government's rare use of public charge cases is likely due to the difficulty of making the charges stick. He said when federal officials decide someone needs to go, they go after some other breach that's easier to prove.

The EOIR declined to comment to The Washington Times, saying the agency doesn't interpret its data, nor will it discuss individual cases.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency responsible for bringing the cases in the first place, signaled that it's focused on more serious cases such as risks to national security.

"ICE is committed to focusing on smart, effective immigration enforcement and makes custody determinations on a case-by-case basis, prioritizing serious criminal offenders and other individuals who pose a risk to national

security or public safety," said Jennifer Elzea, an ICE spokeswoman.

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Claustrophobic? Don't Even Think Of Joining The Border Patrol's 'Tunnel Rats'

By Jason Song, Contact Reporter

[Los Angeles Times](#), May 3, 2016

You can't be claustrophobic if you want to work for the U.S. Border Patrol's Tunnel Entry team – the unit that explores underground drug-smuggling passages near the U.S.-Mexican border.

To prove they don't freak out in tight spaces, prospective confined-space rescue technicians, or "tunnel rats," have to wriggle through a two foot-wide pipe for about 20 yards before they can join the squad.

"You know right off if it's playing with someone's mind," said Lance LeNoir, who leads the five person squad. "It takes some psyching up, to say the least, to do the job."

Given their job description, tunnel team members need steady nerves. Underground passages beneath the U.S.-Mexican border have become longer and tighter over the last decade, according to law enforcement officials.

Between 2006 and 2013, the average completed tunnel in the San Diego area had air vents and machinery to transport drugs. They also extended roughly 1,750 feet and were about 3½ feet wide, according to statistics provided by U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officials.

Over the last two years, however, the average tunnel has stretched to a total length of about 2,450 feet, while its width has shrunk to just over 2½ feet.

The latest San Diego County tunnel, discovered last month in the Otay Mesa neighborhood, was 2,700 feet long and 3 feet wide, authorities said.

The passages are often twisty, especially as they get to the U.S. side of the border and tunnelers try to burrow to an exit point – usually in a warehouse or other building. That's about as easy as trying to park a car in the dark without any headlights, LeNoir said.

After a tunnel's discovery, Mexican authorities usually go through first to clear any remaining smugglers. Then LeNoir and his team enter from the U.S. side after making sure the tunnel isn't in danger of collapsing and that there's breathable air.

They remove any leftover drugs or evidence while also mapping the tunnel's path. Most of the passages are at least 30 feet underground, making some technology nearly impossible to use. "It's a GPS-denied environment," LeNoir said.

Even robots designed to map tunnels are difficult to operate at that depth, so agents almost always have to crawl

through with a compass and tape measure, or a tracking device, to estimate the pathway's dimensions.

Tunnel agents communicate with devices that resemble old-fashioned telephones, complete with a wire trailing back to the surface. Depending on how twisty the tunnel is, the setup can quickly turn into a mess resembling a tangled fishing line.

Once the tunnel is mapped, Lenoir and his team drill holes down from the surface and pour concrete in the passage. That filler prevents collapse and deters smugglers from using it in the future.

Lenoir said he wouldn't be surprised if the shrinking trend continues. The entrance of a recent tunnel discovered in Calexico, about 100 miles east of San Diego, was only 14 inches wide, he said.

"I have no idea how people got through," he said.

Tight Squeeze: Economics Make Border Drug Tunnels Narrower

By Tatiana Sanchez

[Los Angeles Times](#), May 3, 2016

In just a single month this spring, U.S. immigration officials uncovered three cross-border drug tunnels, the latest of more than 75 cross-border tunnels discovered in the last five years.

What's different about the recent tunnels is that most are significantly smaller and don't boast the technological advances that officials saw a few years ago.

William Sherman, special agent in charge for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in San Diego, said drug cartels have moved toward tunnels that require a smaller investment because of the high risk of being discovered.

"It saves them money.... In at least the previous six tunnels, we've hit those before they got any narcotics through. So it was a tremendous amount of money and resources that they wasted when we took those off," Sherman said. "I think [they're thinking], 'Hey, they're finding these pretty quick, we maybe shouldn't put as much money into them, even if it takes us more time to get the loads through.'"

David Shaw, special agent in charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security investigations, said the cartels' primary goal is simply to get their product to the United States as quickly as possible.

"It's all about the investment," he said. "So less investment, they get more bang for their buck." A narrow passageway of what is believed to be the longest cross-border tunnel discovered along the California-Mexico border, (U.S. attorney's office)

Also notable in the recent discoveries is the emergence of drug organizations other than the dominant Sinaloa cartel, among them the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generación.

Agents with Homeland Security Investigations, in partnership with the DEA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Border Patrol and Air and Marine Operations, formed the San Diego Tunnel Task Force in 2003.

They credit their success in recent years to more effective collaboration among agencies. If Border Patrol agents see something suspicious while out in the field, for example, they often alert the task force, which launches an investigation. They are in communication daily.

"The partnership is really how we do it," Shaw said. "We have all the different expertise, the different abilities, the different capabilities. I think when we bring that together, that's really our best fighting."

Before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, agencies going after drug tunnels worked under separate departments. Customs [now known as Homeland Security Investigations] worked under the Department of Treasury, while the Border Patrol and DEA worked under the Department of Justice.

Jurisdictions weren't clear and information wasn't shared quickly, said Lauren Mack, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

After Sept. 11, Border Patrol and HSI were moved under the newly created Department of Homeland Security. At the same time, heightened security at ports of entry pushed more drug smuggling underground.

Today, law enforcement agents talk to business owners and community members along the border about what to do if they witness suspicious activity. Old-fashioned detective work has also bolstered the effectiveness of the task force. But as their approach becomes more effective, drug smugglers are changing their techniques. A Border Patrol agent shows the path of a tunnel that crosses the U.S.-Mexico border near Calexico. The passage extends about 60 feet into Mexico and at least 80 feet into the United States. (Associated Press)

Among the tunnels uncovered in recent weeks was an extremely narrow, zig-zagging pathway in Otay Mesa, described as one of the longest ever found along the California-Mexico border.

It was about a half-mile long – or about nine football fields – but 3 feet in diameter, which likely kept costs down. Officials said it was small enough that the smugglers had difficulty maneuvering.

But unlike many of the other recently discovered tunnels, the Otay Pallet tunnel included railing and ventilation systems, lighting and a large elevator, U.S. Atty. Laura Duffy said.

As part of the discovery, officials seized more than 14,000 pounds of marijuana and more than 2,000 pounds of cocaine, one of the largest seizures of cocaine on the California-Mexico land border.

It was among more than 75 cross-border tunnels that have been found in the last five years, mostly in California and Arizona, according to the U.S. attorney's office. Though

the cost to build and operate the tunnels varies, authorities estimate most cost more than \$1 million.

Cost of remediation – rendering the tunnels unusable, often by filling them with concrete – has cost CBP an estimated \$8.7 million since fiscal 2007, according to a 2015 report by the Department of Homeland Security.

In many ways, tunnels have been woven into the fabric of the war on drugs. The world's most powerful drug kingpin, Joaquín Guzmán Loera of the Sinaloa cartel, nicknamed "El Chapo," famously escaped prison cells in Mexico twice through intricately built tunnels, most recently in 2015.

Authorities believe the Sinaloa cartel, regarded as the largest drug importer into the U.S., continues to operate most of the tunnels, often hiring engineers and other professionals to design them. They declined to name the organizations connected to specific tunnels they've uncovered. In some instances, organizations that aren't linked to particular cartels have built a tunnel and then rented or sold it, making it difficult for officials to determine which cartel is involved.

Ev Meade, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego, said the region is a hot spot for drug smuggling.

"San Diego and parts of Arizona have seen this proliferation of tunnels. That's not true in other parts of the border. Some of it is geography, but it's also the nature of the business. According to the DEA and most authorities, we're still in the general territory of the Sinaloa cartel," he said.

At the same time, Meade said larger cartels are breaking up into smaller and often more dangerous factions. A Homeland Security Investigations officer views bags of marijuana stored in a room of a newly built home in Calexico, the terminus of a cross-border tunnel that runs the length of four football fields to a restaurant in Mexicali, Mexico. (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement)

Perhaps a more alarming development from the dismantling of the Otay Pallet tunnel on April 16 was the discovery that the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generación – known to authorities as CJNG – is possibly active in the tunneling industry.

"We're certainly seeing a shift in Tijuana. CJNG is getting a lot of momentum down there, they have a lot of resources down there," said Sherman of the DEA. "As far as tunnels go, this is the first time we have any indication that anybody other than Sinaloa was putting product through the tunnels."

The cartel, led by Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera Cervantes, has made a quick ascent into Mexico's narco-trafficking network, rivaling the power of Sinaloa.

Cervantes, a native of Michoacán and a Sinaloa alum, is believed to have been involved in drug trafficking activities since the 1990s, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

The group rose to power around 2009 with the decline of the Valencia-Milenio cartel. Its growing presence in Tijuana

has been quick – and bloody. Drug-related killings accounted for more than 80% of Tijuana's 670 homicides in 2015, the highest number in five years, according to the Baja California attorney general's office.

Edgardo Buscaglia, a senior research scholar in law and economics at Columbia Law School, said a diverse, organized crime network in Mexico has resulted in a large variety of tunnels, each reflective of its own organization.

"In that regard you will see many types of tunnels, some very sophisticated tunnels and others very basic," he said. "The sophistication of the tunnels reflects the sophistication of the organized crime network that traffics all their stuff up north."

The Galvez tunnel, a now-defunct passageway between the U.S. and Mexico in Otay Mesa, was built to transport marijuana into a warehouse about 760 feet north. But the tunnel was never used.

Authorities discovered the passageway in 2009 as part of an investigation and what they call "outreach," or collaboration with community members in the area who reported suspicious activity.

A series of four narrow ladders leads to a steep 85-foot decline, where the air is thick. The tunnel had a phone and railroad system, electrical wiring and ventilation. About 6 feet high and 4 feet wide, it's considered a more developed tunnel, about twice the height of those recently discovered.

It originated 60 feet south of the border in a warehouse on Galvez Street, where it was covered by a restroom floor controlled by a hydraulic lift.

Now, the Galvez tunnel is a training site for Border Patrol agents.

CBP Needs To Know When Drones Are In The Sky

[Federal Times](#), May 3, 2016

Small unmanned aircraft systems — otherwise known as drones — are an intriguing technology for Customs and Border Protection. These aircraft, which can be controlled using just a smartphone, have the potential to broadly expand the aerial surveillance capabilities of CBP at a relatively low cost. But they are also putting the lives of CBP agents in danger.

"Several weeks ago an Air and Marine helicopter working in the Rio Grande Valley carrying a pilot and a border patrol agent had a near miss of a small UAS," said Lothar Eckardt, director of the Southwest Region of CBP's Air and Marine Operations. "We almost lost the helicopter, the pilot and the border patrol agent, OK? That's what keeps me up at night."

Eckardt is one of several CBP agents who spoke to a crowd of dozens of entrepreneurs in Menlo Park, California, as part of the Department of Homeland Security's new Silicon

Valley Innovation Program, an initiative to work with startups and leverage their cutting-edge technology. DHS held its first startup day in December, focusing on Internet of Things technology, but on April 29, the department put the focus on CBP and the many issues the agency is hoping to solve.

Among the tech CBP is most interested in are drones, which have grown in popularity among consumers over the past couple of years, in part due to their increasingly affordable pricing — the best-selling drone on Amazon, for example, is just \$44. These aircraft can be small enough to fit in a backpack or more than four feet in width, but they all are capable of zooming through the sky. Although drone operators are only allowed to fly their gizmos up to 400 feet in the air, many UAS are capable of flying much higher than that — the DJI F550, for example, can reach heights of almost three times that limit. For CBP, there's good and bad in that.

As several DHS and CBP officials put it, drones are "a way to force multiply" CBP's aerial fleet in a manner that doesn't cost taxpayers much money, either in fuel or equipment costs. CBP already has full-size Predator drones just like the Air Force uses in the Middle East, but drones are huge, expensive and require extensive training to control. Hand-launched drones, as small UAS are sometimes described, are easier and cheaper to fly, presenting CBP with many possibilities.

"What we're attempting to do is settle on a list of requirements for the [small] UAS," said Ronald Vitiello, acting chief of the U.S. Border Patrol. "Some things that we've witnessed the military use on the battlefield that we think have application to do better information and situational awareness for agents."

Aside from figuring out how CBP can use drones, the agency is also looking to Silicon Valley for countermeasures for this technology. Vitiello said there have been instances where people have tried using drones to smuggle drugs across the border. "You have to be able to identify [drones], detect them and then have an operational response for interdiction," he said.

Atop its priority list, CBP simply wants a system that can help its pilots detect drones whenever they take to the sky.

"What I would like to see Silicon Valley helping us with is: How do I separate the small UAS from manned aircraft so we don't collide in the airspace?" said Eckardt, noting that CBP helicopters operate at 500 feet and below while drones are too small to carry any transponders or beacons to make their presence known.

"Nobody can see these things. It's not a matter if. It's a matter of when they're going to collide," Eckardt said. "I'd hate to be the one to lose somebody."

After 9 Years, Family Reunites At The U.S.-Mexico Border

[CNN Money](#), May 3, 2016

"We just started crying," Gabi said following the meeting. "When I last saw them, I was 16. And now I'm a mom, I have my family. I still can't believe that this happened."

Gabi reunited with her mother, Maria del Carmen, and sister, Susana del Carmen, at Friendship Park on the U.S.-Mexico border between San Diego and Tijuana. It's the only place along the 18-foot tall border fence that the U.S. Border Patrol has opened — and this is only the third time the agency has done so.

Gabi lives in the United States through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, which allows immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children — and who were under the age of 31 as of June 2012 — to stay and work legally for two years.

Her status, however, means she can't leave the country. Meanwhile, her mother and sister — both Mexican citizens — are waiting to enter the U.S. After nine years, Gabi finally gets to see her sister, Susana, and her mother, Maria, face-to-face.

Five other families like Gabi's were pre-selected through an application process by the U.S. Border Patrol to spend three minutes together at Friendship Park on the Mexican holiday Children's Day.

Related: Texas now ties New York for second largest immigrant population

"Not only are we here to enforce our immigration laws and protect our border 24/7, our men and women give back to the community as much they give back to us," said Wendy Lee, a public affairs officer with U.S. Border Patrol.

Friendship Park was inaugurated by First Lady Patricia Nixon in 1971, when loosely placed barbed wire separated the two countries.

When Mrs. Nixon arrived at the park, she asked her security to cut the wire, so she could visit with a crowd of Mexican citizens. "I hope there won't be a fence here too much longer," she said at the time.

Since 1971, the fence at Friendship Park has only gotten bigger, having gone through two iterations — one in 1994 and then again in 2007. Most recently it was reinforced with metal mesh in 2012.

"In 1986, there were 628,000 apprehensions in this area. It was very much like the Wild West," said U.S. Border Patrol agent Frank Alvarado, who monitors Friendship Park. "Hundreds of people were coming across at a time. There were only about 450 border patrol agents. Now we are up at 2,400 approximately San Diego sector wide, and we're apprehending 27,000, that's almost a 97% decrease," he said. The gate at Friendship Park on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The fence at Friendship Park is one of the reasons Enrique Morones started Border Angels – a non profit that advocates for humane immigration reform and the reunions at Friendship Park.

“When the wall was built, nobody expected all these deaths,” said Morones. “They thought that people would stop coming in 1994, but they didn’t. They started crossing in more dangerous areas. So instead of one to two people dying a month, it was one to two people dying per day,” he said.

Related: I want to bring health care to undocumented immigrants

According to the United States Customs and Border Patrol, over 6,000 deceased migrants have been found on the U.S. side of the border since 1998. Morones says that number could be almost double, because it doesn’t take into account deaths on the Mexican side, and those who haven’t been found. But business in the San Diego area is booming and more U.S. citizens are moving closer to the fence.

“Commercial industries aren’t going to invest and people won’t put their families, and raise their families in an area that’s generally unsafe,” said Alvarado. “So without this fence, without the agent’s presence here, we wouldn’t have the people that reside here.”

Border Angel’s Morones could think of nothing better than the wall coming down. “My dream is that wall coming down. Every summer, more people die because of that wall than the entire history of the Berlin Wall,” he said.

For Esparza, it’s more personal. “I hope that one day there is no border and we can all see our family members once again.”

“This is just the beginning,” Esparza cried, as she hugged her mother and sister.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY **ADMINISTRATION**

Paraplegic Former Olympian ‘Humiliated’ After TSA Pat-down

By Julia Manchester And Rene Marsh

[CNN](#), May 3, 2016

(CNN) Former Olympian Amy Van Dyken-Rouen said Monday she was humiliated when subjected to a full-body pat-down by a Transportation Security Administration officer at Denver International Airport.

The athlete, who is wheelchair-bound, specifically called out the officer in an Instagram post, identifying him as Keith Rogers. Van Dyken-Rouen called Rogers’ behavior “rude and incorrect.”

“Den is doing it wrong. Had a full body pat down, and was humiliated by him as well,” Van Dyken-Rouen said, calling out the Denver airport as well.

The TSA released a statement shortly after Van Dyken-Rouen’s post went viral.

“TSA works closely with the disability community to develop screening procedures that integrate the unique needs of those with disabilities or medical issues into the process,” the statement said. “TSA reviews passenger complaints, and in this case determined that our officers did not follow correct screening protocols when this individual came through the security checkpoint at Denver International Airport (DEN) this weekend.”

TSA officials claim the officers involved in the pat-down are “undergoing retraining.”

Van Dyken-Rouen expressed her gratitude for the TSA’s swift response.

“I have to say a big THANK YOU to @denairport TSA for making sure they are trained for people with disabilities. I’m not a lightning rod, but I can and will speak out to help others who are afraid to speak out,” she said on Instagram.

Van Dyken-Rouen started using a wheelchair after an ATV crash in 2014 left her paralyzed from the waist down. Prior to the crash, she won six gold medals for swimming in the Olympics.

‘Humiliated’ Olympic Gold Medalist Gets Apology After TSA Airport Screening

[Yahoo! Good Morning America](#), May 3, 2016

Olympic gold medal swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen received an apology from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) after she says she was “humiliated” during a full-body search this weekend.

Van Dyken-Rouen, who became paralyzed from the waist down after a 2014 ATV crash, is wheelchair-bound and cannot go through a metal detector. She said she was rudely groped and “humiliated” during a full-body search at Denver International Airport.

Olympian Amy Van Dyken-Rouen Stands On Her Own For the First Time After Paralyzing Injury

Olympic Swimmer Amy Van Dyken Determined to Walk Again

“They go around your breast. They basically go under your butt. They touch things that are not appropriate and it’s really embarrassing,” Van Dyken-Rouen told ABC News.

‘Humiliated’ Olympic Gold Medalist Gets Apology After TSA Airport Screening (ABC News)

Van Dyken-Rouen said she told the TSA agent who checked her that her wheelchair, hands and feet are normally checked for explosives. She said the agent then called for a supervisor who performed a full-body search, checking her breasts and other private parts in full view of other travelers.

“He said literally, ‘Every other airport is wrong and any other time you’ve flown through Denver and they did not do

that, it's wrong. I'm right," Van Dyken-Rouen said of the TSA agent.

Van Dyken-Rouen took to Instagram on Sunday to detail the incident, writing, "With the positive in my journey, there is also negative. Need to make changes for all in [wheelchairs]."

TSA issued a statement Monday apologizing for the incident.

"TSA works closely with the disability community to develop screening procedures that integrate the unique needs of those with disabilities or medical issues into the process. TSA reviews passenger complaints, and in this case determined that our officers did not follow correct screening protocols when Ms. Amy Van Dyken came through the security checkpoint at Denver International Airport (DEN) this weekend. TSA's federal security director has reached out to Ms. Van Dyken. The officers involved are undergoing retraining, and TSA Denver is providing refresher training to all of its officers as well," the statement read.

Van Dyken-Rouen said she accepts the TSA's apology, as long as all disabled fliers get more respect.

"It's really said," she said. "I just want to be able to help other people who don't have a voice, just fair treatment for everybody."

Van Dyken-Rouen, a former Olympic swimmer who has won six gold medals, severed her spinal cord in June 2014 when the ATV she was driving hit a curb and sent her flying over an embankment in Arizona.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Obama's Visit To Flint Sparks Political Finger-pointing

By David Nakamura

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

President Obama will visit Flint, Mich., on Wednesday, right in the middle of a state government scandal over the lead contamination of the city's drinking water. The move has drawn accusations from Republicans that he is politicizing the crisis in an election year.

White House officials said the president will meet with local officials as well as Flint residents to hear concerns and discuss the federal response to a public-health emergency that has left many in the city of 100,000 relying on bottled water for drinking and bathing for months.

But Obama's mere presence, while aiming to provide reassurance, represents a virtually unprecedented decision to insert himself so directly and personally into a burgeoning state mismanagement scandal that does not center on the federal government. The White House's announcement of the

visit last week, citing the written request of an 8-year-old girl, prompted renewed partisan finger-pointing among Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R), state Democrats and the Obama administration.

Obama aides emphasized that the president does not intend to assign blame for the water crisis during his Flint visit, which will include remarks to a crowd of 1,000 at a local school in a predominantly African American neighborhood. But the issue of accountability has reverberated after officials switched the source of Flint's water supply in April 2014 while the city was under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager.

The state's Department of Environmental Quality failed to add required corrosion controls to prevent the leaching of lead from pipes, and water in homes was found to have toxic levels of lead well above federal limits. Michigan's attorney general has filed criminal charges against two state officials and the city water plant operator.

Last week, Obama told a group of college reporters at that his aim in Flint is to "shine a spotlight" on the threats to public health of aging infrastructure, including lead water pipes, across the country. He criticized "the people who were responsible for the health and safety" of Flint residents for "not carrying out their duties."

The issue has also played out on the 2016 campaign trail. Democrats Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders separately toured Flint, and they participated in a debate in that city in March, while Republican candidates have stayed away.

Michigan Republican Party Chairman Ronna Romney McDaniel said in an interview that she hopes Obama will draw attention to the "resiliency of the people of Flint and a recognition that a lot of steps have been taken" to address the crisis. She cited the replacement of lead service lines and the distribution of water filters and food.

Although she welcomed Obama's visit, she said that Clinton and Sanders used their stops in Flint "more as a political issue than as an opportunity to bring people together. I think the Republican candidates did not want to interject themselves into an issue they do not fully understand."

Snyder has apologized for the state-level missteps, but he has also faulted federal oversight agencies and expressed frustrations at the Obama administration for failing to provide more federal funding. In January, Obama declared a federal state of emergency in Flint and dispatched officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to help coordinate the response.

But the president declined to declare Flint a federal disaster area, which would have brought additional financial assistance.

The governor initially told reporters late last week that he was too busy to greet Obama at the airport, but Snyder

quickly reversed himself and requested a meeting with the president. His aides said Tuesday that the governor would, in fact, meet Air Force One on the tarmac and participate in a meeting in Flint with the president, which the White House confirmed.

Snyder's aides said the governor's office had not been notified of Obama's visit before reporters asked him about it, which led to the confusion. But the governor's about-face drew a sarcastic reaction from White House press secretary Josh Earnest during his press briefing on Monday: "I guess his schedule got a little freed up, huh?"

Snyder's press secretary, Anna Heaton, fired back at Earnest in a Twitter message that referenced Obama's appearance at last weekend's White House correspondents' dinner: "Should have left the jokes at the WHCD. Flint's recovery warrants full attention & cooperation of fed, state & local govts."

In an email to The Washington Post, another Snyder spokesman, Ari Adler, accused the White House of leaking notice of Obama's visit to reporters.

"That made the whole situation awkward," Adler wrote. "Unfortunately, some political operatives decided to make something out of nothing and complicate matters even further. A little communication can go a long way. That's why we are continuing our efforts to coordinate tomorrow's schedule as best we can with the limited flow of information being provided."

Rep. Daniel Kildee (D-Mich.), who grew up in Flint and represents the city's congressional district, said in an interview that it is Snyder who has sought to politicize a public-health emergency that his administration is responsible for creating.

"He handpicked the task force to determine how this happened, and the result is that the state government is not just primarily, but almost entirely responsible," said Kildee, who will accompany Obama to Flint. "To hear him continue to try to obfuscate that point by creating a false equivalence of responsibility between the levels of government, that's a public-relations ploy."

Like other presidents, Obama has visited the locations of natural disasters, terrorist attacks and mass shootings in the United States. In 2010, he visited the Gulf Coast in the wake of the massive BP oil spill. But he has carefully refrained from making a personal visit to a city dealing with a local or statewide public-management crisis and weighing in while there.

When Obama addressed the Illinois state legislature in February to tout bipartisanship, he did not mention a months-long state budget standoff that threatened to cut off crucial services.

Aides said the president will use his time in Flint to highlight the need for greater federal and local investment to repair and replace the nation's aging infrastructure. Obama

has routinely called on Republicans to support more funding for public works programs, and he made it a campaign issue in 2012.

McDaniel agreed on the need to make clear that Flint is not the only community with lead service pipes and not the only place to experience high lead levels in its drinking water. But she added that "it's important to recognize the problem and determine the best way to solve it. I'm not sure the president's plan is the best for that."

What An 8-Year-Old Girl In Flint Wants From President Obama

By Maya Rhodan

[TIME](#), May 3, 2016

Amariyanna Copeny is only 8-years-old but she already knows the power of the pen. When she and her family were on their way to Washington to attend Congressional hearings on the Flint water crisis, she wrote a letter to President Obama asking him to meet with the visiting residents.

"My mom said chances are you will be too busy with more important things, but there is a lot of people coming on these buses and even just a meeting from you or your wife would really lift people's spirits," wrote Amariyanna, who goes by Mari.

Her mom was right—the president was not able to meet with her when she was in town. But on Wednesday, Mari will have a chance to meet with the president when he visits Flint, Mich. About five months after the news that lead-contaminated water had been flowing into the homes of residents drew national attention to the mostly poor and minority city of 99,000, President Obama will be briefed on the federal response, meet with community members and give a speech to residents.

"As the president noted in his letter last week to Mari Copeny," White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday, "Flint residents need to know that when the cameras are gone, the Administration's support for the state and local response efforts will continue."

Mari says she's "excited" for the president's visit, but her mom Lulu Brezzell, 26, hopes the president's conversations with residents open his eyes to the harsh realities of life there. "Sometimes it feels like we're forgotten," Brezzell told [TIME](#) in a phone interview. "I hope he sees that the people here are really suffering. ... I hope President Obama sees how bad it really is."

The Environmental Protection Agency has said the water is safe to drink when filtered, but Brezzell says she's not ready to switch from bottled water. "I will not trust the water until the all of the pipes in the city are replaced," she says.

For the mom of three, just getting her kids bathed is a struggle. She uses 23 gallons of water, water that needs to

be dumped out of bottles and warmed up to a comfortable temperature, to fill the tub halfway for bath time. The water that spews from her faucet, she says, smells like bleach. If she doesn't treat it, her babies' break out in rashes. Before we got on the phone, she said, her son filled a cup up with water from the bathroom sink. Everyone in the house panicked. They avoid bathing in the water, they don't cook with it, and if there's one thing they definitely avoid doing it's drinking the water that comes from their faucets unfiltered.

"People ask, 'Well, isn't it hard?' but it's kind of just what we've gotten used to," Brezell says. "It's a new way of life for us."

In April 2014, the Flint city government changed water sources—from Lake Huron to the Flint River—in order to cut costs in the cash-strapped city. Shortly after, residents began complaining about the smell, color and taste of the water. Later many reported suffering from rashes and physical ailments. But it wasn't until last fall that the state government admitted there was an issue—after researchers found high levels of lead contamination among city children under 5.

Since, the city and state have been slowly working to right those wrongs. Several officials have either resigned or been fired. Just last week, three officials were indicted on criminal charges for their involvement in the handling of the crisis. Two state officials and a city utilities administrator were charged with violating clean water law, conspiracy, and tampering with test results, among other things.

The federal government stepped in after the president's declaration of a federal emergency in the city, allowing officials to coordinate relief efforts, administer water filters and hand out bottled water. The White House says FEMA has provided over 9.3 million liters of water to the city and the Department of Health and Human Services is working with local healthcare providers to test children's blood for lead poisoning. The federal state of emergency was declared in January and extended through August 2016. And last week, the Senate moved forward with a \$220 million package that includes \$100 million that could be used on infrastructure projects in Flint and other cities that have faced issues with lead.

Kary Moss, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, says the accountability they've seen thus far is an important step, but adds there is plenty of blame to go around in the state. Moss told TIME that she hopes the president reaffirms his commitment to getting money to the city, but she says a show from the president that the issues in Flint matter is important, too.

"Saying that this matters, saying that these people have been heard and that they have been injured and that they deserve repair, I think will matter a lot. Not only to the people who live in Flint, but to the whole state," she says.

On Wednesday, the president is also expected to use the backdrop of Flint to make a "broader argument to the

country about why investments in our infrastructure are so critically important," Press Secretary Josh Earnest said last week. An analysis of EPA data by the Associated Press found that "1,400 water systems serving 3.6 million Americans exceeded the federal lead standard at least once between the start of 2013 and last September."

Virginia Tech professor Marc Edwards, whose research team helped uncover the lead issues in Flint, took a nine-plus hour drive to Flint on Tuesday to "stand with residents" as the president addresses the community. He says he hopes the president doesn't politicize the issues there, but that he does send a message to cities across the country about the importance of protecting infrastructure.

"You can only neglect your vital infrastructure, especially water systems, for so long before you pay a horrible price," says Edwards, who is a 2016 TIME 100 honoree. "If other cities do not get this message they would be doomed to sort of repeat the same mistakes."

He also hopes the president doubles down on efforts to help the city recover via financial help. "The fact of the matter is Flint residents can not fix this problem by themselves," said Edwards, who the city tapped to oversee its water testing. "They need financial help for infrastructure, water mains, lead pipe replacement; essentially to get back on their feet."

While attention is directed at Flint on Wednesday amid the president's visit, 8-year-old Mari, who is known around town as "Little Miss Flint" hopes the rest of America knows the city's residents will continue demanding justice.

"Even if the water is bad we're still fighting," she says.

Obama Adviser To Flint: We Still Have Your Back

By Jacob Carah

[Detroit News](#), May 3, 2016

Flint — On the eve of President Barack Obama's visit to Flint, a top aide to the president said the White House's message to the beleaguered city is clear: "We're going to stick with this."

Cecilia Muñoz, a Detroit native, added Flint's lead-contaminated water crisis is "personal."

"This never should have happened, it is a tremendously terrible thing, but what is most important now is to ensure that we are collaborating and cooperating with the community and listening to the people who are most affected," said Muñoz, assistant to the president and director of the Domestic Policy Council.

She works on policymaking on a range of issues impacting Americans, including: public health, early childhood and education.

The director's visit to Flint on Tuesday comes a day ahead of President Obama's much-publicized visit to the city,

which is now enduring a second year of lead contamination in its water system.

Obama in January declared during a speech to Detroit autoworkers that “we are going to have (Mayor Karen Weaver’s) back and all the people of Flint’s back as they go all the way through this terrible tragedy.”

Muñoz reiterated the president’s words on Tuesday, saying: “When the president met with Mayor Weaver in January he said, ‘We’re going to have your back,’ and for the people in Flint, we’re going to have your back for a long time still to come. He takes that very seriously.”

Muñoz visit Tuesday was focused on a “listening session” with church leaders and community representatives at Greater Holy Temple Church of God in Christ on the city’s north side.

“The primary concern, No. 1 is making sure the water is safe,” Muñoz said. “Being able to open your tap and fill up a pot to cook with, to take a drink, or fill up a tub is something that Americans take for granted.”

Muñoz said the community of Flint requires sustained aid but also attention.

“Here (the water is) a source of a great amount of fear and frustration, so we’re hearing that and that people want this fixed in order to be safe for the long term,” she said.

Muñoz said the federal government is focused on being a “good partner” with the authorities and experts on the ground in Flint. Muñoz added the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is focused on the “long-term architecture of the water system, working along with the state, county and city.”

Muñoz said it’s important that families affected by lead contamination are taking full advantage of services. Making sure the community knows that Medicaid is expanded, Muñoz said, “for any kid who was affected while the water was not safe is going to have services available to them.”

“We’re making sure nutritional services are available as well as at schools and childcare centers to ensure there are more slots available for childcare,” she said.

Muñoz also emphasized the importance of the president’s visit to Flint on Wednesday.

“The president is really coming to connect with people in the community,” she said.

“He’s coming at a time when the spotlight hasn’t been on Flint for awhile.

“There has been important progress, but there is so much more work to do.”

Oddly, on the same day of the director’s visit, a couple pallets in the back parking lot of the church were set on fire.

Yvette Martin, church administrator, said: “Unfortunately, someone decided to set fire to the four gallon jugs of water.”

Martin said a church janitor noticed smoke and flames coming from the back lot where extra pallets of donated water are kept.

“It happened on three separate occasions today,” Martin said.

“Mostly while people are working out front or inside the church.”

The distribution site is also manned by Army reservists and officers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“Some young kids, I’m not exactly sure are coming over the fence and are deliberately setting the cardboard boxes holding the jugs of water on fire,” Martin said.

Bishop Roger Jones, pastor of Church of God, said there is a lot of frustration in the community surrounding the water issue and that state and federal government officials need to work together more.

“I think they are attempting to listen to the community, that’s why they’re sending top representatives to Flint,” Jones said. “They’re doing a job, but their effort is going to have to be increased because of the magnitude of the problem. People are fed up.”

US CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

New Immigration Fight Looms In Congress

[Politico](#), May 4, 2016

Lawmakers on both sides of the Capitol are quietly launching a new effort to expand visas for low-skilled foreign workers in government funding bills — a push that could drive a deep ideological rift through both parties later this year.

Republicans and Democrats whose home states rely on immigrant labor are lobbying top appropriators to include language in this year’s funding bills to renew controversial provisions from last year’s omnibus spending measure that effectively quadrupled the number of low-skilled worker visas.

Story Continued Below

Nine House lawmakers, led by Rep. Billy Long (R-Mo.), sent a letter last week urging the Appropriations Committee to keep those higher numbers intact. And key senators have already begun to discuss the issue.

“Many businesses will be severely impacted, and some may be unable to operate, without this cap relief,” said the House letter, obtained by POLITICO and addressed to Reps. John Carter (R-Texas) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.), who head the panel that oversees funding for the Department of Homeland Security. “Failure to enact this exemption will hurt seasonal businesses across the country.”

The program in question is the H-2B visa, which covers immigrants who work as landscapers, housekeepers and

seafood processors. Those visas are legally capped at 66,000 per year, which pro-business advocates say is an artificially low number that could harm key U.S. industries.

The visa program divides both Democrats and the GOP. Though many Republicans support boosting visas for low-skilled workers, its quiet inclusion to last year's massive omnibus spending bill prompted an uproar among conservatives. Powerful unions and liberal lawmakers also oppose efforts to expand it, criticizing not just the higher numbers but what they see as insufficient labor protections for workers.

And this year's Hill push comes against a backdrop of GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump, whose hardline view toward immigrants and hire-Americans-first rhetoric has galvanized the right. However, Trump himself has a complicated history on this particular immigration issue.

"It's frustrating that any of the [lawmakers] would push this," said Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), the most outspoken critic on Capitol Hill of expanding immigration and Trump's sole endorser in the Senate. "The program does not need to be expanded. If anything, it needs to be constricted."

Officially, Trump has promised to rework the nation's immigration laws into a system that requires companies to hire Americans first before considering foreign workers. Yet Trump has defended his use of temporary immigrant workers at his luxury Mar-a-Lago resort, saying he has "no choice but to do it."

Two House lawmakers who signed on to Long's letter — Republican Reps. Renee Ellmers of North Carolina and Chris Collins of New York — have also endorsed Trump.

"People who like him are seeing him as this restrictionist, but in practice, it's really hard to tell what he's going to be," said Daniel Costa, director of immigration law and policy research at the liberal Economic Policy Institute. "But he can certainly influence the bill."

Immigrants employed under the H-2B visa can work legally in the United States up to only 10 months at a time. But in last year's omnibus spending bill, Congress got around the 66,000 annual cap by exempting so-called returning workers — immigrants who had used the visa in the past three fiscal years — from counting toward the limits, essentially expanding the program fourfold. That means the government could issue visas for 264,000 such temporary workers this fiscal year.

Much of the credit goes to Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski, the powerful top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee who has unapologetically advocated for the H-2B visa program because it benefits her home state's seafood industry. Aides didn't return a request seeking comment on whether Mikulski will push for similar provisions this year.

But in an interview, Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), who's worked with Mikulski to overhaul the program, said senators

are already in discussions about the H-2B provisions for this year's spending bills. (Mikulski and Tillis have a shared interest in protecting their states' seafood industries; the two have developed a close enough working relationship that Mikulski calls Tillis "Catfish.")

"We're looking at it because every year, it's Band-Aid after Band-Aid," Tillis said. "And then every season, we're already hearing problems from the last one."

Lawmakers such as Tillis and the House group are backed by hundreds of organizations — representing a wide array of businesses, from florists to producers of concrete pavement and ski resort operators — who are lobbying Congress to ensure they can get around the 66,000 limit on visas. More than 1,000 organizations as part of the H-2B Workforce Coalition sent a letter to Senate and House committees in late March, asking Congress to keep last year's expansion in this year's funding bills. The members of the group say they often can't find Americans to work temporary jobs to staff carnivals, maintain swimming pools and train horses.

But the AFL-CIO is already pushing back. In its own letter sent last week and obtained by POLITICO, the powerful union's top lobbyist "strongly" urged lawmakers to keep all riders related to the guest-worker program out of appropriations measures. Expansion of the H-2B program isn't the only problem for the AFL-CIO; the union is also concerned about an erosion of worker protection standards.

"Thousands of our members work in industries that are top users of the H-2B seasonal worker program," William Samuel, the union's director of government affairs, wrote in the letter to Mikulski and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran (R-Miss.). "Misuse of the H-2B program harms them by artificially depressing wages, transforming permanent work to temporary, driving down labor standards and contributing to unemployment in these industries."

Though conservatives such as Sessions were certainly the most vocal in their opposition last December when the omnibus was being drafted, liberals weren't too pleased, either. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination, and six other liberal Senate Democrats including Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Minority Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois tried to keep those provisions out of the final omnibus, without success.

None of the appropriations bills that would deal with H-2B issues — the DHS measure and the Labor and Health and Human Services legislation — have been released on either the Senate or House side. Both bills are magnets for controversial riders on issues such as immigration and Obamacare, and Appropriations Committee aides declined to comment on provisions in funding bills that haven't yet been released.

Meanwhile, the behind-the-scenes lobbying on the H-2B is likely to continue.

"For [businesses], it's just simple math," said Jeremy Robbins, the executive director of the pro-reform Partnership for a New American Economy, which supports the H-2B program. "Their reality is that it could be peak season ... and they won't be able to open for season if they can't get a few key workers. For them, this is crazy."

IMMIGRATION

Farmers Face Huge Losses Over Migrant Worker Delays

[Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), May 3, 2016

By the time you read this, Kevin Eason figures he will have lost \$750,000.

Eason, a blueberry farmer in the South Georgia town of Alma, in January used the U.S. Department of Labor's migrant worker visa system to request 100 migrant workers from Mexico. None have arrived yet.

Russ Goodman in January requested 500 migrant workers from Mexico to arrive at his 600-acre Homerville farm on March 1 to pick blueberries. So far, he has 30.

"A week or two is a delay. Two months is you've lost your crop," said Goodman, who estimates he has already lost several hundred thousand dollars.

Goodman and Eason are just two of an untold number of Georgia farmers facing millions of dollars in losses as crops rot on the vine due to lack of labor for harvest.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture and the American Farm Bureau Federation say the U.S. Department of Labor is woefully behind on processing applications for foreign migrant worker contracts and the feds' failure is costing farmers more in lost crops than previous years.

Even after the Labor Department approves a request, the application is then sent via U.S. mail to a Department of Homeland Security office in California for a final security review.

While the federal agency in January warned users that its Office of Foreign Labor Certification had a problem that would cause delays, the department has yet to explain why a system designed to approve requests 30 days before farmers need the workers in the field is months behind schedule. Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black said last week that the reason for the delays is not as important as what is being done to fix it.

"We've got a broken system," Black said. "We're 20 years down the road and all that's really changed is the calendar."

Congress created the H-2A immigration visa program in the 1990s as a way to verify that migrant workers who enter the United States for temporary or seasonal agricultural work

are not criminals and that they are monitored and treated properly while in the country. The program is also designed to make sure farmers do not turn to immigrant labor if American workers are willing and available to do the work.

The American Farm Bureau Federation reported in April that the H-2A program is processing twice as many applications as a decade ago and that requests are up 13 percent this year from 2015. The increased demand is also contributing to the delays.

Department of Labor data show only 90 percent of H-2A applications received in the second quarter of the federal government's fiscal year were processed in a "timely" manner, meaning 30 days before the farmer says he or she needs the workers to arrive. That's down from 99 percent in the first quarter.

More than 74,500 applications have been processed since the fiscal year began Oct. 1, including more than 6,000 from Georgia — the third-most in the country.

In 2015, the department processed 97 percent of nearly 140,000 applications on time.

"The department is monitoring the situation and no additional information is available," Lindsay Williams, a Department of Labor spokesman, said when asked why applications are taking longer this year.

Many Georgia farmers appear to be falling victim to whatever is causing the agency to see its record of processing applications fall from the first to the second quarter. The impact, however, is farmers following the rules and watching their crops die.

"An American producer is abiding by the law (and) our government is failing them," Black said.

Goodman, the Homerville blueberry farmer, is in a race against the clock. Every week the price of blueberries falls as the end of the annual harvest nears. The highest prices have already come and gone, he said.

"Every day you're not getting your blueberries picked you're losing money," he said. "We're on the cusp of not being able to harvest the crop. If we don't get some help by the end of this week, we're probably going to have to try and pick it by machines, and that's not ideal at all."

Machine pickers are not suited to picking delicate blueberries. A lot of the fruit ends up squished or on the ground. Eason, the Alma farmer, estimates using a machine would cost him 25 percent of his crop.

"It's at epidemic proportions," Goodman said. "The H-2A program ... I don't know what they have to do, but they have to strengthen that program. I don't think they understand. We've got a time-sensitive crop. You've got a week or two-week period that you can harvest it and get paid for it. That's gone."

Meanwhile, thousands of migrant workers are waiting for clearance in Monterrey, Mexico, including at least 150 that Bill Brim expected at his farm in Tifton.

"I don't know what they're trying to do other than catch up," said Brim, who farms 6,000 acres of produce at Lewis Taylor Farms.

Brim said there are many changes that could be made to make things more efficient. One is simple: allow applications to be sent via the Internet instead of U.S. mail. Another is to fast-track workers who have been to the United States regularly over several years.

"I've been doing the H-2A program since 1997," Brim said. "We've been doing it and doing it right. It looks like they could fast-track some of these people who have been coming back and forth to us since 1997. It's not like they don't know these people are good people that come in and don't cause any problems."

The farmers have reached out to Black for help. He in turn has reached out to U.S. Sens. Johnny Isakson and David Perdue, as well as U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop and others to try to prod the feds along. So far, little is helping.

"Our office has received a larger number of requests for assistance than usual from farms needing help with H-2A visas," Isakson spokeswoman Amanda Maddox said. "Considering how rare it is that we receive this type of request, the half a dozen or so requests that we've received over about a month's time is significant. We cannot pin down the exact source of the problem but share in our farmers' frustration and are happy to do everything possible to help expedite matters when we are contacted."

Brim has some workers already on his farm but is waiting for an additional 150. He's already started harvesting broccoli, cabbage and cucumbers. But without the rest of his help he knows he won't get to it all.

"We get really nervous when we can't get our crop," Brim said, "because if we can't get our crop, it means we'll go bankrupt."

H-2A temporary agricultural workers

The H-2A program allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to fill temporary agricultural jobs with foreign nationals.

Among the conditions petitioners must meet to qualify for H-2A nonimmigrant classification:

- Offer a job that is temporary or seasonal.

- Demonstrate that there are not enough U.S. workers who are able, willing and available to meet the need.

- Show that employing H-2A workers will not have a negative impact on the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers.

There are 84 countries where workers are eligible to enter the U.S. on H-2A visas.

For more information, go to www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-2a-temporary-agricultural-workers.

DIRECTORATE FOR MANAGEMENT

Auditors Criticize Pentagon For Wasting Property And Ammunition

[Huffington Post](#), May 3, 2016

At eleven o'clock most mornings in the city of McAlester, Oklahoma, residents feel the ground shake as bombs go off at an army ammunition depot nearby. Smoke sometimes billows from the depot's 52 detonation pits as the army destroys unused ammunition daily, part of a regular practice that in 2015 cost the Pentagon roughly \$118 million.

The problem is: Some of the ammunition may be usable by other federal agencies, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), which has criticized the Pentagon for not trying hard enough to assess who else wanted it.

The wanton ammo destruction is one of seven instances of alleged Defense Department mismanagement cited in the GAO's annual summary of wasteful and duplicate programs across the federal government, released on April 13, 2016. Examples at the Pentagon include overpaying for satellite communications, giving away property that could be used by other agencies, and mishandling vital pollution information.

Although some reforms have been undertaken in response to the GAO's suggestions, "there are tens of billions of dollars in additional savings to be had," Comptroller General Gene Dodaro told the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform at a hearing on April 13.

Photo Researchers via Getty Images

For example, if the Pentagon gave some of its usable bullets and explosives to other federal agencies, the 298-page GAO report said, it would save the cost of blowing it up and help other agencies meet their needs on the cheap. While the Defense Department has successfully transferred some of this ammunition to other agencies, Pentagon officials told the GAO that at least 3,533 tons of serviceable ammo sits in the army's stockpile of excess ammunition at plants like the one in McAlester, waiting for disposal.

The federal government could save millions of dollars if the Defense Department transferred its extra property and ammunition to other agencies so "we, ya know, don't have to buy it twice," Dodaro told the committee.

Ammo is not the only Pentagon commodity that winds up getting wasted or misused, Dodaro noted. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has repeatedly purchased new excavation equipment it could have gotten from the Pentagon, according to a January 2016 GAO report summarized in Dodaro's presentation. DHS was one of nine federal agencies that collectively spent \$28 million on such machines in 2013 and 2014, even though the Defense Department had them on hand and didn't need them, the

report said. The Pentagon instead sent \$25 million worth of excavation machines to 150 different local law enforcement groups across the country, because the Defense Department favored local entities that promised to work on counterdrug and counterterrorism missions.

The GAO also said the military has wasted funds by failing to coordinate its purchases of commercial satellite time, needed for controlling drone aircraft, urgent military or humanitarian relief operations, and new weapons or intelligence systems. The Defense Department spent more than \$1 billion to lease commercial satellite time in 2011, but its needs have increased since then. All purchases were supposed to go through a central Pentagon agency set up to save money through bulk purchasing, but the military services frequently flouted the requirement and used their own funds – provided under “supplemental” portions of the annual defense spending bills – to buy the time on their own, at costs that were 16 percent higher, on average, the GAO said.

The Defense Department has had difficulty getting its arms around the problem, the GAO said, and lacks a good tally of all the commercial satellite time its components are buying now. But the Pentagon has roughly estimated that better leasing could save well over a billion dollars during the next 15 years in its Middle East operations alone.

The GAO also asserted that the Pentagon mismanages environmental data collected to help protect soldiers when they are deployed overseas. Since the late 1990s, the Pentagon has gathered air, soil, and water samples, but stored the resulting information haphazardly in two incompatible databases. This means the Pentagon can’t effectively determine if pollution on or near military army bases is causing ill health, a gap that makes it hard for soldiers to get needed compensation, the GAO said.

Moreover, the Pentagon doesn’t know if all the data is correct because the military services don’t have rigorous sampling standards, the GAO said.

The Army Public Health Command, which manages one of the databases, told the GAO it would be too time-consuming and costly to move all the data to a single database. At the April 13 hearing, Defense Department Assistant Deputy Chief Management Officer David Tillotson said he was unsure why it was taking so long to fix the problem. “I can tell you we are working on it, and we are looking to resolve the issue,” Mr. Tillotson said.

The report notes that over the past six years, the GAO has made 152 major proposals for policy changes and improvements at the Pentagon to avoid waste from duplication. The Defense Department so far has implemented only 37.5 percent of these, the GAO said.

But Congress is not exactly setting a good example, having only implemented 32 percent of GAO suggestions, according to the GAO report. Representative Elijah Cummings (MD), the committee’s senior Democrat, noted at

the April 13 hearing that Congress itself “could be doing much more to foster a more efficient, effective and accountable government.”

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DIRECTORATE

DHS Pitches Silicon Valley: Innovate With Us

[Federal Times](#), May 3, 2016

Reginald Brothers is the Department of Homeland Security’s under secretary for science and technology, but on April 29, speaking in a dimly lit auditorium in Menlo Park, California, the city where Facebook is headquartered, he channeled his inner-entrepreneur and pitched a crowd of dozens of techies.

“While we are still getting innovation from large industry and from federally funded laboratories ... we also realize that there’s a tremendous group of creative people who are represented by folks like yourselves,” said Brothers, a man with the kind of serious government demeanor that is uncommon in the Bay Area. “You’re the people who we have not necessarily done a good job sharing what our challenges are, sharing what our needs are, sharing who our points of contacts are and also sharing how our business practices can meet the kind of tempo that you have.”

But as Brothers finished his point, the crowd began to laugh. The computer, projector and PowerPoint presentation behind him were starting to shut down. It wasn’t a planned malfunction, but it drove his point home: DHS needs Silicon Valley’s help to give government a jolt of innovation and advance its technological capabilities.

“What we’ve learned during the last several months is most of you don’t know what DHS does,” said Douglas Maughan, the senior executive of DHS’s Silicon Valley Innovation Program, an initiative launched in 2015 to help DHS leverage the tech industry’s expertise. “One of the No. 1 goals of our innovation program is to educate the innovation community on our problems.”

Throughout the day, a dozen government officials from both DHS and Customs and Border Protection took the stage, voicing their needs to the tech crowd before them. Brenda Smith, the executive assistant commissioner of CBP’s Office of Trade, said she needs a way to better detect counterfeit goods as they enter the country. Her office is great at stopping knock-off luxury bags and high-end sneakers but needs helping with other products, including tech gizmos. Damian Montes, director of the canine training program within CBP’s Office of Training and Development, said he needs tech that can help his agents keep their canines from overheating when they work immigration checkpoints, sniffing for unwanted drugs and agriculture. And Lothar Eckardt, a

director of CBP's Air and Marine Operations, said he needs a system that will his helicopter pilots detect and avoid crashing into unmanned aerial vehicles, otherwise known as drones.

"It's our understanding that for entrepreneurs the most important thing for you is the first customer," Maughan said. "We want to be your first customer."

DHS has a lot to gain from Silicon Valley, but the department's officials believe they have just as much to offer. As part of this new initiative, DHS is willing to pay startups up to \$800,000 to use their technology. DHS has no plans to invest in or take equity in the companies that it works with.

"We don't want to own what you're developing and producing," Maughan said. "We want to be customers. We're willing to buy."

That's a foreign concept for tech entrepreneurs, who are used to sharing ownership of their companies with the Bay Area's countless venture capitalists. Just as foreign is the idea of partnering with government. Startups are used to working fast and breaking things – a concept made famous here by Facebook – and around Silicon Valley, many believe government is incapable of that. DHS is aware of the notion and made it a point to keep pace stride for stride with the tech industry.

The typical government contract can take nine to 12 months to be awarded, but under the Silicon Valley Innovation Program, DHS is promising entrepreneurs that the "award timeframe estimate is 30 days," according to a slide shown. Thus far, DHS has listened to pitches from nine startups and awarded funding to two of them, with one receiving the money within two weeks, a point highlighted in DHS's PowerPoint presentation in bold red font: "As fast as 10 days!"

DHS is making the process similar to what entrepreneurs already go through. Entrepreneurs come in and have 15 minutes to pitch a room of DHS officials. DHS then gets 15 minutes to question the techies. If DHS likes what it sees, it'll award a contract worth between \$50,000 and \$200,000. The startup then has three to six months to deliver a demo prototype. After that, there are three more phases where startups can get similar funding. All in all, it's a process that can go on for 24 months, but in keeping with the pace promise, DHS is willing to move through it all in as fast as 12 months.

"That is government innovation that we've never seen before," Maughan said.

DHS's Silicon Valley Innovation Program is in its early days, but so far the agency has received a warm welcome from tech industry entrepreneurs. Don Bogue, an entrepreneur who attended the event, said he plans on telling his peers about the program as well as pitching DHS on his own technology, which can scan a person's subdermal fingerprint.

"I think DHS is trying. They're trying to overcome this sense that you got to have some sort of secret code just to get into their building," said Bogue, CEO of Compact Imaging, which is based a short walk from Google headquarters in Mountain View, California. "They're doing a pretty good job presenting an open door to entrepreneurs and small companies."

DHS is starting with Silicon Valley, but the ultimate goal is to set up similar shops around the U.S., near other tech hubs like Austin, Boston and North Carolina's Research Triangle, getting startups the money they need to get their ideas off the ground and into the hands of DHS.

"We want a relationship with the kind people whose job it is to predict and make the future," said Kevin McAleenan, Customs and Border Protection's deputy commissioner.

TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS

The Many Ways Terrorists Communicate Online

[Fortune](#), May 3, 2016

Terrorists need to communicate, too. And how they do it might surprise you.

Security firm Trend Micro recently analyzed thousands of alleged terrorist accounts to see how they communicate online. The company found that Google's

GOOG Gmail was the most popular email application among terrorists it analyzed, accounting for 34% of all accounts. Next up was the encrypted Mail2Tor with 21%, followed by other secure services, like Sigaint at 19% market share. Interestingly, Yahoo YHOO Mail also found its way into the list, with 12% of the more than 2,300 accounts Trend Micro analyzed relying on that platform for email services.

When it comes to instant messaging, however, alleged terrorists tend to go a bit more underground, Trend Micro says. The security company says that 34% of the accounts it analyzed were running on Telegram, an encrypted communications protocol that hides a person's identity. Other similarly silent apps, including Signal and Wickr, were also popular. However, Facebook's

FB WhatsApp tied for second-most-popular chatting service among alleged terrorists, nabbing 15% market share.

The findings come at a time when debate over how to target and intercept terrorist plots as they communicate online has hit a fever pitch.

Most recently, Apple AAPL waged a battle with the FBI over whether it should be forced to help the agency unlock the iPhone 5c used by Syed Farook. While the case was eventually dropped after the FBI obtained a tool to unlock the handset itself, it prompted a firestorm in Silicon Valley. Apple, along with other industry titans, promised secure digital

communication and privacy. Facebook's WhatsApp went so far as to ensure end-to-end encryption across all of its apps.

Law enforcement agencies, meanwhile, have railed against such protests. While they've acknowledged that they support digital privacy, FBI Director James Comey, among others, has long said that preventing law enforcement officials from having access to terrorist communication can put people in danger.

Those concerns come in the wake of increasingly sophisticated efforts on the part of the Islamic State and others to use technology to communicate. While Trend Micro's data suggests that much of that communication occurs on encrypted channels away from the prying eyes of governments, they've also used social media and used readily accessible forums to spread propaganda.

"One of the clearest differences between cybercriminals and terrorists is their desire to spread propaganda," Trend Micro said in its security report. "While cybercriminals' main goals are to commit cybercrime and stay hidden while they do it, terrorists aim to have their content go viral."

The company added that "terrorists and their supporters use Twitter and Facebook not only to spread propaganda but also to communicate with each other and potential converts."

That issue has prompted Presidential candidates, including Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton, to call on Silicon Valley to work with the U.S. government to combat terrorism.

For more about ISIS, watch:

"Technology's often called the great disrupter, and it has been in work and communications, so much else," Clinton said in a speech in December. "But we need to put the great disrupters to work in disrupting ISIS and stopping them from having this open platform for communicating with their dedicated fighters and their wannabes, like the people in San Bernardino."

Technology companies have actually been quite active at disrupting ISIS communications. Indeed, Trend Micro pointed to Twitter

TWTR, saying that it's "cracking down on accounts that open support and spread terrorist propaganda by banning those accounts outright."

A Twitter spokesperson echoed that sentiment to Fortune, saying that Twitter has suspended many terrorist-related accounts.

"We condemn the use of Twitter to promote terrorism and the Twitter Rules make it clear that this type of behavior, or any violent threat, is not permitted on our service," the spokesperson said. "As the nature of the terrorist threat has changed, so has our ongoing work in this area. Since the middle of 2015 alone, we've suspended over 125,000 accounts for threatening or promoting terrorist acts, primarily related to ISIS."

Google and Facebook, which have also cracked down on militant-related accounts, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

But terrorist groups aren't just stopping with social media. Trend Micro said that as their efforts have been dashed online, they've built their own "customized" tools to communicate. Those tools include an encrypted email application called Mojahdeen Secrets, a mobile app called Tashfeer al-Jawwal, and even an Android-based news app for "terrorist-related actions," called Alemarah, according to Trend Micro.

For its part, Trend Micro believes that the sophisticated strategies used by terrorist groups online creates a "significant challenge for federal and international law enforcement." However, the U.S. government might have already found a way in.

Last week, The New York Times reported that the U.S. Cyber Command, which is run by the NSA, has been hacking ISIS for quite some time. Those efforts have been focused on rerouting cash payments to militants and even issuing fake commands to direct militants to areas where drones are waiting.

"We are dropping cyberbombs," Robert Work, Deputy Secretary of Defense, was quoted as saying. "We have never done that before."

Terrorists Prefer To Chat On Telegram And Email With Gmail

[CNN Money](#), May 3, 2016

Terrorists prefer to chat on Telegram and email with Gmail

Jose Pagliery

5/3/2016 2:24:07 AM

The free, mobile chatting service Telegram – which is anonymous and encrypted – is used by 34% of jihadists whose communications were the subject of a study by cybersecurity firm Trend Micro (TMICF).

Researchers monitored terrorist Internet forums and cataloged the listed contact information on 2,301 user accounts.

This study confirms previous research that ISIS uses Telegram to exchange secret messages. Telegram was started by a Russian tech entrepreneur who champions privacy and freedom.

Other free chatting apps popular with jihadists are Signal, Facebook's WhatsApp, and Wickr. Each is used by roughly 15% of jihadists. In their report, researchers said WhatsApp actually dropped in popularity after reports that investigators managed to make 16 arrests in anti-terror raids by spying on WhatsApp.

A small fraction of jihadists use lesser known chatting services, like surespot and Threema.

All offer encryption, which turns plain text conversations into jumbled code. This makes it extremely difficult – sometimes impossible – for government spies to conduct surveillance.

Indeed, experts say ISIS is getting harder to track.

FBI Director James Comey has warned this feature lets terrorists hide plans by “going dark.” But the alternative – limiting encryption – has the self-defeating effect of putting everyday communication like banking and infrastructure at risk from hackers and terrorists themselves. This is an example of a popular jihadist “channel” on Telegram.

Then there’s email.

Gmail is the standard email service used by 34% of jihadists, according to Trend Micro. This shows terrorists have simply gravitated toward the most popular email service in the world, which now has 1 billion users.

But that just hides a person’s name. The FBI can still track down the physical location of a Gmail user by asking

Google (GOOGL, Tech30) to reveal the user’s unique Internet Protocol address. Federal agents do this frequently.

Obscure email services called Mail2Tor and SIGAINT come in second and third place, each drawing roughly 20% of jihadists. These email services are particularly hard for law enforcement to track, because they operate within a realm of the Internet that’s largely anonymous, Tor.

Tor is a system that encrypts and bounces Internet signals around the globe. It helps you evade censors when surfing the Web – and it hides your computer’s true location. In this case, Tor also hides who’s using Mail2Tor and SIGAINT for email.

There’s some evidence that the FBI has been able to hack Tor users to figure out their true location. But it’s not known as a common tactic.

RuggedInbox and Yahoo (YHOO, Tech30) Mail are less popular email options, according to researchers.

The Trend Micro study also looked at the unique, custom-built tools that jihadists built themselves to plot in secret.

A tool called Mojahedeen Secrets, which encrypts email, was released in 2007 as an alternative to the popular privacy software PGP. It was the first professional-looking software made specifically for Islamic extremists. It’s unclear who created it. Jihadists use the program Mojahedeen Secrets to encrypt email.

Jihadists also created a tool, called Asrar al-Dardashah, that easily latches onto the universal chatting software Pidgin. It lets them encrypt conversations between AIM, Google Talk, MSN, and Yahoo accounts.

There are established organizations that churn out this jihadist software, according to researchers.

In 2013, a group called the Global Islamic Media Front created an app called Tashfeer al-Jawwal, which encrypts

mobile devices. Amn al-Mujahed encrypts messages on email, SMS, and instant messages.

That same year, a group called the Al-Fajr Technical Committee developed a tool that encrypts email and text messages, Amn al-Mujahed.

Not everything is guaranteed to work, said cybersecurity expert Robert Graham.

It can be challenging for terrorists to build their own secrecy tools.

“Some of their tools are simple wrappers on existing [Western] tools. In other cases, it’s new code, which is likely to get them caught,” Graham said. “Even experts like me would be afraid of creating new cryptographic code.”

FBI’s Boston Chief Rejects Muslim Bans, Mass Surveillance

[Boston Herald](#), May 3, 2016

The Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Boston Division cautioned against painting a “broad brush” when asked about Republican frontrunner Donald Trump’s proposal to temporarily bar all Muslims from entering the United States.

“I would assess not all Muslims are terrorists, nor should those individuals be painted with that broad brush that they are,” Harold Shaw said on Boston Herald Radio, declining to comment on Trump’s plan, specifically.

He added: “Interesting enough, within the FBI, we’re not only responsible as a priority program here in investigating terrorism matters, we’re also responsible for the civil rights ... of all individuals who are here within the United States.”

The FBI’s Boston head also rejected the idea of mass surveillance on Muslim citizens without having knowledge of a possible threat — a proposal by Republican presidential candidate and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

“Our investigations are well-tailored and controlled in terms of the protocol and process we run under,” he told “Herald Drive” hosts Adrianna Cohen and John Sapochetti. “We do not do bulk collection ... everything is under a predicated reason and closely scrutinized, not only by FBI headquarters, but by (the Department of Justice). So in terms of our investigation they’re all reviewed and scrutinized by the DOJ. There is a practical or factual basis as to why we would predicate a specific case and give appropriate checks and balances in terms of making sure that we’re using the appropriate techniques for the appropriate investigation.”

Shaw added the FBI does not surveil mosques or any other religious institution, instead focusing on the individuals who may be suspected of having terrorist intent.

Asked whether Boston is a “hotbed” for terrorist threats in the wake of the marathon bombings and other incidents, Shaw said the number of cases falls in line with other major cities.

"I don't think it's overly prevalent here ... in the Boston area we have had a number of cases (and) successful disruptions," he said. "(Boston) didn't get, at least from my assessment, anything that was more significant than what we've seen in some of the other major field offices."

Shaw referenced the recent attacks in Paris and Belgium, saying the planning and tactics of terrorists have become "more complex," combining active shooter situations with bombing attacks. He said the planning does make it possible, however, for investigators to be able to gain intelligence from cells to thwart attacks before they happen.

"It's not an easy job," he said. "I have no indication at this point there's anything afoot within the greater Boston area. But as history has...dictated we do everything in our power to stay in front of these threats. Really, in terms of the FBI's mission, it's to identify, prevent and disrupt any type of terrorist activity before it actually happens."

Shaw declined to comment on yesterday's probe of a Connecticut gangster's house in connection with the long-missing, half-billion dollar works of art stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990, but said the FBI is continuing to pursue the investigation into the missing masterpieces.

"We're as interested in bringing this case to a close as the greater public is," he said. "So what we'll do is continue to chase every lead and every piece of information to the ground with the intent of retrieving the artwork."

Surveillance Goes To Court – POLITICO

[Politico](#), May 3, 2016

BIG SURVEILLANCE INCREASE? — The Office of the Director of National Intelligence on Monday released a report on its "use of national security authorities" in 2015, and at least one kind of surveillance is up since the year prior: orders seeking electronic communications under Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act rose 2 percent to an estimated 94,368 targets. And Marcy Wheeler reckons the report reveals an increase of more than 200 percent in backdoor searches, to 4,672 (a category the ODNI helpfully lists as "estimated number of search terms concerning a known U.S. person used to retrieve the unminimized contents of communications under Section 702 [excluding search terms used to prevent the return of U.S. person information]").

Story Continued Below

The report could inform the debate in Congress over whether to renew Section 702, which will expire next year. While intelligence officials cite it as a valuable foreign intelligence tool that doesn't target U.S. persons, the report demonstrates how Americans' data get into the mix, and that's what has Capitol Hill most worried. In another example from 2015, "NSA disseminated 4,290 FAA Section 702 intelligence reports that included U.S. person information. Of

those 4,290 reports, the U.S. person information was masked in 3,168 reports and unmasked in 1,122 reports."

TWITTER CASE ON SURVEILLANCE HITS A BUMP — "A federal judge delivered a blow Monday to Twitter's drive to release more details on surveillance orders it receives, but the tech firm won a chance to try to reformulate its case," POLITICO's Josh Gerstein informs. "U.S. District Court Judge Yvonne Rogers said the government has the power to prohibit the release of classified information, barring claims Twitter made in a lawsuit filed two years ago challenging as unconstitutional the limits federal officials have placed on publication of some statistics about surveillance demands." More here.

JUDGE BLOCKS WHATSAPP IN BRAZIL — A judge ordered telecom providers to block WhatsApp in Brazil for 72 hours, starting Monday afternoon, over a dispute regarding encrypted chat records. Judge Marcel Montalvao ordered WhatsApp to turn over the chats tied to a drug investigation, but the Facebook-owned online messaging service, which recently announced it would implement end-to-end encryption, argued those chats can't be accessed in an unencrypted form. The ban isn't the first dance-off between Montalvao and WhatsApp. In March, he ordered the arrest of Facebook's vice president for Latin America, Diego Dzodan, as part of the same dispute. And before that, the battle led to the service being shut down for 12 hours in December.

HAPPY TUESDAY and welcome to Morning Cybersecurity! ["GAME OF THRONES" SPOILER ALERT] All is forgiven, Kit Harington. Send thoughts, feedback and especially your tips to tstarks@politico.com and follow [@timstarks](#), [@POLITICOPro](#) and [@MorningCybersec](#). Full team info is below.

BITCOIN CREATOR REVEALED, MAYBE — There have been a number of false leads so far, which means the latest person revealed as the creator of the popular cryptocurrency is being taken with a grain of salt. Australian Craig Wright came forward to several media outlets, and is offering proof that he is the pseudonymous Satoshi Nakamoto. A number of researchers say the evidence offered to news publications is easily fabricated. But the chief scientist of the Bitcoin Foundation is convinced, based on private evidence he says Wright has provided.

REPORT: INSURERS SHOULD PREPARE FOR CYBER CLAIMS — Insurance companies should start preparing for a massive uptick in liability claims tied to cyberattacks, a report from the Deloitte Center for Financial Services recommends. The market for cyber liability insurance was about \$2 billion in gross premiums in 2014 and estimates suggest that will rise to between \$7.5 billion and \$10 billion by 2020. "Insurers should be up to the challenge of figuring out how to price this growing exposure since this is a very familiar risk to them, given that they are prime targets of hackers themselves and could leverage their own risk-

management experience to underwrite and help limit the exposure of other industries,” the report recommends.

RANSOMWARE GETTING MORE PERSONAL, CREATIVE — Ransomware isn’t just getting more prevalent — it’s also getting more personal and creative, blogs Trend Micro. Cyber criminals are using macros and scripts, professional-looking pages and adding new functions to add pressure on ransomware victims. In the first quarter of 2016, criminals successfully targeted Mac OS; sent emails using victims’ full names and mailing addresses to appear more legit; added a voice capability directing users to pay a ransom; and copied a user’s files while also deleting original files and destroying copies incrementally. Backing up files on hard drives and clouds, as well as good ol’ fashioned common sense, remain the best deterrents. Meanwhile, researchers elsewhere have highlighted another way ransomware is going after victims.

STATE TO MONITOR WIRELESS ACTIVITY NEAR FACILITIES — The State Department is looking to monitor all wireless-capable devices within about a 10-foot perimeter surrounding department facilities, according to a solicitation for off-the-shelf and modified products for a new Wireless Intrusion Detection System. The aim is to have a single-piece sensor that can “detect, identify, GEOlocate, and log all activation and use of a Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or cellular device within a 10-foot designation zone of control.” The idea is to mainly put the devices above ceiling tiles in environments that “will range anywhere from wooden structures to 20-inch rebar-reinforced concrete walls.” Some work will also be done in “earthquake zones where buildings frequently tremor.” Got questions for the department? You have until May 13 to submit them.

U.S., SOUTH KOREA PURSUE JOINT CYBER EFFORT — The U.S. and South Korea have jointly agreed to help each other develop new technology to counter cyber threats. The two countries “intend to explore areas of mutual value and benefit, which may lead to joint activities aimed at enhancing operational readiness to support cyber security, and resilience,” said a joint statement of intent signed Monday by DHS Undersecretary for Science and Technology Reginald Brothers and Jae-Yoo Choi, South Korean vice minister for science and information technology. That may involve “sharing and securing sensitive or proprietary information, as appropriate, to ensure continued cooperation and collaboration in cybersecurity matters and, wherever possible, coordinated responses to new or emerging threats.” The joint statement, which is not legally binding, “builds on a long and productive partnership with South Korea on cybersecurity,” a DHS official told MC.

SEC STILL COLD ON EMAIL PRIVACY ACT — The SEC is still fighting a House-passed bill to require law enforcement to get a warrant before obtaining messages from email providers, our friends at Morning Tech report.

“[The Email Privacy Act] would create a dangerous digital shelter for fraudsters,” SEC Enforcement Director Andrew Ceresney said in a statement. “The privacy interests the bill addresses can be fully achieved without blocking civil law enforcement agencies like the SEC from obtaining the evidence it needs to protect investors.” The agency’s stance — it opposes the bill because it doesn’t contain a carve-out that would let civil law enforcement agencies get around the warrant requirement — isn’t new, but the stakes are much higher, since the House unanimously passed the measure last week.

House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte considered but ultimately decided not to push for the SEC carve-out during his committee’s review of the bill last month, but the SEC could find a more receptive environment in the Senate. To pass the measure, supporters like Sens. Patrick Leahy and Mike Lee would probably have to seek unanimous consent, which means if just one senator agreed with the SEC, he or she could block the bill’s passage.

PWNEDLIST GETS PWNED — The very service that tracks public password breaches to warn companies of potential security problems was hacked, reports Brian Krebs. Pwnedlist.com, which includes 866 million account credentials, was only temporarily pwned and the vulnerability has been fixed. But it “may have inadvertently exacerbated countless breaches by preserving the data lost in them and then providing free access to one of the Internet’s largest collections of compromised credentials,” Krebs wrote. InfoArmor, which runs the site that it purchased in 2013, downplayed the problem on Twitter but Krebs notes that there are now plans to shut down the site on May 16.

RECENTLY ON PRO CYBERSECURITY — The Computer & Communications Industry Association voiced technical and constitutional concerns about a proposed change to government hacking powers. ... RAND experts said the United States needs to take a number of steps over Chinese hacking, including continuing high-level attention from the president and helping other countries strike deals with Beijing like the one the U.S. reached last year.

QUICK BYTES

— Could voter data breaches overseas bode ill for U.S. elections? The Hill.

— The Qatar National Bank hackers say they’ve breached a second bank. Gulf News.

— Misdirection is becoming a more commonly used security trick. Motherboard.

— Computer scientists found flaws in Samsung’s Smart Home system that would, among other things, let hackers pick a door lock. Ars Technica.

— A California judge ordered an alleged gang member’s girlfriend to use her fingerprint to unlock her iPhone. Los Angeles Times.

— Canada ain't saying how it responds to vulnerabilities the government finds. Motherboard.

That's all for today. Now it's time to create magical swords by stabbing someone through the heart, I guess.

Stay in touch with the whole team: Darren Goode (dgoode@politico.com, @DarrenGoode); Bob King (bking@politico.com, @BKingDC); and Tim Starks (tstarks@politico.com, @timstarks).

US Intelligence Community Scored Data On More Than 96,000 'Targets' Last Year

By Fred Donovan

[FierceGovernmentIT](#), May 3, 2016

The U.S. intelligence community collected data on more than 96,000 "targets" last year under section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Security Act, or FISA, according to the annual transparency report released Monday by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

That figure breaks down to 1,144 targets under FISA orders authorized by Sections 703 and 704 of the law, 89,138 targets under section 702 of FISA and 319 targets under FISA Pen Register/Trap and Trace authorized by Title IV of the law.

The report released Monday is the third annual transparency report by ODNI mandated by President Barack Obama in 2013. The reporting requirements were then incorporated into the USA Freedom Act, signed into law in June last year.

What exactly does the term "target" mean in ODNI parlance? "The term 'target' is defined as the individual person, group, entity comprised of multiple individuals, or foreign power that uses the selector, such as a telephone number or email address. If a target were known to use four different selectors, the IC [intelligence community] would count one target, not four. Alternatively, if four targets were known to use a one selector, the IC would count four targets," ODNI explained on the website.

The report also disclosed information on national security letters, administrative subpoenas issued by the U.S. federal government to gather information on national security matters without prior approval of a judge. Last year, 12,870 NSLs were issued, generating 48,642 requests for information.

The NSLs have come under withering criticism from privacy advocates. For example, the Electronic Frontier Foundation called these letters "frightening and invasive."

NSLs "allow the FBI to secretly demand data about ordinary American citizens' private communications and internet activity without any meaningful oversight or prior judicial review," EFF said on its website.

NSA And CIA Double Their Warrantless Searches On Americans In Two Years

[Intercept](#), May 3, 2016

FROM 2013 to 2015, the NSA and CIA doubled the number of warrantless searches they conducted for Americans' data in a massive NSA database ostensibly collected for foreign intelligence purposes, according to a new intelligence community transparency report.

The estimated number of search terms "concerning a known U.S. person" to get contents of communications within what is known as the 702 database was 4,672—more than double the 2013 figure.

And that doesn't even include the number of FBI searches on that database. A recently released Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court ruling confirmed that the FBI is allowed to run any number of searches it wants on that database, not only for national security probes but also to hunt for evidence of traditional crimes. No estimates have ever been released of how often that happens.

Under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the NSA collects hundreds of millions of digital communications at rest and in transit from the major internet backbones running in and out of the U.S., as well as from Google, Facebook, YouTube, and other companies, involving "targets" overseas

Americans' communications are constitutionally protected from warrantless searches, but when those communications are swept up by the NSA "incidentally" to its main goal, those protections have been essentially ignored.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence has said the practice of searching the database for American communications is not "unlawful" because the content is collected legitimately in the first place—and because there are protections against sharing Americans' identities unless it's absolutely necessary.

But many privacy activists, as well as lawmakers including Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., describe this practice as a "backdoor" search—because it's a way to gather evidence on Americans without getting court approval.

"If intelligence officials are deliberately searching for and reading the communications of specific Americans, the Constitution requires a warrant," said Wyden in a press release in June 2014.

The ODNI Director of Legislative Affairs, Dierdre M Walsh, wrote in a 2013 letter to Wyden that the NSA approved 198 searches, or "queries" for the content of American communications in the 702 database—while the CIA approved "fewer than 1900" queries—for about 2100 overall.

That's the number that more than doubled in 2015. But the ODNI doesn't make its transparency reports easy to

understand, leaving open the possibility of misinterpretation. For instance, the 2015 figure includes “recurring queries”—basically searches using the same terms more than once. In 2013, the NSA said its estimate “may” have included repeated queries counted individually. That could account for some of the increase between 2013 and 2015.

However, the number of queries for metadata—information about who the communications are to and from, and so on, rather than their content—also went up dramatically.

According to the 2014 letter to Wyden, NSA conducted “approximately 9,500 queries” of American metadata in 2013, including repeated queries—and excluding CIA searches, because the agency doesn’t track that information.

In 2015, the ODNI reported 23,800 searches on metadata—excluding “one IC element” that couldn’t provide statistics—presumably the CIA.

“The number of backdoor searches doubling since last reported shows that warrantless Section 702 surveillance is a significant and growing problem for Americans,” Jake Laperruque, privacy fellow at the Constitution Project, wrote in a message to The Intercept after reading the new report.

The missing data from the FBI is of great concern to privacy advocates. The USA Freedom Act, passed in June 2015, “conspicuously exempts the FBI” from disclosing how often it searches the 702 database, the Project on Government Oversight (POGO) wrote in a letter to the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, in October 2015.

“There is every reason to believe the number of FBI queries far exceeds those of the CIA and NSA,” POGO wrote. “To present a fair overview of how foreign intelligence surveillance is used, it is essential that you work with the Attorney General to release statistics on the FBI’s use of U.S. person queries.”

The new report also leaves unanswered how many Americans’ communications are collected in the first place.

Fourteen lawmakers on the House Judiciary Committee sent Clapper a letter on April 22 demanding to know how often programs authorized under Section 702 vacuum up communications belonging to innocent Americans. Others, including Sen. Wyden, members of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, and dozens of civil liberties activist groups have been asking the same question for years.

Clapper recently said he is working to provide an estimate on the number of Americans caught up in the dragnet.

National Intelligence Office’s Top Lawyer Fires Off Spirited Defense Of Bulk Surveillance, Third Party Doctrine

[TechDirt](#), April 28, 2016

Robert Litt, General Counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, has been given space at the Yale Law Review Journal to publish his citable article “Why Everyone’s Wrong About the Fourth Amendment.” Or, as Litt would like us to refer to it: Preferred Citation: Robert S. Litt, The Fourth Amendment in the Information Age, 126YALE L.J. F. 8 (2016), <http://www.yalelawjournal.org/forum/fourth-amendment-information-age>. To be fair, Litt never says we’re all wrong about the Fourth Amendment and the Third Party Doctrine. He only says Judge Leon is. Judge Leon was the single district court judge who found the bulk collection of phone metadata to be unconstitutional.

Technically, we’re not all wrong, but we may as well be, because no court has found the collection unconstitutional save Judge Leon’s and Litt doesn’t agree with it. Several paragraphs follow, but the crux of Litt’s argument is nothing new: it’s just 1979’s *Smith v. Maryland* decision all over again. I do not think that Judge Leon’s efforts to distinguish *Smith* were successful. First, while Judge Leon is certainly right that metadata can be very revealing of personal activities, there is nothing new about that insight. Justice Stewart dissented from the decision in *Smith* itself in part because he recognized that metadata “easily could . . . reveal the most intimate details of a person’s life.” The point of *Smith* was not that metadata is innocuous, but that you have chosen to reveal it to a third party. To use an analogy, if you give a document to a third party, you have lost your expectation of privacy in that document, whether it is a laundry ticket or a confession of mortal sin. Moreover, the fact that cell phones today contain a lot of information beyond metadata does not seem relevant when the government did not actually search or collect any of that other information.

[...]

[I] find it hard to understand the alchemy by which information that you choose to disclose to a third party develops an expectation of privacy because you have chosen to disclose a lot of that information. That seems counter-intuitive to say the least. For all of these reasons, if you accept *Smith*’s holding that there was no expectation of privacy in the telephone metadata in that case because it had been voluntarily exposed to a third party, you can’t conclude there was an expectation of privacy in the metadata in this case. The thing is that while people may voluntarily agree to hand over certain information to service providers (and it’s safe to say the “agreement” is anything but “voluntary”), they do not naturally assume the service provider will share this – no questions asked or warrants demanded – with anyone else who comes asking for it. That’s where the reliance on *Smith v. Maryland* fails. “Choose to disclose” is much different than “forced to disclose.” And it’s not as if it can truly be said phone users relinquish all ownership of that data. It’s specifically tied to them and they “share” it with service providers – which if that’s how Litt wants to interpret the

interaction, he should at least be honest and give both parties some sort of ownership, along with the privacy expectations that go with it.

A lot of the rest of it is given over to Litt's displeasure that courts have even granted plaintiffs standing in bulk metadata program lawsuits. Whatever the Third Party Doctrine doesn't shut down, the plaintiffs' inability to claim anything more than theoretical rights violations by programs the government refused to discuss publicly should have seen the cases tossed immediately. He agrees the framework is there for massive violations of privacy but these actually damaging acts simply never occurred. But abuses did occur and were covered up by the NSA, nearly resulting in the program being shut down back in 2008 by FISC Judge Reggie Walton.

This fact undercuts Litt's assertions in defense of the now-curtailed program. For several years, and with judicial authorization, the NSA collected metadata in bulk about U.S. phone calls from telephone companies for counterterrorism purposes. The metadata was kept in secure databases. It could only be accessed by a few specially trained NSA analysts, and then only to identify telephone numbers in contact with so-called "seed" numbers as to which there was a reasonable and articulable suspicion of an association with terrorism—such as, for example, a number used by a suspected terrorist. First off, the program was accessed by more than just a "few" specially trained analysts. It was a free-for-all until the FISA Court shut that down. Second, the reasonable, articulable suspicion standard wasn't always applied to searches of the database. For a period of time, NSA analysts ran searches against an "Alert List" of numbers the FISA Court had never approved for use – i.e., no RAS declaration was made by the NSA to support additions to the list used for searches of the bulk data. Some of these numbers were added simply because they were two or three hops away from an RAS-supported number, meaning there was nothing supporting the use of these "connected" numbers as new "seeds" for database searches and contact chaining.

What Litt does get right is that the NSA has done itself no favors with its decades of opacity. Where we fell short was on the third leg of the stool, transparency. There would have been less damage to the Intelligence Community from the disclosures of the last couple of years had we been more forthcoming about our activities before those leaks. Obviously, intelligence activities have to be conducted with some degree of secrecy, and the same is true of some law enforcement activities. Specific methods and targets of surveillance have to be protected. But if we don't discuss what we are doing and how we are regulating it even in general terms, we cede the field to those who are hostile to intelligence activities. And, perhaps inadvertently, Litt lets us know President Obama is just as big a fan of the NSA as his

predecessor was. A decision by Congress to authorize certain activities under certain controls, made after discussion and debate, should be a strong factor in support of the reasonableness of those activities. Congress is going to have a number of opportunities to address these issues. For example, Section 702 expires at the end of 2017, and there are continued efforts to modernize the Stored Communications Act. It may be too much to hope that in the current political environment, Congress could have a dispassionate and comprehensive discussion about such weighty issues, but the Executive Branch would welcome such a discussion. Given the selection of presidential frontrunners, I have no reason to believe Litt's assessment of the situation will be any less accurate by the time the Section 702 expiration date rolls around.

The Yale Law Journal – Forum: The Fourth Amendment In The Information Age

[Yale Law Journal](#), April 27, 2016

To badly mangle Marx, a specter is haunting Fourth Amendment law—the specter of technological change. In a number of recent cases, in a number of different contexts, courts have questioned whether existing Fourth Amendment doctrine, developed in an analog age, is able to deal effectively with digital technologies. Justice Sotomayor, for example, wrote in her concurrence in *United States v. Jones*, a case involving a GPS tracking device placed on a car, that "the premise that an individual has no reasonable expectation of privacy in information voluntarily disclosed to third parties . . . is ill suited to the digital age." And in *Riley v. California*, the Chief Justice more colorfully rejected the government's argument that a search of a cell phone was equivalent to a search of a wallet:

That is like saying a ride on horseback is materially indistinguishable from a flight to the moon. Both are ways of getting from point A to point B, but little else justifies lumping them together. Modern cell phones, as a category, implicate privacy concerns far beyond those implicated by the search of a cigarette pack, a wallet, or a purse.

I intend to discuss the application of the Fourth Amendment in the information age, and I want to start with two important caveats.

First, I am not proposing a comprehensive theory of Fourth Amendment law. Rather, I want to offer some tentative observations that might be explored in shaping a productive response to the challenges that modern technology creates for existing legal doctrine. In particular, I would like to suggest that the concept of "reasonable expectation of privacy" as a kind of gatekeeper for Fourth Amendment analysis should be revisited.

Second, these thoughts are not informed by deep research into the intent of the Framers, or close analysis of

case law or academic scholarship. Rather, they derive from almost forty years of experience in law enforcement and intelligence. But, despite Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes's adage about the life of the law, I hope that they have some foundation in logic as well.

I want to approach this complicated issue by focusing on two intelligence activities that have been the subject of recent litigation, partly because they will help illuminate the Fourth Amendment issue, and partly because I know them well. The first is the formerly secret, but now well-known, bulk telephone metadata collection program conducted under the business records provision of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Although this program has now ended, it provides a good starting point for this discussion.

Telephone metadata is information about a telephone call such as the number calling, the number being called, the date, time and duration of the call, and so on—the same sort of information that those of us old enough to remember long-distance toll calls used to get each month on our itemized telephone bills. Metadata does not include the content of the calls or the identity of the callers.

For several years, and with judicial authorization, the NSA collected metadata in bulk about U.S. phone calls from telephone companies for counterterrorism purposes. The metadata was kept in secure databases. It could only be accessed by a few specially trained NSA analysts, and then only to identify telephone numbers in contact with so-called “seed” numbers as to which there was a reasonable and articulable suspicion of an association with terrorism—such as, for example, a number used by a suspected terrorist. The standard of “reasonable articulable suspicion” is derived from *Terry v. Ohio*, which held that police stops that did not amount to an arrest could be made on reasonable suspicion. Although this program was approved numerous times by judges of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the Second Circuit has held that it was not authorized by FISA's business records provision.

Here, however, I want to focus on the litigation in the District of Columbia in which Judge Leon enjoined the bulk collection of metadata on the ground that it violated the Fourth Amendment. The plaintiffs' constitutional challenge in that case faced a substantial hurdle in the form of *Smith v. Maryland*, a 1979 Supreme Court decision holding that obtaining telephone metadata is not a search for Fourth Amendment purposes because people lack a reasonable expectation of privacy in information they voluntarily expose to the telephone company. If the so-called “third-party doctrine” of *Smith* governed this case, then there was no search at all, and hence no violation of the Fourth Amendment.

In his lengthy and somewhat colorful opinion, Judge Leon tried to distinguish the bulk collection program from *Smith* because the metadata in the case before him was

collected about millions of people rather than about a single individual; because it was collected on a rolling basis and covered several years' worth of metadata, rather than just a few days; and because, in the modern age, cellphones are ubiquitous and contain vast amounts of information. According to Judge Leon, metadata “that once would have revealed a few scattered tiles of information about a person now reveal an entire mosaic—a vibrant and constantly updating picture of the person's life.” Judge Leon went on to hold that the electronic search of this metadata without a warrant likely violated the Fourth Amendment.

I do not think that Judge Leon's efforts to distinguish *Smith* were successful. First, while Judge Leon is certainly right that metadata can be very revealing of personal activities, there is nothing new about that insight. Justice Stewart dissented from the decision in *Smith* itself in part because he recognized that metadata “easily could . . . reveal the most intimate details of a person's life.” The point of *Smith* was not that metadata is innocuous, but that you have chosen to reveal it to a third party. To use an analogy, if you give a document to a third party, you have lost your expectation of privacy in that document, whether it is a laundry ticket or a confession of mortal sin. Moreover, the fact that cell phones today contain a lot of information beyond metadata does not seem relevant when the government did not actually search or collect any of that other information.

It is also true that the government collected lots of metadata about lots of people under this program. But it is a well-established principle that one person cannot assert the Fourth Amendment rights of someone else. The Court has long held that “Fourth Amendment rights are personal rights which . . . may not be vicariously asserted.” My right to privacy is not violated when the government collects your metadata.

Finally, I find it hard to understand the alchemy by which information that you choose to disclose to a third party develops an expectation of privacy because you have chosen to disclose a lot of that information. That seems counter-intuitive to say the least. For all of these reasons, if you accept *Smith*'s holding that there was no expectation of privacy in the telephone metadata in that case because it had been voluntarily exposed to a third party, you can't conclude there was an expectation of privacy in the metadata in this case.

I am not alone in thinking that Judge Leon did not correctly apply existing Fourth Amendment doctrine. Every other judge to rule on the constitutionality of the bulk metadata program has disagreed with him. Most recently, his injunction was immediately stayed by the D.C. Circuit, and in an opinion concurring in the denial of rehearing en banc, Judge Kavanaugh pointedly noted that *Smith* remained controlling. Although I think Judge Leon's dismissal of *Smith*

was wrong, it is nevertheless worth considering his analytic framework.

Judge Leon's decision, and the arguments of the parties, followed traditional Fourth Amendment doctrine. First, he considered whether or not there was a "search" for Fourth Amendment purposes, by determining whether plaintiffs had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the information obtained by the government, including whether any expectation of privacy was defeated by the fact that they had voluntarily disclosed the information to the telephone companies. After finding that plaintiffs had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the metadata, he went on to analyze whether the search of that data was "reasonable" under the Fourth Amendment, using the well-established rubric that warrantless searches are unreasonable unless they fall within one of a number of established exceptions. That's the way cases like this have been approached since *Katz v. United States*, but I'm not sure that the framework is entirely satisfying in the context of digital data.

To help illustrate why, let's turn to another factual scenario: the recent case of *Jewel v. National Security Agency*, in which plaintiffs challenged the government's surveillance of internet communications under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Section 702 authorizes the government to collect foreign intelligence information, without an individualized warrant or probable cause, by targeting non-U.S. persons outside the United States. Persons inside the United States, or Americans anywhere in the world, can only be targeted with probable cause.

However, plaintiffs in *Jewel* claimed that the warrantless collection of Internet communications even of foreigners violated the Fourth Amendment rights of Americans, because it involved the search of communications of U.S. persons as well as the foreign targets. According to the plaintiffs' motion for partial summary judgment, the government accomplishes one type of collection under Section 702—so-called "upstream" collection of emails—by first copying all internet traffic flowing across certain switches and storing it briefly; then electronically scanning the contents of the communications as well as the metadata to determine which communications contain certain "selectors" such as email addresses that have been determined to be likely to produce foreign intelligence; and finally pulling out those communications and ignoring the rest. The plaintiffs allege that this process constitutes an unconstitutional search of everyone's email communications and that, just as the Supreme Court in *Katz* recognized that people have a reasonable expectation of privacy in telephone communications that could not be invaded without a warrant, this electronic scanning constitutes an invasion of people's reasonable expectation of privacy in Internet communications.

The description set out above is drawn from the plaintiffs' allegations. I am not confirming or denying their accuracy, or indeed saying anything about the means by which the government collects Internet communications. In fact, the court in *Jewel* never reached the merits of the Fourth Amendment argument, holding that the plaintiffs lacked standing because they could not establish that their communications were actually searched in this manner. Assume, however, that the plaintiffs' description is accurate, and consider how the Fourth Amendment should apply to this hypothetical scenario.

The *Jewel* case involved the content of communications rather than metadata. It is significant that the government did not argue in *Jewel* that the plaintiffs had no reasonable expectation of privacy in the content of the communications even though that content was exposed to a third party, although the government did advance other arguments that there was no search for purposes of the Fourth Amendment. Yet, in important respects, this hypothetical Internet collection program looks like the real bulk metadata program. In both situations, the government is obtaining large quantities of digital data and scanning that data electronically using specific selectors such as telephone numbers and email addresses to look for specific relevant information that is found in only a small percentage of communications. In both cases, no human being ever sees the vast majority of information that never passes through that filter. Yet because our analytical framework makes application of Fourth Amendment protections turn upon whether there is a "reasonable expectation of privacy," and thus distinguishes metadata from content, one of these might be a search subject to the Fourth Amendment, and the other might not be.

This strikes me as both unrealistic and undesirable. I suggest that—at least in the context of government acquisition of digital data—we should think about eliminating the separate inquiry into whether there was a "reasonable expectation of privacy" as a gatekeeper for Fourth Amendment analysis. In an era in which huge amounts of data are flowing across the Internet; in which people expose previously unimagined quantities and kinds of information through social media; in which private companies monetize information derived from search requests and GPS location; and in which our cars, dishwashers, and even light bulbs are connected to the Internet, trying to parse out the information in which we do and do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy strikes me as a difficult and sterile task of line-drawing. Rather, we should simply accept that any acquisition of digital information by the Government implicates Fourth Amendment interests.

After all, the concept of a "reasonable expectation of privacy" as a talisman of Fourth Amendment protection is not found in the text of the Fourth Amendment itself, which says merely that "[t]he right of the people to be secure in their

persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.” It was only in 1967, in *Katz*, that the Supreme Court defined a search as the invasion of a “reasonable expectation of privacy.” *Katz* revisited *Olmstead v. United States* after 40 years; the accelerating pace of modern technological change suggests to me that fifty years is not too soon to revisit *Katz*. My proposal is that the law should focus on determining what is unreasonable rather than on what is a search.

Of course, this approach would mean that courts would assess the reasonableness of government activity in cases where today they simply find that the Fourth Amendment does not apply. But before the privacy advocates start popping the champagne corks, I want to make clear that I believe the inquiry into reasonableness should focus on actual harms, rather than theoretical ones. It should involve a realistic assessment of privacy rights and governmental needs, one that looks at not only the act of collection but also at the use that is made of the data and the processes that exist to regulate that use. Just as the changing technological environment should affect how we view the interests of individuals, it should affect how we evaluate the governmental interests at stake.

Let’s return to the metadata program. Every bit of the data that the government collected in the bulk metadata program was data that the telephone companies collected and retained for their own purposes. In fact, the government got the data from the telephone companies, not individuals. Once the government got the data, it remained unseen and unknown unless it proved to be connected to a terrorist “seed” number, and, as noted above, only an infinitesimal fraction of the data was ever seen by any human being. And while Congress last summer ordered the bulk collection program stopped, it authorized a mechanism allowing the government to get the exact same information—phone numbers in contact with potential terrorist phone numbers—directly from the telephone companies, based on the exact same showing of a reasonable articulable suspicion of a connection to terrorism.

In the bulk collection program, digital data was moved from one set of computer servers owned by telephone companies to another set of computer servers owned by the government. No person in the government ever saw this data, except under circumstances that Congress, at least, appears to have agreed are reasonable. What is the actual harm to an individual for constitutional purposes if information about her telephone calls sits on two computers instead of one? Indeed, despite a great deal of overheated rhetoric about “mass surveillance,” the criticism of the bulk metadata program invariably focused on speculation about what the government could do with bulk metadata, rather than what it did do, and on the chilling effect that hypothetical activity might produce. There’s no question that one could use bulk

telephone metadata to do a lot of big data analysis and find out a lot of personal information. But that’s not what this program ever did.

Similarly, in the hypothetical Internet case, if the government electronically scans electronic communications, even the content of those communications, to identify those that it is lawfully entitled to collect, and no one ever sees a non-responsive communication, or even knows that it exists, where is the actual harm? Indeed, while I am no expert, I believe that this scanning is similar to what private companies and government agencies already do on their networks for the purposes of identifying and stopping malware.

In both of these situations, while government computers may electronically touch information about you contained in a digital database, the government actually knows nothing more about you than it did before—unless and until it has a valid purpose for learning that information. Fourth Amendment analysis should be based on that reality, rather than on hypotheticals.

Of course, the nature of the information the government collects, and the privacy interests that attach to that data, will still have an important role to play in assessing reasonableness. To this extent, I agree with those who criticize the broad proposition that any information that is disclosed to third parties is outside the protection of the Fourth Amendment. Courts can appropriately take into account whether information is content or non-content information, whether it is publicly disclosed through social media or is stored in the equivalent of the cloud, or whether its exposure is “voluntary” only in the most technical sense because of the demands of modern technology. But we should not be viewing this analysis of privacy interests as an on/off switch to determine whether or not the Fourth Amendment applies, as today’s third-party doctrine does, but as more of a rheostat to identify the degree of protection that would ensure that the collection and use of that data is reasonable.

So the flip-side of my argument is that even where there is a substantial privacy interest in digital data, we should not default immediately to the rule that a warrant is required unless we can fit the collection of such data into one of the twentieth-century exceptions to the warrant requirement. Instead, at least while the courts are feeling their way through the new legal challenges of the digital age, they should look at all such activity through the prism of a reasonableness inquiry that takes into account not only the nature of the data the government is collecting, but the use the government is going to make of that data. And just as the assessment of privacy interests should be concerned with real harms rather than theoretical ones, the assessment of government use must take account of the very real government interests at stake. Protection of the public is one of the most important functions of government, and the kinds of digital data we are

talking about can be of immense benefit to both law enforcement and the national security community, not to mention the potential victims of terrorist attacks or other crimes—if we can be comfortable with the manner in which the government collects and uses that data.

Turning back to my two examples, I noted in my description of the bulk metadata program that the data was used only to help determine, under carefully controlled and supervised conditions, whether a U.S. telephone number had a connection with a number associated with terrorism. There has been a lot of debate about the utility of this program, with people arguing that the program, by itself, never stopped a terrorist attack. But that is the wrong way to assess the value of an intelligence program; you do not get rid of a fire insurance policy that has never paid off because your house has never burned down. The bulk metadata program was developed to fill a real gap that was identified after the 9/11 attacks as one of the factors contributing to our failure to prevent those attacks. And in light of the ongoing efforts of terrorists to recruit Westerners to conduct attacks, and recent horrific events in Paris and Brussels, it's not hard to see how the information obtained from this program—information about potential contacts between terrorists abroad and people in the US—could be useful. In other words, the bulk metadata program was narrowly focused on a legitimate counterterrorism purpose.

Similarly, Section 702, the Internet program, was specifically authorized by Congress to allow the collection of information for important foreign intelligence purposes, including counterterrorism, by targeting foreigners outside the United States, and is one of our most valuable intelligence collection programs. Moreover, while I do not have the technical knowledge necessary to speak authoritatively on this point and my analysis is therefore purely hypothetical, I find it at least plausible that there would often be no effective way to collect targeted communications from the Internet without scanning other communications as well. So in both the telephone metadata and the Internet cases, one can make a strong case that the use of the data was reasonable.

Our legal framework already accepts the concept that restrictions on the use of data can be an important way to protect privacy interests. Congress has required that a variety of government activity authorized under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act be conducted pursuant to so-called “minimization procedures,” which are designed, among other things, to limit the retention and dissemination of private information acquired through surveillance. Executive Order 12,333 imposes a similar requirement for all intelligence activities collecting information about United States persons. Minimization procedures generally identify permitted uses of information the government collects, including sharing of information between agencies when appropriate, and provide rules and procedures to ensure that those limitations are

adhered to. They are a form of use restriction that helps ensure that data collection is consistent with the protection of privacy.

And this is similar to how privacy is protected today in the private sector. A company's privacy policies typically tell you that the company will keep only certain kinds of information about you, and make use of that information only for certain specified purposes. In other words, your privacy is protected through use restrictions. Corporate privacy policies are not universally applauded, but the principal criticism is that they are frequently contracts of adhesion, not that use restrictions are inadequate to protect privacy. So, in assessing the reasonableness of the government's collection of data, courts should look at the back end—whether the retention, use, and dissemination are reasonable—as well as the front end—whether the collection itself is reasonable in light of its purpose.

Let me now address several questions that this approach raises. One objection is obvious: once the government gets hold of information, how can we be sure that it is only used appropriately? This concern is both justified and substantial. We care more about government collection of data than private collection because of the government's power to make use of data in ways that adversely affect us and could infringe upon our privacy and liberties. We must always be alert to the possibility of government overreach, and attentive to ways to prevent it. As President Obama said, “Given the unique power of the state, it is not enough for leaders to say: Trust us: we won't abuse the data we collect Our system of government is built on the premise that our liberty cannot depend on the good intentions of those in power, it depends on the law to constrain those in power.” Three related concepts can provide the necessary assurance: oversight, technology, and transparency.

Oversight—and accountability through the mechanisms of oversight—is a critical way to ensure compliance with reasonable restrictions on collection and use. At least in the area of intelligence, we have robust oversight, involving a variety of agencies and offices, congressional committees, and, in the case of activities under FISA, the courts. In addition, the independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board provides both oversight and guidance on counterterrorism policies. This multi-level oversight should play a role in any assessment of the reasonableness of data collection. The more people who have eyes on a particular activity, the less likely it is to be abused, and the more likely it is that privacy protections will be observed.

Technology is a critical adjunct to oversight. When people talk about technology in the context of surveillance, they tend to talk either about the awful ways in which technology enables the government to spy on us, or about the ways in which we can use technology to protect ourselves from that awful government spying. But technology can play

an important role as well in protecting privacy while enabling lawful collection of information by the government. I mentioned above that the bulk telephone metadata was kept in special secure databases, with access limited to only a few people with special training. Software also tracked every query that was made of the database so that the queries could be audited for compliance. I am no computer scientist, but I have to think that there are additional ways that we could use technology to buttress our oversight mechanisms. I've been told, for example, that there are systems that permit queries of data in such a fashion that the person making the query never sees the data but sees only the response, and that the holder of the data doesn't see the actual query or the response but is able to ascertain that the query is authorized. Surely our extraordinarily capable technologists can develop other techniques to provide assurance that data the government collects is being used only as appropriate.

The fact is, in the context of the activities I discussed above—the bulk metadata program and collection under Section 702 of FISA—the combination of oversight mechanisms and technology worked effectively. In all the information that has come out about these two programs, there has not been a single instance of intentional violation of the law or other deliberate abuse. There were unquestionably mistakes made, which is not surprising given the complexity of the systems involved, and they were discovered, reported, and remedied. But there is a difference between a mistake and an abuse: to quote Justice Holmes again, “[e]ven a dog distinguishes between being stumbled over and being kicked.”

Where we fell short was on the third leg of the stool, transparency. There would have been less damage to the Intelligence Community from the disclosures of the last couple of years had we been more forthcoming about our activities before those leaks. Obviously, intelligence activities have to be conducted with some degree of secrecy, and the same is true of some law enforcement activities. Specific methods and targets of surveillance have to be protected. But if we don't discuss what we are doing and how we are regulating it even in general terms, we cede the field to those who are hostile to intelligence activities.

Our actions in the last two and a half years, including the DNI's promulgation of principles of transparency to govern the Intelligence Community, demonstrate that we are internalizing this lesson. And the availability of public information about intelligence programs, along with the extent of oversight and the nature of technological controls, should factor into the analysis of whether those activities are reasonable. The more transparent we can be about collection activity and its oversight, the more confident the public can be that the appropriate limits on that activity will be respected. And the more the public understands and has confidence in what our law enforcement and intelligence agencies are

actually doing, the less likely it is to be “chilled” by fears about what they could be doing.

A second question is how broadly I would extend my suggested framework. In these remarks I have suggested that it apply to “digital data.” Generally speaking, this is information, of any nature, that is transmitted or stored electronically. My discussion of the Fourth Amendment is limited to digital data because it most starkly illustrates the problems technology poses for existing doctrine. However, I have not considered whether my suggestions could or should serve as the basis for a broader Fourth Amendment jurisprudence.

Third, the idea of balancing the invasion of privacy and the government's purpose looks very much like the existing test used by courts to determine whether a warrantless search is “reasonable” under the Fourth Amendment. As the Supreme Court said in *Maryland v. King*,

“[a]pplication of ‘traditional standards of reasonableness’ requires a court to weigh ‘the promotion of legitimate governmental interests’ against ‘the degree to which [the search] intrudes upon an individual’s privacy.’” In particular, the courts have upheld much warrantless foreign intelligence collection activity under the doctrine of “special needs.” To that extent, I am proposing nothing new.

What I have suggested, however, is that—at least in the area of government collection of digital data—we eliminate the preliminary analysis of whether someone has a reasonable expectation of privacy in the data and proceed directly to the issue of whether the collection is reasonable; that the privacy side of that analysis should be focused on concrete rather than theoretical invasions of privacy; and that courts in evaluating reasonableness should look at the entirety of the government's activity, including the “back end” use, retention restrictions, and the degree of transparency, not just the “front end” activity of collection.

This approach would present a challenge for our legal system. We would be abandoning a set of fixed rules and a body of case law that have guided law enforcement and the courts for half a century, in favor of a less predictable analysis. But it is time we stopped trying to hammer twenty-first century pegs into mid-twentieth-century holes. It may be that over time a new series of rules would emerge to provide more certainty. But it is equally likely that technology will continue to change so rapidly that the legal system will constantly be struggling to catch up. Application of the general standard of reasonableness to judge the legality of government collection of digital data is a better way to hit that constantly moving target than trying to define more specific rules that may promptly be overtaken by new technologies.

This leads me to one final important point, which is to emphasize that Congress, rather than the judiciary, is in the best position to articulate the rules that should apply to collection activities of the government. A decision by

Congress to authorize certain activities under certain controls, made after discussion and debate, should be a strong factor in support of the reasonableness of those activities. Congress is going to have a number of opportunities to address these issues. For example, Section 702 expires at the end of 2017, and there are continued efforts to modernize the Stored Communications Act. It may be too much to hope that in the current political environment, Congress could have a dispassionate and comprehensive discussion about such weighty issues, but the Executive Branch would welcome such a discussion.

These are important issues. They implicate, on the one hand, the privacy and civil liberties of Americans and of others around the world, and, on the other hand, the safety and security of Americans and of others around the world. It is important that we get them right. I hope that the thoughts expressed here can be viewed as a constructive contribution to this effort.

Robert S. Litt is General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. This Essay is adapted from a speech delivered to the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Law and National Security on February 16, 2016. The views above are entirely the author's and do not reflect the position of the United States government, the Obama Administration, the Intelligence Community, or even the Office of General Counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

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Requests For Data Rise Sharply Under Secretive U.S. Surveillance Orders

By Dustin Volz And Mark Hosenball

[Reuters](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

CYBER NEWS

DHS Sweetens Cyber Workforce Recruiting With New Bonuses

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#), May 3, 2016

In the intense competition to hire qualified cybersecurity professionals, the government's advantage has always been its appeal to a sense of mission, not necessarily large salaries.

On the other hand, money helps too. So the Department of Homeland Security is about to roll out a new

series of incentive payments to lure cyber experts from the private sector and keep them in the civil service.

DHS began piloting the bonuses within its National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) six months ago and is about to expand them across the rest of its headquarters elements. They provide an additional 20 to 25 percent on top of an employee's annual pay, depending on the certifications they've earned and the position they occupy, said Paul Beckman, the chief information security officer for DHS' headquarters.

"25 percent is a pretty good chunk, and we've seen that it actually can get us, very quickly, into being able to compete with private sector salaries," Beckman said during an event hosted by FedInsider Tuesday. "It's been a resounding success at NPPD."

DHS initially authorized the NPPD bonuses as a one-year "test drive," but Beckman said the department plans to continue to renew the program each year in relative perpetuity. He said DHS is especially interested in hiring technically-competent leaders, not necessarily with insourcing the day-to-day work currently provided by contractors.

The department's bonus program follows new cyber hiring authorities Congress passed as part of a Border Patrol pay reform bill in 2014. Tucked into the legislation were provisions that let the DHS secretary flag certain jobs as critical to cybersecurity, pay those employees what they'd be earning if they worked for the Defense Department and also give them "additional compensation, incentives, and allowances."

During Senate testimony in March, Jeh Johnson, the current DHS secretary praised the new cyber pay authorities while also acknowledging the department had much work to do.

"We are competing in a tough marketplace against the private sector that is in a position to offer a lot more money. We need more cyber talent without a doubt in DHS, and we are not where we should be right now," he said.

But Beckman said some of the difficulties have less to do with salary than the federal hiring process. In too many cases, he said, agencies are still relying on general-purpose recruiting venues such as USAJobs.gov to hunt for cyber talent rather than leveraging special hiring authorities that are already on the books.

"Every single time I talk to one of the smart contractors that I want to bring into the federal government and ask them why they're not already working for us, the answer is always, 'Oh my God, USAJobs. It's a black hole, I never hear anything back about why I didn't get a call or an interview,'" Beckman said. "And I can appreciate that. I probably applied to 100 jobs before I got my first opportunity with DHS. You've got to be persistent, but you shouldn't have to be that persistent."

Instead, he said, DHS and other agencies need to make more use of longstanding provisions in current law that vastly streamline the hiring process, such as governmentwide direct hire authorities for the GS-2210 series, which covers myriad IT management and cybersecurity jobs.

"I don't understand why we've been so hesitant to leverage those authorities, but we're going to start doing that, at least at our headquarters," Beckman said. "We're really going to start going after the tools we have to bring the smart guys in."

DHS also wants to use its authorities to employ young people skilled in the cyber arts straight out of college, especially considering the large number of colleges and universities in the National Capital Region with programs specializing in cybersecurity. Beckman said he'd like to create a direct pipeline in which the top 5 percent of graduates from such programs receive job offers from DHS.

Dr. Diana Burley, the executive director of the information infrastructure protection program at George Washington University said she receives inquiries from federal agencies along those lines every few weeks.

The trouble, she said, is that the collective bandwidth of all of the nation's institutions of higher learning is inadequate to meet federal agencies' workforce needs.

"We have a supply problem," she said. "There are about 4,700 colleges and universities across the country, but when you look at the number of cyber centers of academic excellence designated by DHS and NSA, it's 181. We have quite a gap between the institutions that are able to provide the human capital agencies need and what actually exists. Part of what we have to do as academicians is to work on developing core standards that will allow us to ramp up so that we can do those kinds of arrangements. But even the institutions that have been designated as centers of excellence have a lack of faculty members, and that's another reason we're not yet able to scale up to what's required."

The Future Of Encryption Is In These Politicians' Hands

[Wired](#), May 3, 2016

Encryption is complicated. Legislating for it, even more so. But after years of shrugging off the issue, Congress finally seems motivated to create a legal framework for one of our most critical digital security features. Here's a quick rundown at some of the politicians who are shaping the encryption debate—and the laws that will come of them.

01 Sen. Richard Burr (R – NC)

Along with Dianne Feinstein (D – CA), Richard Burr is the co-sponsor of the first encryption bill to make its way public, and the current chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. He's written separately about concerns over the ability of criminals to "go dark," and was quick to assert that

the terrorists responsible for last fall's Paris attacks used end-to-end encryption (they did not). His bill, which would essentially criminalize most common forms of encryption, has been widely dismissed by security experts as "ludicrous" and flawed "in every way possible." Fun fact: He's reportedly a very distant cousin of Aaron Burr.

02 Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D – CA)

Burr's co-sponsor, Dianne Feinstein, was chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee from 2009-2015, when Democrats ceded control of the Senate. She has long been a proponent of the NSA's mass surveillance capabilities, despite taking issue with herself having been spied on by the CIA. Again, the bill she has co-sponsored is very, very bad.

03 Sen. Mark Warner (D – VA)

Taking a more measured approach is Mark Warner, whose professional background as a tech-focused venture capitalist garnered him both a small fortune and a firm grasp of the issues at hand. Together with Rep. Michael McCaul (R – TX), Warner has introduced legislation that would establish a commission of security experts, businesses, digital rights advocates, and other encryption stakeholders, which would in turn make recommendations to help guide any future laws. The idea has won broad support, though notably not from the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which argues that there's no possible compromise that could be reached. The bill's future in Congress is also unsure, due to territorial disputes that we'll address in a moment.

04 Rep. Mike McCaul (R – Tex)

While Mike McCaul has been the Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security for the last few years, his interest in the intersection in tech and security extends back to his previous career as a counterterrorism specialist in the Texas US Attorney's office. He's taken the lead on cybersecurity in Congress before, authoring the National Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2013, which enabled stronger collaboration between public and private entities to fight cyberattacks, and won both bipartisan support and that of the ACLU.

05 Bob Goodlatte (R – Virginia)

As the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Bob Goodlatte has already overseen consequential hearings about the role of encryption, featuring representatives from Apple, the FBI, and the security community. In late March, he and several colleagues took an even more prominent role in the debate. The leaders of the House Judiciary Committee and

House Energy and Commerce Committee united to create a bipartisan "working group," comprising a panel of four Republicans and four Democrats. Their mission is similar to the proposed Warner-McCaul, except made up entirely of politicians, rather than a wider field of experts.

06 Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R – WI)

One key member of that working group will be Jim Sensenbrenner, whom many may remember as the man who introduced the mass-surveillance-enabling Patriot Act in the House of Representatives, a little over a month after the attacks of 9/11. But! He also authored last year's USA Freedom Act, which curtailed some of those same, unfettered bulk data-collection rights. If you're wondering which Jim will show up in an encryption law, note that he recently excoriated Apple for not proposing a legislative solution of its own. "

We'll be very happy to do [make a law without input]," he said at a March hearing, "but I can guarantee you won't like the result."

07 Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D – CA)

Another member of the working group, Zoe Lofgren, has been trying protect encryption since before it was cool. In 2014, she attempted to push through an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would have prevented any public institution from requiring software, hardware, or standards organizations to "build in a backdoor to circumvent the encryption or privacy protection of its products." When that failed, she later co-sponsored as separate bill---the Secure Data Act of 2014---to the same effect, which also did not pass. Lofgren has been a staunch encryption advocate, though, and should continue to be a powerful voice on the subject at a time when there's more political will that matches her own.

08 Ted Lieu (D – CA)

One of a handful of bona fide computer scientists in Congress, Ted Lieu holds the distinction of being the only person to propose sensible encryption legislation this calendar year. The ENCRYPT Act of 2016 recognizes that state-level encryption laws are entirely unenforceable and ridiculous, and aims to preempt them before any can get passed. Lieu has been a supporter of the Warner-McCaul plan, though hopefully he'll have a voice from whatever corner a broader encryption bill might come from.

09 Ron Wyden (D – Oregon)

The Burr-Feinstein bill won't pass. It's too deeply, recognizably flawed. But if it were even to get close, longtime encryption advocate Ron Wyden has already promised to filibuster it to death. In fact, he also teamed up with Lofgren on the Secure Data Act, a good encryption bill that Congress can turn to after it's done away with the bad one.

US Bank Workers, ADP Hit By Tax Refund Thieves

[CNBC](#), May 3, 2016

Some workers at U.S. Bank had their stolen identities used to file fraudulent tax returns through human resources software firm ADP, according to cybersecurity blogger Brian Krebs.

About 2 percent of U.S. Bank's more than 67,000 employees had their tax and salary data stolen, discovered when thieves used previously stolen data to register accounts in their names, a bank spokesman told CNBC. The bank has been investigating the weakness in its W-2 portal since April 19, the bank told employees in a letter obtained by Krebs.

How criminals could steal your tax return

ADP said that crooks would have needed dates of birth and Social Security numbers to create an account in someone's name in the ADP system. Plus, U.S. Bank posted an authentication code in an unsecured page online, unaware that it was privileged.

"Any potential exposure of W-2 information was limited to individuals who have had their personal information compromised previously (unrelated to ADP) based on ADP's investigation to date," the company said in a statement to CNBC. "Publishing unique registration codes to an unsecure website is not common practice. ADP actively advises against this practice, notifies clients of the potential risks and has temporarily disabled access to the registration portal for those clients that continue to publish company registration codes in this fashion."

The security breach comes at a time when fraudulent W-2 schemes have become increasingly common.

U.S. Bank's shares were down about 1.3 percent after the report, while ADP shares fell about 0.7 percent. U.S. Bank declined to comment further on the report.

"ADP has no evidence that its systems housing employee information have been compromised," ADP said in a statement to CNBC. "Additionally, the company is working with a federal law enforcement task force to identify the fraud perpetrators."

Cyber Thieves Siphon Tax Forms From ADP Payroll Data

[CNN Money](#), May 3, 2016

On Tuesday, ADP (ADP) explained how fraudsters managed to siphon W-2 tax forms using a convenient online feature.

The incident seems small in scope. But it shows how fraudsters have adopted novel techniques to steal personal information – especially the kind that can later be used to claim tax refunds.

ADP didn't say when the theft occurred, and wouldn't tell CNNMoney how many people had their detailed income data exposed. But it noted the incident affected "around a dozen" of the company's 630,000 corporate clients.

One of them is US Bank, (USB) where 1,400 people were affected. That's about 2% of the company, according to the bank.

Here's how it happened, according to ADP. Many companies provide pay information to their employees online.

This makes it easier to download past W-2 forms whenever they're needed for doing taxes or applying for a loan.

ADP offers this to their corporate clients via a public-facing website. To register, an employee has to use a "unique company registration code" and some personal information, such as a Social Security number and birthday.

US Bank, for example, told CNNMoney it published its special ADP link on a public website meant for bank employees.

Criminals took advantage of the fact that employees at some companies hadn't yet signed up for the service. They managed to get a hold of some company registration codes, then paired that with stolen employee personal information.

"The combination of an unsecured company registration code and stolen personal information enabled the fraudulent access to the portal," ADP told CNNMoney in a statement.

ADP said there's "no evidence" its own computers have been hacked, and seemed to blame clients for not properly guarding keys to its document-sharing feature.

"Publishing unique registration codes to an unsecure website is not common practice. ADP actively advises against this practice, notifies clients of the potential risks, and has temporarily disabled access to the registration portal for those clients that continue to publish company registration codes in this fashion," it said.

ADP acknowledged this incident after it was revealed by cybersecurity reporter Brian Krebs and said it's working with "a federal law enforcement task force" to investigate what happened.

It's the latest example that shows how much personal information hackers have amassed on the black market – and how it's being repurposed by identity thieves for all sorts of fraud.

The data leak – which isn't quite a hack because there's no sign criminals ever broke into anything – bears striking resemblance to an episode last year involving the IRS website.

In that case, an organized crime syndicate used stolen personal information to turn a convenient IRS feature into a leaky faucet.

The data stolen in the ADP leak makes it easier for hackers to steal tax refunds next year. All it takes to file a fake return is a person's name and Social Security number. While the IRS has improved its anti-fraud system to catch wildly erroneous returns, criminals armed with accurate salary information are more likely to pull this off.

Brazil's Latest WhatsApp Ban Is Pushing Users To Other Encrypted Messaging Apps

By Andrea Peterson and Dom Phillips, Washington Post's "The Switch" blog

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

WhatsApp successfully appealed a ban that left millions of Brazilians without access to the messaging service. An order from judge Marcel Montalvão required the nation's mobile phone operators to block WhatsApp for 72 hours starting on Monday due to a dispute over access to communications related to a drug investigation. It was overruled Tuesday by a judge at a higher court, after WhatsApp appealed for a second time.

But even during the short time that Brazil's ban on the Facebook-owned app was in effect, people still found other ways to access the type of encrypted messaging features that triggered the block in the first place.

Several rival apps that offer encrypted messaging services reported a surge in Brazilian sign-ups, which highlights how the growing ubiquity of private messaging apps makes it hard to stop people from using them.

"My perception is that Brazilian users understand that there are more options out there, and that some of them offer a decent level of privacy and security," said Javier Pallero, a policy analyst who covers Latin America for digital rights group Access Now.

Viber, for instance, said it saw a big spike in messages and new members in the country.

Meanwhile, Telegram said it has gained more than 1 million new Brazilian users. In fact, the company tweeted it was having trouble keeping up with the swell in demand.

WhatsApp is incredibly popular in Brazil, in part because it allows users to bypass expensive text messaging rates. The service is used for everything from large family group chats to doctors coordinating their responses to the Zika outbreak. The company boasts 100 million Brazilian users. That's half of the nation's entire population who were left at least temporary digital casualties of the latest global policy battle over encryption.

The latest ban isn't WhatsApp's first in Brazil. A different court had ordered a similar ban in December, also in response to a criminal investigation. That too, was quickly overturned. Telegram also reported a similar flood of new users then. And in March, Diego Dzodan, Facebook's vice president for Latin America, was also briefly detained due to a court order from Montalvão that cited WhatsApp's failure to comply with criminal subpoenas.

Throughout this crackdown, WhatsApp has said it can't turn over the data the government wants because it simply doesn't have it. The service started rolling out end-to-end encryption – a technology that protects users' messages so that only the sender and recipient can unlock them – in 2014, and last month announced that it was now available for all platforms.

Civil liberties groups have heralded the expansion of strong forms of encryption that companies themselves cannot unlock as a boon for everyday users, but law enforcement has warned that the technology may help criminals and

terrorists escape justice by “going dark.” In the United States, Apple and the Justice Department had a recent legal scuffle over the issue – and legislation introduced by senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Richard Burr (R-N.C.) last month would require companies to help to unscramble encrypted communications for the government if passed.

But privacy advocates say those sorts of mandates would be almost impossible to enforce because many encrypted messaging products are made by developers overseas or by open source projects that post their code for anyone to see online and lack a central point person who could be forced to comply.

The flood of new users to other apps that offer encrypted messaging in the wake of the WhatsApp ban in Brazil only seems to bolster that point: Even if one service goes dark, there are more waiting in the wings.

Brazil's WhatsApp Ban Is A Harbinger Of International Encryption Battles

[MIT Technology Review](#), May 3, 2016

Facebook's popular messaging app was shut down by a judge in Brazil after improved encryption irked investigators.

In February, Facebook revealed that its messaging service WhatsApp had one billion users. On Monday it suddenly shed 100 million of them when a judge in Brazil shut the service down for 72 hours after the company's use of encryption irked investigators in a narcotics case. WhatsApp has intentionally upgraded its encryption so that it will be incapable of reading users' messages.

Facebook is fighting the ruling, something it did successfully in December when another case led to a 48-hour ban. But even if the social network wins, it and other tech companies will probably face more resistance to their use of encryption in Brazil and other countries outside the U.S.

Although Apple said one reason it recently resisted FBI demands that it help unlock an iPhone was to avoid setting a precedent with international repercussions, governments around the world appear willing to try to force tech companies to weaken or limit their encryption. Many countries appear even less receptive than the United States to claims that encryption should be protected.

A draft U.K. law includes provisions that appear to allow government demands for companies to weaken or break their encryption, for example. China passed an anti-terrorism law last year that requires technology companies to provide assistance to investigators, including decryption. And while a proposed U.S. Senate bill that would limit encryption looks dead in the water, it may well be followed by new bills with similar aims.

Australia Seeks To Bolster Tech Credentials With Cyber Budget

By Jane Wardell

[Reuters](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

It's Not If You'll Get Hacked, It's When And How Badly You'll Get Hurt

[Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#), May 3, 2016

About a year ago, a Kansas City-area clothing company wired \$40,000 to China.

And why not? It had been doing business with a supplier in the country. It got word that payment was due. Gotta keep the gears of business turning.

But, you guessed it, the money went to the wrong place.

Someone had hacked into the company's computer network, eavesdropped on the Kansas City firm's emails with a legitimate Chinese partner and then fired off cleverly disguised message posing as that same supplier.

"The hackers lie in wait long enough until the timing is right," said Tony Sheets, the CEO of Umzuzu, a Mission-based firm that had helped the clothing company with security. "They copy the digital signature at the end of the email. They set up (an Internet) domain that looks like the real guy."

It's the sort of flub that looked so obviously avoidable in retrospect. (Sheets said it carries the cardinal lesson that when somebody asks for money online, pick up the phone to verify who's asking.)

Yet the case illustrates a still-growing problem. The Internet isn't as safe as we'd like. Keeping yourself or your employer sheltered from thieves or embarrassment is a hassle that's not going away.

In the end, analysts see no way to bulletproof against malicious hackers.

The best you can do, they say, is make it tough enough that they'll prod at the defenses of someone else. Then back up everything and scramble it with encryption so you won't be sunk when you ultimately get hacked.

Some 375-plus professionals will gather Wednesday at the Overland Park Convention Center for SecureWorld — where cybersecurity specialists will school each other on the latest dirty online tricks and how to guard against them.

It's an industry growing in tandem with black-hat hackers, often based overseas. They exploit both technical gaps in computer firewalls and the people on the other side — folks like you who think RufflesTheCat is a reasonable password or who don't notice the difference between

GreatBigCity.com and GreatBigClty.com (an “l” subbed in the second, bogus address for the “i” in the first).

The stakes climb with nearly every new “smart” technology in our amazingly wired world. Last year, two hackers working from a living room couch used a laptop to commandeer a Jeep over the Internet.

This month, researchers from the University of Michigan and Microsoft will present findings about how a Samsung “smart home” system can be hacked so outsiders can control a home’s lights or open a door without tripping alarms.

Meantime, FBI officials have told companies stung with ransomware — software locks up your data, frees it only after you pay — that their best option might sometimes be to pony up bitcoins to the extortionists.

In a memo issued last year, U.S. Defense officials described their far-flung computer networks as under constant barrage from hackers.

“The vulnerability of these networks has grown substantially in parallel with our increasing dependency on them ... (allowing intruders) to steal important information, expose non-public information, interfere with operations and conduct other malicious activity.”

It reported more than 30 million “malicious intrusions” from September 2014 through June 2015. Of those, less than 0.1 percent “compromised a cyber system.”

The Pentagon, Google, Apple and Microsoft are Fort Knox.

Their holdings are vast and invaluable, and guarded accordingly.

Your company’s computer network, by comparison, probably runs behind the equivalent of a home alarm system. It’s not easy to bust in, but it can be done.

Meantime, your home computer or iPhone — less tempting, but still holding some loot — operate, at best, protected by a flimsy door lock.

Consider the job of Jason Cradit, director of cloud architecture and security at TRC Companies. That includes the unending chore of keeping online hooligans from poking around in the engineering firm’s records on oil and gas pipelines.

“We get daily attack attempts,” he said.

Sometimes they can number in the dozens, people using “phishing” methods that try to trick people on the company’s network into sharing passwords or other keys to the kingdom at websites that look legitimate but aren’t.

Imagine the havoc if Iranian agents, or Islamic State terrorists, figured out where pipelines are corroded, and thus especially vulnerable. Or if they could disrupt supplies to power plants and threaten the vitality of the electrical grid.

For all the techno-locks baked into a computer network, Cradit said, “people are absolutely the weakest link.”

They click on the wrong website. They download spyware posing as family photo in an email. Then they get too embarrassed to tell the tech guys who might be able to stop the resulting damage.

The problem, he said, comes in the various costs. What cubicle peasants haven’t rolled their eyes at changing their password every two months, at having to craft it with so many odd characters that it looks like something copied off the side of a pyramid.

Then you have to use two-factor authentication — pulling up a constantly changing number from an app in your smartphone. Security experts love the two-factor system, but it’s a pain in the ‘net.

“It’s horrible,” Cradit said.

Workers could be spared some of that bother, and get more security, by investing in some gadgetry. Cradit points to biometric innovations like that sold by Kansas City-based EyeVerify, technology that authenticates users the patterns of blood vessels in the whites of the eye.

But those things cost money. That, analysts say, is why some companies don’t adopt every protection they can.

Those in the cybersecurity industry — admittedly motivated to spend more, but acutely aware of the dangers — say companies are reluctant to invest in protections. It’s the flossing of business. You only ever see the cost of not doing it, rather than some flashy profit it might generate.

“Companies need to realize how often other companies are getting infected and that it’s not worth it to put things off,” said Vinny Troia, the CEO of Night Lion Security in St. Louis. “It’s going to be even more expensive if you can’t get into company files some day.”

Sheets, the security expert at Umzuzu, also sees room for virtual street smarts.

Always look at the return email address. Does the message appear to come from the company it represents? (And beware that GreatBigClty.com-style ruse.)

Same goes for a website. If the address doesn’t start out with www.amazon.com, then it’s not really the giant retailer. Do the logos on a website or email look fuzzy? That probably means they’re cheap screen grabs from an imposter.

Are the grammar, punctuation or capitalization goofy? That’s a strong warning that a scammer from China or Eastern Europe is pretending to be someone they’re not.

“It comes down to telling your employees to be careful,” Sheets said. “Use some sense.”

Iran’s Cyber Army – The Latest In A Series Of Maleficence

By Alireza Jafarzadeh

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

In July, when the P5+1 struck a nuclear deal with Iran dubbed as “historic,” administration officials spun it as a first step on a path toward improving Tehran’s behavior. That path hit yet another bump in recent weeks, when Iran launched nuclear-capable missiles in defiance of a United Nations Security Council resolution that endorsed the nuclear deal.

In a letter to the U.N., the U.S., France, Great Britain and Germany decried the missile tests. Secretary of State John Kerry, speaking on a visit to Bahrain on April 7, 2016, condemned “the destabilising actions of Iran.”

Iran’s Minister of Defense Brig. Gen. Hossein Dehghan shot back: “If John Kerry actually thought about these subjects, he would no longer utter nonsense and foolish words.” The U.S., he said, should “leave the region and stop supporting terrorists.”

The Iranian regime, in contrast, clearly has no plans to curtail its regional meddling. According to reports from inside the Iranian regime, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has dispatched hordes of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), mercenary militias, as well as groups of regular army forces to Syria in anticipation of new attacks against the opposition and Free Syrian Army (FSA).

In a move unparalleled since the Iran-Iraq war, Khamenei has deployed his military on a large scale abroad.

The missile launches, coupled with the Iranian regime’s expanding role in wreaking havoc in Syria, naturally grabbed the headlines, overshadowing a no less disturbing report by the U.S. Justice Department that Iran was behind a series of cyber attacks against the U.S., targeting at least 46 companies and a dam by 2013. Now, new and stunning intelligence about the scope and depth of the Iranian regime’s investment in a cyber war against the U.S. are widening the anti-terror focus.

According to the U.S. indictment, between 2011 and 2013, hackers linked to the IRGC attacked U.S. financial institutions as well as a flood-control dam 25 miles north of New York City. Other targets included the New York Stock Exchange, Bank of America, and AT&T.

The hackers broke into the command and control system of the dam in 2013, according to Washington, and may have been able to release water from behind the dam if not for the fact that the sluice gate had been manually disconnected at the time of intrusion.

This is an unequivocal warning that the Iranian regime is preparing to mount a larger cyber attack against American infrastructure.

According to new reports from inside the Iranian regime, IRGC commander Mohammad-Ali Jafari has thrown his weight behind designating a “Cyber Force” to act as the IRGC’s “sixth force” – alongside its ground forces, navy, aerospace, extraterritorial Qods (Jerusalem) Force, and domestic Bassij militia.

The IRGC has been deeply involved in cyber warfare aimed at domestic suppression and supporting terrorists abroad since 2007. IRGC Brigadier General Hossein Hamedani (killed in late 2015 leading the charge in Syria) announced in 2010, “The Bassij cyber council has trained over 1,500 active ‘cyber jihadis,’” promising that their activities would increase in the near future.

When the IRGC’s Intelligence Organization was formed following the 2009 nationwide uprisings against the theocracy, the Cyber Army was placed under it. In November 2010, the Cyber Army claimed that it had hacked 500 sites simultaneously, while disrupting the intelligence networks and private websites of other countries.

Tehran has no intention of getting “right with the world,” as President Obama once suggested. The Iranian regime is committed to pursuing a strategic war against the U.S. and its allies. Any hopes of change in behavior are illusory at best.

Washington needs to develop a more comprehensive strategy to confront this threat before it’s too late. Since the regime’s cyber force, now targeting U.S. sites was formed to counter social protests and political activism inside Iran, America’s natural allies in this war are the Iranian people and the organized opposition.

NATIONAL SECURITY NEWS

ISIS Kills Navy SEAL

[Daily Beast](#), May 3, 2016

Charles H. Keating IV, a Navy SEAL and the grandson of a man with the same name at the center of a 1980s banking scandal, was killed Tuesday in Iraq, his family confirmed.

According to a local Colorado affiliate, Keating’s fiancée was planning to buy her wedding gown this week. Keating was 31 years old.

A family member reached by The Daily Beast declined to speak about Keating, a Phoenix native who lived in Colorado with his fiancée. He was the third service member killed in Iraq since the U.S. began its war against ISIS 20 months ago.

Keating was the grandson of Charles Keating, the infamous financier involved in the savings and loan scandal of the 1980s. According to the Arizona Republic, the younger Keating was known as C-4 and a 2004 graduate of Arizona’s Arcadia High School, where he was a track star.

The self-proclaimed Islamic State broke through a line of Kurdish forces in Iraq on Tuesday and killed Keating, who was there to advise the Kurds, a defense official told The Daily Beast.

U.S. military advisers had arrived on Monday morning to assist the Kurdish forces, known as peshmerga, in the

northern city of Mosul, checking on “their morale and defenses,” the official said.

The U.S. forces were at least three miles from the front lines when the ISIS fighters attacked, the official said.

ISIS fighters “appeared to penetrate the forward line” and began attacking the peshmerga. Keating was shot at 9:30 a.m. local time; he died an hour later in a U.S. medical facility in nearby Erbil, the official said.

No other U.S. service members were wounded or killed. It is unclear if the peshmerga suffered any casualties. This is not the first time ISIS has successfully broke the Kurdish line. Fighters successfully attacked the peshmerga as far back as late last year, the official said.

The U.S. deployed F-15s and drones to fight back the ISIS offensive, launching 23 strikes, the Pentagon said.

A Navy official who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to discuss the casualty publicly told The Daily Beast earlier Tuesday that the service member killed was a SEAL from a West Coast unit. (The Navy is forbidden by law from releasing the name of the dead for 24 hours, pending notification of next of kin.) The SEAL’s team in Iraq was part of the mission to advise, assist, and train local forces. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced the service member’s death while in Stuttgart, Germany, for a change of command ceremony at U.S. European Command headquarters.

Keating is the third service member killed in Iraq since the U.S. campaign against ISIS began and the second to die while trying to build up the local forces. Marine Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin died in March helping the Iraqi forces move toward Mosul from the south.

Keating’s name will likely not be officially released until early Wednesday.

Carter was quick to acknowledge the service member died in combat but he has hesitated to do so in the past when U.S. troops have been killed. The Obama administration has continued to claim that the U.S. is not back at war in Iraq.

But with more than 5,000 troops on the ground, the U.S. is undeniably part of the ground war against ISIS, which is largely being led by Kurdish forces. The U.S. advisers are there to build up local Iraqi forces that could eventually take back Mosul from the Islamic State, which has controlled Iraq’s second-largest city since June 2014. But such an operation is months away, as not all the troops that would be involved have been trained. Moreover, the Iraqis have struggled to move against ISIS without heavy U.S. backing from airstrikes.

Together, U.S. airstrikes and Iraqi troops have reclaimed the cities of Hit, Tikrit, and Ramadi from ISIS in recent months.

But even with territorial gains, Iraq is struggling politically. Over the weekend, Iraqis stormed their parliament seeking a vote for Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al Abadi’s push

to reshuffle his cabinet. Such schisms have raised fears that the coalition could successfully win back Iraqi territory from ISIS only to have no able political partner in place to keep that territory from falling back into jihadist hands.

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter Says American Killed In Combat In Iraq

By Carlo Muñoz

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

An American military adviser working with Kurdish forces outside the Islamic State stronghold of Mosul in Iraq was killed Tuesday, according to the Pentagon.

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter confirmed the U.S. casualty during a visit to U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. It is the second U.S. service member to be killed by the Islamic State, or ISIS or ISIL, fighters in Iraq in as many months.

Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit was killed when his unit, based at the Karasoar Counterfire Complex outside Mosul, was attacked in late March.

The Pentagon and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) have yet to release the name and unit of the American service member who was killed. However, unnamed U.S. defense officials reportedly confirmed on Monday that the slain service member was a Navy SEAL.

The majority of American combat advisers stationed alongside Iraqi and Kurdish troops in and around Mosul are members of U.S. special operations forces, recent reports state.

The service member was “advising and assisting Peshmerga forces” just three miles behind the Kurdish front lines outside Mosul when ISIS gunmen attacked the Kurdish position, Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said in a statement.

“It is a combat death,” Mr. Carter told reporters in Stuttgart, shortly before convening a meeting of European defense chiefs to discuss the U.S.-led mission against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Senate lawmakers last week chastised Mr. Carter and the Obama White House for their refusal to acknowledge that the U.S. was in a full-fledged war in Iraq and Syria.

“Whenever [the White House] talks about our troops in the Middle East, they go to great lengths [to say] they will not involve American combat troops fighting on foreign soil,” Alaska Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan said during a pointed exchange with Mr. Carter and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford during an April 28 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the administration’s anti-ISIS strategy.

Earlier this month, President Obama ordered 200 U.S. troops backed by additional American air power and a

shipment of heavy weapons would be heading to Iraq to support the upcoming Mosul offensive.

Iraqi forces backed by American firepower successfully cut off the terror group's main supply route to the north of Mosul and now were moving into position to begin isolating ISIS fighters in the city.

Those forces are expected to be in position before the beginning of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which starts on June 6, according to the Pentagon. The operation will be a massive undertaking, requiring between seven to 10 Iraqi Army brigades or 25,000 troops, according to U.S. military officials.

US Navy SEAL Killed During IS Attack In Iraq

By Sharon Behn

[Voice of America](#), May 3, 2016

A U.S. Navy SEAL has been killed by enemy fire during an Islamic State attack on a Kurdish Peshmerga position in northern Iraq, a defense official told VOA.

Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said the service member was "advising and assisting Peshmerga forces" north of the city of Mosul when they came under attack.

"The casualty occurred during an ISIL attack on a Peshmerga position approximately three to five kilometers behind the forward line of troops," he said in a statement.

Enemy fighters had beached the front line held by the Kurds during the attack, a defense official told VOA.

The SEAL sustained at least one gunshot wound during the assault and was evacuated from the battlefield for medical treatment before dying from his injuries, a second defense official said.

This is the third U.S. combat death in Iraq since the U.S.-led coalition began its campaign against Islamic State in 2014.

IS offensive

IS militants launched a multi-front offensive at dawn on Tuesday, hitting various Kurdish frontline positions north and south of Mosul. The militants used a combination of heavy weapons, vehicle-borne and body-borne suicide attackers in attempts to breach the frontline held mainly by Peshmerga forces backed by U.S. advisers and coalition airstrikes.

Kurdish forces later claimed to have completely cleared two towns that came under attack by IS Tuesday. The Kurdistan Region Security Council said via Twitter that Telskuf and Musqelat were cleared with help from coalition airstrikes, killing more than 80 IS fighters while destroying 25 IS vehicles used in the attacks. It was not possible to independently verify the casualty numbers.

"I commend our brave Peshmerga & commanders for defeating ISIS in today's attack and demonstrating Kurdistan remains a graveyard for terrorists," Kurdistan Region Security Council Chancellor Masrour Barzani said via his own Twitter account, adding "My heartfelt condolences are with the

families of our fallen Peshmerga and the brave U.S. serviceman martyred earlier today."

Intense fighting

Peshmerga Gen. Hamid Afandi said the fighting had been particularly intense in Telskuf, some 30 kilometers north of Mosul.

"It was a very huge attack. IS had control for about to three hours, then they were pushed back. There were a lot of airstrikes," said Afandi.

A U.S. military statement said coalition forces conducted seven airstrikes near Mosul, hitting six IS tactical units, vehicles, weapons caches and a mortar system. Four more strikes south of Mosul hit a "large tactical unit" and destroyed 19 rocket rails.

The IS attacks appeared to be an attempt to push back an ongoing but slow-moving Iraqi forces' offensive aimed at retaking the IS stronghold of Mosul.

Carter reacts

The latest US fatality in the fight against IS was initially announced Tuesday in Germany by Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

"It's a serious fight that we have to wage in Iraq, Carter said. "A very sad loss."

Cook added that the sad news is a reminder of the dangers faced every day by U.S. service members in the ongoing fight to end the threat Islamic State "poses to the United States and the rest of the world."

VOA National Security Correspondent Jeff Seldin contributed to this report from Washington; Ali Javanmardi reported from Irbil

ISIL Kills U.S. Navy SEAL In Northern Iraq

By Jim Michaels

[USA Today](#), May 3, 2016

STUTTGART, Germany — Islamic State militants killed a Navy SEAL in northern Iraq on Tuesday after they penetrated Kurdish defensive lines and launched an attack with small arms and car bombs.

It was the third American combat death in Iraq since the U.S. military deployed advisers and other personnel there in 2014 to support the war against the Islamic State. A Defense Department official, who was not authorized to speak publicly, confirmed that the servicemember killed was a SEAL.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Islamic State terrorists overran Iraqi soldiers guarding a checkpoint, and then attacked Kurdish peshmerga fighters two miles away, where the U.S. servicemember was advising.

"He was not on the front lines, and it turns out that being two miles away from the battle between ISIL and Iraqi forces is a dangerous place to be," Earnest said, using an acronym for the Islamic State.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter described the fatality as a "combat death" that highlights the dangers American troops

face in Iraq, even though they are not engaged in direct fighting with the Islamic State. The name of the servicemember was not released.

"It shows you it's a serious fight that we have to wage in Iraq," said Carter, who is in Germany to attend a ceremony at the headquarters of U.S. European Command.

The SEAL was part of a small team advising Peshmerga forces in northern Iraq. They had been checking on outposts when ISIL fighters mounted a complex attack, the official said. The SEALs were among the first advisers to help mentor counter-ISIL forces.

ISIL militants used car bombs and bulldozers to breach the front line. They raced ahead and attacked the command post where the SEAL was located.

There was no indication that ISIL fighters knew U.S. troops were at the facility at the time, the official said.

The attack occurred about 20 miles north of Mosul, Iraq's second largest city. Mosul is under Islamic State control, and Iraqi forces have begun preliminary operations to retake it.

The coalition responded by unleashing 23 airstrikes with F-15 fighters and drones after the militants penetrated the lines, the military said. It was not clear if any Kurdish forces were killed battling the militants.

Kurdish forces continued to secure the area following the raid by the militants, and several firefights between the two forces broke out Tuesday. Some of the militants were killed after the raid, while others may have managed to escape back to militant-controlled areas, according to the U.S. military.

It is not clear how the militants managed to infiltrate the front lines, which are a series of outposts that mark a line between enemy and friendly forces in the Kurdish region. The lines are not secured by trenches or barriers.

The Obama administration recently announced that it would send an additional 217 military advisers and support personnel to Iraq, raising the authorized level from 3,870 to 4,087. The Pentagon acknowledged the number may rise even more when servicemembers are deployed on temporary assignments.

The administration has said the U.S. military presence is limited to advisers and trainers to support Iraqi forces, which have been leading the ground operations against the Islamic State. It has also deployed a special operations unit capable of small raids against targeted leaders of the extremist group.

President Obama has drawn a distinction between that approach and sending thousands of conventional forces back to Iraq to directly confront the Islamic State, a move he said he opposes. Obama withdrew conventional ground forces from Iraq in 2011 after eight years of war.

"The president's been clear time and time again exactly what their (U.S. troops') mission is. That mission is to support

Iraqi forces on the ground who are taking the fight to ISIL on the front lines," Earnest said. "Iraqi forces must fight for their own country. The United States cannot be a substitute for those Iraqi forces."

Tuesday's death highlights the dangers that advisers face even if they are not engaged in direct combat with the militants.

In announcing the latest deployment of 217 U.S. troops, the Pentagon said it was loosening the restrictions it had placed on the advisers, a change that could put them closer to the battlefield. Under the new rules, advisers can be embedded with the Iraqi battalion headquarters. Before, they were limited to remain at higher brigade or division headquarters, which generally are farther away from the fighting.

The new rules were needed to help Iraqi forces as they embark on a major offensive to retake Mosul, the Pentagon said. Iraqi combat units will be farther away from large military bases, requiring advisers to go greater distances into the field to work with battlefield commanders.

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama: New U.S. troops in Syria will be essential | 01:48

President Obama announces the deployment of up to 250 U.S. military personnel to Syria, mostly special operations forces, to assist local troops trying to dislodge Islamic State extremists. (April 25)

AP

1 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Trump: 'ISIS will be gone if I'm elected president' | 01:06

Republican White House frontrunner Donald Trump promised a top-to-bottom overhaul of U.S. foreign policy to put "America first" and make allies pay up. Video provided by AFP

Newslook

2 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama defends Iraq troop deployment | 01:53

President Barack Obama spoke to CBS News about how additional U.S. troops being deployed to Iraq will help "tighten the noose" on the Islamic State group. He also condemned a bill that would allow citizens to sue Saudi Arabia over 9/11. (April 18)

AP

3 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Carter: 'We're gonna do more' to defeat ISIL | 01:22

Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the U.S. wants to do more to fight the Islamic State, while expressing confidence that the White House will approve recommendations to do just that. (April 16)

AP

4 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

The US is dropping bombs on ISIS Even faster than it's making them | 00:49

Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the fight against ISIS is depleting U.S. bomb and missile stockpiles. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

5 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State group's cause is lost: Obama | 01:06

The Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria is on the defensive and their cause is lost, US President Barack Obama said Wednesday after meeting with CIA chiefs and other security officials. Video provided by AFP

Newslook

6 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama: U.S. gaining 'momentum' in fight against Islamic State | 01:57

President Barack Obama gave a speech at the CIA headquarters Wednesday, saying the US and its allies have 'momentum' in the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. (April 13)

AP

7 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama: 'Destroying ISIL Remains Top Priority' | 01:28

President Barack Obama is underscoring that destroying the Islamic State group is his top priority. He says it remains a difficult fight, but is expressing confidence in victory; adding the group continues to lose ground in Iraq and Syria. (April 5)

AP

8 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Army seizes key ISIS bastion in central Syria: state TV | 00:28

Syrian troops seize the key Islamic State bastion of Al-Qaryatayn, dealing the jihadists a new blow in the heart of the country's a week after expelling them from Palmyra, state television says.

Newslook

9 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama: ISIL could 'lash out' around the world | 01:30

President Barack Obama says as the Islamic State group gets squeezed in Iraq and Syria, it will "lash out" elsewhere in the world. (April 1)

AP

10 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Archaeologists rally to help formerly ISIS-controlled Syrian city | 00:59

Archaeologists said many of the ancient ruins of Palmyra, Syria, can be restored after Syrian forces took back the city from ISIS. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

11 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Drone footage captures Palmyra devastation | 01:00

Russian state television footage from Palmyra on Sunday, as well as drone video obtained from the Syrian Military Media Centre, showed aerials of what remained of the ancient city after Islamic State militants were forced out of the area.

AP

12 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Iraq forces secure villages south of Mosul | 00:58

Iraqi forces on Sunday cleared villages from which they ousted jihadists south of Mosul, the Islamic State group's main hub in the country. Video provided by AFP

Newslook

13 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Syrian forces take back iconic city of Palmyra from Islamic State | 00:57

The city's recapture now allows Syrian troops to move on to ISIS strongholds to the east. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

14 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Pentagon: Islamic State's 'second in command' killed | 00:59

A senior leader for terrorist group ISIL was killed in Syria by coalition forces, according to U.S. Department of Defense officials.

USA TODAY

15 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Displaced Iraqi children tell of life under IS group | 00:48

Displaced Iraqis now in refugee camps after Iraqi forces launched a broad offensive to retake cities from the Islamic State (IS) group in the western province of Anbar talk about their life under IS.

Newslook

16 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIS defector turns over information that could be huge | 01:27

An ISIS defector turned over a flash drive containing 22,000 applications to join the group, including each fighter's name and personal information. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

17 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIL claims responsibility for deadly explosions in Brussels | 01:40

The multiple explosions have killed at least 34 people at an airport and a subway station in Brussels. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

18 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State group responsible for Brussels attack | 02:01

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for bombings in Brussels Tuesday that killed at least 31 people. Johan Verbeke, the Belgian ambassador to the United States, said Belgian authorities knew the possibility of an imminent attack.

AP

19 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

American IS Fighter: I Made A Bad Decision | 03:52

An American Islamic State group fighter who handed himself over to Kurdish forces in Iraq earlier this week said he made a bad decision joining IS, according to a heavily edited interview he gave to an Iraqi Kurdish television station. (

AP

20 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

The U.S. is now calling ISIS atrocities 'genocide' | 01:47

For the first time, the U.S. secretary of state described the slaughter of Christians, Yazidis and other minorities at the hands of ISIS as genocide. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

21 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

John Kerry: Islamic State committing genocide | 01:15

US Secretary of State John Kerry has determined that Islamic State or "Daesh" is carrying out genocide on several religious groups in the Middle East.

USA TODAY

22 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Paris attackers' Names were found in alleged ISIS document leak | 01:24

There are three names from the Paris attacks in alleged leaked ISIS documents, but some are skeptical about the files' authenticity. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

23 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Pro-ISIS hackers release 'wanted' list of Minnesota police officers | 00:54

Pro-ISIS hackers have purportedly released the personal information of 36 Minnesota police officers, but this tactic isn't new for them. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

24 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

IS captive describes rape, beatings and escape | 00:58

Kidnapped by Islamic State group in Iraq, held captive for a year and repeatedly raped – Nihad Barakat Alawsi has endured extreme physical and psychological trauma all before her seventeenth birthday. Alongside the AMAR Foundation, she is raising aw

Newslook

25 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIL detainee provides key intel to U.S. defense | 00:53

An Iraqi man currently being held and interrogated by U.S. officials is a suspected mid-level Islamic State operative says group planned to use mustard gas against U.S. allies.

Wochit

26 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

U.K. terror chief warns of 'enormous' attack | 01:27

The United Kingdom could face an 'enormous and spectacular attack' from the Islamic State as the militant group broadens its efforts to disrupt life in the West, Britain's counterterrorism chief said Monday.

USA TODAY

27 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State threatens Facebook and Twitter CEOs | 01:07

A new video from the Islamic State purportedly shows them threatening the social network CEOs for suspending thousands of accounts associated with the terrorist group.

VPC

28 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama, Top Advisers Talk IS, Syria Strategy | 01:41

President Barack Obama said Thursday he has directed his national security team to press the U.S.-led campaign against the Islamic State group "on all fronts," following a rare meeting at the State Department with top national security advisers. (Fe

AP

29 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

U.S. airstrikes hit ISIL camp in Libya | 00:47

U.S. military planes hit a training camp in Libya on Friday, the Pentagon said. This comes after Islamic State's influence grows in Libya, where instability provides insulation for the terrorist organization.

USA TODAY

30 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Libyan ISIS training camp struck by U.S. warplanes | 00:44

A U.S. official said Friday American warplanes struck multiple targets in Libya overnight, hitting what was apparently an Islamic State training camp and a senior extremist leader.

USA TODAY

31 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Al-Qaeda group claims responsibility for hotel attack in Burkina Faso | 00:53

An Al-Qaeda affiliate says it's behind a terrorist attack on a hotel in the capital of Burkina Faso that left several people dead. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

32 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State Claims Deadly Jakarta Attacks | 01:01

Attackers set off suicide bombs and exchanged gunfire outside a Starbucks cafe in Indonesia's capital in a brazen assault Thursday that police said "imitated" the recent Paris attacks. (Jan. 14)

AP

33 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

10 dead in Istanbul suicide blast | 01:21

Ten people were killed Tuesday when a suicide bomb was detonated in a popular tourist area of Istanbul. The Turkish government says the bomber was affiliated with the Islamic State group and is vowing to fight back. (Jan. 12)

AP

34 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIS reportedly kidnaps hundreds after 'massacre' in Eastern Syria | 01:10

Local media and activist groups say at least 135 people were killed and 400 kidnapped by ISIS in the Deir ez-Zor region of Syria. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

35 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

NATO Urges Russia to Target ISIL | 01:13

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg says he would welcome a more constructive Russian role in fighting Islamic State militants in Syria. Stoltenberg says intense Russian airstrikes had so far "undermined the efforts" in Syria. (Feb. 12)

AP

36 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Twitter suspends 125,000 ISIL-related accounts | 00:38

Twitter has suspended 125,000 accounts connected to the Islamic State over the past six months. In the past, Twitter has been heavily criticized for not more effectively policing the presence of the extremist group.

USA TODAY

37 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIL wife charged in death of Kayla Mueller | 00:47

The wife of a now-deceased Islamic State leader has been charged for her alleged role in the 2015 death of American aid worker Kayla Jean Mueller.

USA TODAY

38 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Intel officials warn ISIS will try to attack US this year | 01:02

Violent extremism is still one of the U.S.' biggest threats, according to a briefing top intelligence officials gave the U.S. Senate Tuesday. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

39 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

US Says Russian Campaign in Syria Helping ISIL | 01:17

The U.S. says Russia's counterterrorism campaign in Syria is actually helping the Islamic State. President Barack Obama's special envoy, Brad McGurk, told lawmakers that Russia is worsening a humanitarian crisis and fueling extremism. (Feb. 10)

AP

40 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

U.S., allies intensifying Islamic State fight | 01:43

Defense Secretary Ash Carter said that defense ministers from France and five other nations have agreed to intensify the campaign against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. (Jan. 20)

AP

41 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

AP: Oldest Catholic Monastery In Iraq Is Razed | 02:31

The oldest Catholic monastery in Iraq has been reduced to a field of rubble, yet another victim of the Islamic State's relentless destruction of places it considers heretical. (Jan. 20)

AP

42 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

David Cameron says BBC use of 'Islamic State' causes Muslims 'despair' | 00:48

This is not the first time the British prime minister has requested the BBC use the term "Daesh" instead. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

43 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Coalition Airstrike Destroys IS Cash Center | 00:39

The U.S. Department of Defense released a video showing a coalition airstrike destroying an Islamic State group cash and finance distribution center near Mosul, Iraq on January 11. (Jan. 15)

AP

44 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama Praises Australia's Role in IS Fight | 01:34

President Barack Obama says Australia has been a "consistent and extraordinarily effective" contributor to the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group. Obama is hosting Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at the White House. (Jan. 19)

AP

45 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Pentagon Chief Lays Out Broad Plan to Fight IS | 01:45

Defense Secretary Ash Carter laid out broad plans to defeat Islamic State militants and retake the group's power centers in Iraq and Syria. He also hailed the release of the sailors held by Iran, saying they're now back, 'safe in U.S. hands.' (Jan.

AP

46 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIL reenters Syria Kurdish battleground town Kobani |

00:41

Islamic State group fighters reentered the Syrian Kurdish battleground town of Kobani on Thursday, detonating a suicide bomb and battling Kurdish forces, a monitoring group said. Video provided by AFP

Newslook

47 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State mints coins | 02:44

June 25 – Bloomberg's Vonnice Quinn highlights photos that illustrate top stories from around the world. She speaks on "Bloomberg Surveillance."

Bloomberg

48 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Blasts claimed by ISIL kill 31 in Yemen | 00:49

At least 31 people were killed Wednesday and dozens wounded in five simultaneous bombings claimed by the Islamic State group at Shiite mosques and offices in the Yemeni capital. Video provided by AFP

Newslook

49 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Veteran terrorist leader believed dead in U.S. airstrike | 00:51

Al-Qaeda militant Mokhtar Belmokhtar was killed during a U.S. airstrike in Libya, according to that country's government. The terrorist leader was behind a 2013 attack on an Algerian gas plant that killed 38 hostages, a Pentagon official said.

USA TODAY

50 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

How the plan to destroy ISIS is progressing | 02:08

Since ISIS invaded Mosul a year ago, it's made major gains elsewhere in Iraq and Syria. How has the Obama administration's policy changed since then?

Newslook

51 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Blast in Taliban attack shakes politicians | 01:24

The Taliban launched an attack on the Afghan parliament as lawmakers were meeting to confirm the appointment of a defense minister. (June 22)

AP

52 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

President Obama's new anti-Isis strategy met with skepticism | 00:49

It was not clear how a new US plan to fight Isis militants in Iraq would correct the problems of the old plan, analysts and lawmakers said following a White House announcement of the strategy on Wednesday. In a conference call with reporters, the Wh

USA TODAY

53 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Soldier returns to Iraq alone to fight Islamic State | 02:27

Ryan O'Leary, a soldier in the Iowa National Guard, returned to Iraq to help train the Kurdish army of northern Iraq to battle the the Islamic State terrorist group.

VPC

54 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Shiite militia fight Islamic State jihadists in Baiji, Iraq | 00:36

Iraqi fighters from the Shiite popular mobilization unit are fighting jihadists from the Islamic State on the outskirts of Baiji, Iraq. Video provided by AFP

Newslook

55 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

How far does ISIL reach? | 02:11

ISIS has taken credit for a terrorist attack in Afghanistan. But how much physical presence does ISIS have outside it's loose borders? Video provided by Newsy

Newsy

56 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Iraqi army fighting IS in Anbar province | 00:58

Fighting between the Iraqi army, aided by the Shiite militiamen, and Islamic State militants continued in Iraq's western Anbar province on Saturday. (June 6)

AP

57 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIL is advancing in Iraq, Syria | 01:42

The anti-ISIS coalition met Tuesday in Paris to discuss how to handle ISIS' recent gains in Iraq and Syria. Video provided by Newsy

Newsy

58 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Georgia man admits to trying to join ISIS | 00:51

Leon Nathan Davis has pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to provide material to a terrorist organization. The 37-year-old from Georgia was arrested at the Atlanta airport in October, after allegedly buying a one-way ticket to Turkey.

VPC

59 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Legions of foreign fighters battle for ISIL | 03:23

Thousands, from all over the world, join foreign legions fighting for Islamic State group. The West fears the next generation of Islamic militants is being created in Syria and Iraq and that they could spawn a global terror web. (May 20)

AP

60 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIL captures a third of ancient Syrian city | 00:36

Islamic State fighters have reportedly seized about a third of the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra after heavy fighting against the military and allied combatants.

Wochit

61 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Airstrikes Target Islamic State Militants | 00:33

The Iraqi Defence Ministry has released video allegedly showing Iraqi jet fighters pounding Islamic State (IS) militants' hideouts and vehicles in Anbar province, west of Baghdad. (May 24)

AP

62 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Susan Rice: Fight against ISIL 'a long slog' | 06:32

White House national security adviser Susan Rice discussed the fight against the Islamic State, the Iran deal and the select Benghazi committee.

63 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Santorum on ISIL: 'Bomb them back to the 7th century' | 01:01

Former senator Rick Santorum talks national security and his future plans for the 2016 presidential election at the South Carolina Freedom Summit.

VPC

64 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Airstrikes against ISIS in Ramadi | 00:56

As Iraqi government forces continue to battle Islamic militants in Ramadi, a video released by the Iraq's defense ministry allegedly shows Islamic State (IS) positions being attacked by government forces. The attack took place Friday. (May 16)

AP

65 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

After IS Capture, Reinforcements Head to Ramadi | 00:50

The Iraqi government dispatched on Monday military reinforcements towards Ramadi, aiming to retake control of the strategic city recently captured by the Islamic State group. (May 19)

AP

66 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Iraq renews effort against Islamic State | 00:50

Iraq announced Tuesday it is renewing efforts to drive the Islamic State from western Anbar province. Without providing details, authorities said a new operation was being launched with Iraq troops supported by Shiite and Sunni forces.

USA TODAY

67 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Fighting resumes for control of Iraq's Baiji refinery | 01:03

Iraqi forces and Shiite militias continue to fight Islamic State group jihadists for control the Baiji refinery, Iraq's largest. Video provided by AFP

AFP

68 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

6 Minnesotans accused of trying to join Islamic State | 01:40

The FBI has arrested six men in Minnesota and San Diego described as friends who conspired to join the Islamic State in Syria "by any means necessary." The U.S. attorney

said the suspects are part of a larger terror recruitment network in Minnesota.

VPC

69 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

No sign of ISIS at the U.S.-Mexico border | 01:46

People in one Mexican border town shot down reports from 'Judicial Watch' that the terrorist group the Islamic State has set up training camps along the border.

VPC

70 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Eerie echoes in new Islamic State video | 00:47

The latest video released by the Islamic State mirrors a video the group released in February. In both cases, Christians are beheaded.

VPC

71 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIL near the border? Mexican town disputes rumors | 01:45

A small Mexican town is looking to squash rumors that an Islamic State training camp has allegedly popped up nearby.

VPC

72 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State seizes village in Iraq's Anbar province | 00:37

Police and local official sources say, Islamic State militants gained ground in western Iraq on Wednesday, overrunning another village near the capital of Anbar province in a dawn raid.

Wochit

73 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Kansas man charged with suicide bomb attack plot | 01:17

A 20-year-old man has been charged with planning a suicide bomb attack against the Fort Riley military base in Kansas, in an alleged plot to support the Islamic State group, federal prosecutors said Friday. (April 10)

AP

74 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

French network hacked by group claiming IS ties | 01:17

Hackers claiming allegiance to the Islamic State group seized control of a global French television network, simultaneously blacking out 11 channels and taking over the network's website and social media accounts. (April 9)

AP

75 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: IS group destroys ancient ruins of Nimrud | 01:32

An online video purports to show Islamic State militants bombing ruins at the ancient Iraqi city of Nimrud. In the video, militants use sledgehammers, a bulldozer and explosives to level the site, located near the militant-held city of Mosul. (April

AP

76 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Timbuktu's mausoleums rise again after Islamist occupation | 01:05

Timbuktu's famous mausoleums are being restored after damage from radical Islamists who occupied northern Mali in 2012. Local masons use traditional building methods to rebuild 14 structures which form part of the World Heritage site.

Newslook

77 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Hundreds of bodies found in mass grave (raw) | 00:45

Forensic teams examined and worked to remove hundreds of bodies found in a mass grave in Tikrit, Iraq. The victims are believed to be hundreds of soldiers killed by Islamic State group militants last year. (April 9)

AP

78 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

National guardsman, cousin arrested in alleged ISIL plot | 01:06

The FBI has arrested Army National Guard Specialist Hasan Edmonds and his cousin Jonas Edmonds on suspicion of conspiring to support ISIL. Video provided by Newsy

Newsy

79 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Paris professor has dire predictions about French jihadists | 03:50

French professor has strong feelings that jihadi expansion is to blame for Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris and more terror may be on its way.

80 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Iraqi troops enter Tikrit Palace | 00:50

Iraqi soldiers entered a palace in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, Iraq and raised an Iraqi flag over the provincial headquarters, as they try to drive out Islamic State militants. (April 1)

AP

81 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Iraqis keep up Tikrit offensive against ISIL | 01:11

The commander of the Iraqi Federal Police said that his forces had taken back a number of areas around Tikrit from Islamic State control. Officials said they had also retaken a hospital in Tikrit. (March 31)

AP

82 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

French tv network targeted by an Islamist group | 00:45

A cyber attack cripples a French television network. A group has been hacked by people claiming allegiance to the Islamic State group.

Wochit

83 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Moms, dads, end up on terror 'hit list' | 01:32

Family members want answers on how they will be protected after names of U.S. troops appear on a terror group's "kill list."

VPC

84 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Iraqi Troops make final push toward Tikrit | 00:56

Iraqi military operations continued on Sunday to try to retake the city of Tikrit from Islamic State militants. (March 29)

AP

85 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

As U.S. launches airstrikes in Tikrit, who's on the ground? | 01:48

With the U.S. now launching airstrikes against ISIL in Tikrit, the three parties involved are making different claims about who is helping whom. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

86 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: US Begins Airstrikes in Tikrit, Iraq | 00:53

At Iraq's request, the U.S. began airstrikes in Tikrit on Wednesday in support of a stalled Iraqi ground offensive to retake the city from Islamic State fighters. (March 26)

AP

87 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State reportedly identifies U.S. troops to kill | 00:47

An Islamic State group has reportedly posted the names, photos and addresses of 100 U.S. troops and servicemembers online, calling for sympathizers to attack here at home.

VPC

88 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIL hit list terrorizes Florida mom and family | 02:53

A Florida mother fears for her life and that of her family after finding out her husband was named in a "hit list" reportedly distributed by supporters of Islamic State, the terror group spreading death and bloodshed overseas.

VPC

89 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State claims responsibility for Tunisia | 01:49

The Islamic State group has issued a statement claiming responsibility for the deadly attack on Tunisia's national museum that killed 23 people, mostly tourists. (March 19)

AP

90 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Iraqi forces fight Islamic State | 01:45

Iraqi forces continued fighting Islamic State (IS) militants on Friday in the northern Iraqi city of Tikrit as part of the final phase of an offensive to recapture Saddam Hussein's hometown from the extremists. (March 27)

AP

91 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

U.S. troops on terror 'kill list' | 01:10

Military units have contacted 100 service members who were named on a "kill list" posted online by an Islamic State group.

VPC

92 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Scores dead, hurt in Yemen suicide attacks | 00:59

A television network owned by Yemen's Shiite rebels says a total of 137 people were killed and 345 injured in quadruple suicide bombings that hit a pair of mosques controlled by the rebels in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital. (March 20)

AP

93 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Who benefits from the Boko Haram-ISIL alliance? | 02:27

Boko Haram and ISIL have announced an alliance, but what does either militant group stand to gain from such a deal, and will it make them stronger? Video provided by Newsy

Newsy

94 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

The children who fight for the Islamic State | 03:11

Militant groups using children for combat is nothing new, but ISIL has committed the war crime in a much broader fashion than groups in the past. Video provided by Newsy.

Newslook
95 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Iraq, Peshmerga forces launch attack on IS group | 02:37
Kurdish Peshmerga troops and Iraqi forces launched an offensive against Islamic State militants to retake strategic cities. (March 19)
AP
96 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Raw: Purported video of 3 UK girls in Turkey | 02:19
Video purporting to show three British girls in Turkey on their way to join the Islamic State group in Syria was released by Turkish broadcaster A Haber on Friday. (March 13)
AP
97 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Raw: Iraqi forces fight Islamic State for Tikrit | 01:25
Iraqi troops clashed along two fronts with Islamic State militants in Tikrit Thursday as rockets and mortars echoed across Saddam Hussein's hometown a day after soldiers and allied Shiite militiamen swept into this Sunni city north of Baghdad. (Marc
AP
98 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Iraq takes back ISIL stronghold | 01:36
AP exclusive video shows Iraqi security forces liberating the Islamic State group stronghold of Tikrit Wednesday. The future of Iraq and the possible involvement of U.S. ground troops is discussed in a Senate hearing. (March 11)
AP
99 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Veteran recruiting team to fight ISIL, militia style | 01:48
A U.S. veteran is putting out a call to other veterans to come together to fight the Islamic State on their turf.
VPC
100 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Air Force vet indicted for trying to join Islamic State | 01:45
An Air Force veteran was arrested and accused of attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terror organization, specifically ISIS. Tairod Nathan Webster Pugh was in the military from 1986 to 1990.
VPC
101 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Iraqi army fights to recapture Tikrit from ISIL | 01:24

With the help of Shiite militia and local tribes, the Iraqi Army has launched another military operation to take back the city of Tikrit from ISIL. Video provided by Newsy
Newslook
102 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
ISIS is the newest threat to Iraq's oldest artifacts | 01:27
The destruction of antiquities in Iraq is nothing new, but the pace at which ISIS is doing it has preservationists racing to protect them. Video provided by Newsy
Newslook
103 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Top U.S. officer in Baghdad says IS jihadists will be defeated | 00:50
The US military's top officer General Martin Dempsey landed in Baghdad on Monday and vowed that the Islamic State group will be defeated, as Iraqi forces pressed their largest operation yet against the jihadists. Video provided by AFP
Newslook
104 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
ISIL frees at least 19 Assyrian Christian captives | 00:50
The terrorist group ISIS has freed at least 19 of the 220 Assyrian Christians they abducted from northern Syria last week. Video provided by Newsy
Newslook
105 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Raw: Iraq reclaims town in march to Fallujah | 00:49
Iraqi armed forces said on Tuesday they had retaken control of the strategic town of Garma in their advance towards Fallujah, which is held by the Islamic State group. (March 10)
AP
106 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Report: 'Jihadi John' considered suicide | 00:52
In a series of e-mails to the 'Mail on Sunday' several years ago, the masked Islamic State militant now known as 'Jihadi John' claimed he was being harassed by British security forces and considered suicide.
VPC
107 of 150
THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Identity of Islamic State's 'Jihadi John' revealed | 01:01
The BBC and 'The Washington Post' have identified the Islamic State militant known as 'Jihadi John.' The news comes as the terrorist group has reportedly abducted 220 Assyrian Christians.
VPC
108 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Shopkeeper in 'Jihadi John' neighborhood talks | 00:40

USA TODAY's Jane Onyanga-Omara reports from outside of reported home of the suspected Islamic State militant known as 'Jihadi John,' or Mohammed Emwazi, who has been seen in several hostage beheading videos.

(USA NEWS, USA TODAY)

109 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State Suspect Described as 'Lost' | 01:13

One of the men arrested in connection with the Islamic State group is described as 'lost.' Farhod Sulton says he knows Abror Habibov. He says Habibov wanted to learn about Islam but wasn't following the right people. (Feb. 25)

AP

110 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Three men arrested in alleged plot to support ISIL | 01:10

The U.S. Justice Department announced Wednesday the arrests of three men accused of planning or support ISIL in Syria. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

111 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

3 nabbed in NY, Florida in plot to join IS | 01:16

Three men were arrested on charges of plotting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group and wage war against the U.S., and federal officials said one of them spoke of attacking President Barack Obama or planting a bomb in Brooklyn. (Feb. 2)

AP

112 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Attorney: Terror suspect is 'young, innocent kid' | 00:55

The attorney for one of the suspects arrested in New York Wednesday for plotting to join the Islamic State group said his client is a 'young, innocent kid,' and says the case brings into question the way the government approaches Muslim men. (Feb. 2)

AP

113 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Gen. Allen speaks on FBI terror arrests | 00:21

Retired Gen. John Allen said the arrest of three men plotting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group is an example of how work by the FBI can prevent future 9/11-style attacks at home. (Feb. 25)

AP

114 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

New Zealand joins fight against ISIL, sends troops to Iraq | 01:48

New Zealand has become the latest in a list of countries that are sending military personnel to Iraq to train and assist Iraqi and Kurdish soldiers. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

115 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Western volunteers rally to Iraq Christian militia | 01:17

Young American fighters are among the Western recruits who have returned to Iraq to fight the Islamist State jihadist group alongside Dwekh Nawsha, a Christian militia. Video provided by AFP

Newslook

116 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

U.K. Families' emotional plea for girls' return | 01:38

Families of three missing British schoolgirls tearfully appeal for them to come home. All 15 to 16 years old, the girls are believed to have fled to Syria last week to join the Islamic State extremist group. (Feb. 23)

AP

117 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Congress to debate military action against ISIL | 04:19

Stephanie Sanok Kostro, former defense adviser at the Pentagon, State Department, and Congress discusses where the debate will go as Congress takes up President Obama's request for authorization for the use of military force against Islamic State.

USA TODAY

118 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Roundtable: CPAC & White House summit on terrorism | 07:20

USA TODAY's Susan Davis and Michael Scherer of Time Magazine join Derek and Susan to break down Matt Schlapps's interview, look ahead to CPAC and discuss the White House Summit. Congress debates making a decision about military action against ISIS.

USA TODAY

119 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

British PM: Girls lured by Islamic State 'death cult' | 01:37

British authorities are rushing to locate three missing London teenage girls who are believed to be traveling to Syria in hopes of joining the Islamic State. British Prime Minister David Cameron says the girls were lured by the "death cult."

VPC

120 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIS claims attack in Libya amid calls for intervention | 02:13

The militant group ISIS says it's responsible for a car bomb attack that killed 40 people in Libya Friday. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

121 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

The U.S. Just told everyone its plan to take back Mosul | 02:16

The U.S. Army is sharing its plan to take back the ISIS-held city of Mosul in what could be a turning point in the war against the extremist militia. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

122 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Jordan calls fight against extremism a "third world war" | 01:37

Jordan's Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh, discussing Islamic State, says "all of our being, threatened by these people," during meeting with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Rough Cut (no reporter narration) Video provided by Reuters

Newslook

123 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama urges 'unwavering' fight against terrorists | 01:45

Obama gives a speech on the final day of a conference in Washington focused on countering violent extremism. He urges the international community to remain "unwavering" in fighting terrorists.

VPC

124 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Kayla Mueller's brother delivers heartfelt words | 01:08

During a candlelight memorial on the historic Couthouse Square in Kayla Mullers' hometown, her brother Eric delivered a poignant message. It's the first time her family has spoken publicly since learning of her death as an Islamic State hostage.

VPC

125 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Vigil for Woman killed by Islamic State Group | 01:15

Friends and family of an American woman killed while being held captive in Syria by the Islamic State group gathered Wednesday to honor her at a memorial in her Arizona hometown. The 26-year-old aid worker was captured in Syria in August 2013. (Feb.

AP

126 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama: 'We are at war with people who perverted Islam' | 01:28

President Obama said Thursday he doesn't use terms like Islamic extremism because to do so would promote the false idea that the West is at war with Islam, thereby helping extremists recruit more terrorists.

VPC

127 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Funeral held for Jewish guard killed in Denmark | 01:06

The Danish Prime Minister joins hundreds of mourners in Copenhagen for the funeral of a Jewish guard killed during an attack at a synagogue. Rough Cut (no reporter narration). Video provided by Reuters

Newslook

128 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Pope asks pilgrims to pray for Egyptian christians beheaded in Libya | 00:49

Pope Francis asks faithful to pray for beheaded Egyptian Coptic Christians in Libya and for the international community to find peaceful solutions to the conflict-ravaged country. Rough Cut (no reporter narration). Video provided by Reuters

Newslook

129 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State targets hit in 16 new U.S. led airstrikes | 00:35

The air strikes, launched during a 24-hour period since early Tuesday, struck several units of Islamic State fighters and other locations.

VPC

130 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Kayla Mueller's boyfriend shares rescue attempt | 02:25

Islamic State victim Kayla Mueller's boyfriend shared the story of the couple's kidnapping by the terrorist group with 'The Daily Mail,' and how he tried to rescue her. Another report has some wondering if the U.S. did enough to try to save Mueller.

VPC

131 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Shiite Militias rush to defend Kirkuk from IS | 01:23

Shiite militias allied with Iraqi security forces are said to be flooding into the Iraqi city of Kirkuk to help Kurdish peshmerga soldiers defend the city from the Islamic State group. But the alliance is showing signs of friction. (Feb. 17)

AP

132 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Denmark vigil honors attack victims | 01:54

Thousands hold a candle-lit vigil on Monday to honor the victims of the attacks that took place in Copenhagen over the weekend. (Feb. 16)

AP

133 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Egypt strikes back for Coptic murders | 01:18

Egyptian warplanes attacked targets in Libya in swift retribution for the murders of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians. The men were killed by a group claiming affiliation with Islamic state. (Feb 16)

AP

134 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Anguish among Egypt Christians after beheadings | 01:33

The central Egyptian village of el-Aour near Menya, home to 13 of the 21 Christians kidnapped in Libya and now feared dead, saw an outpouring of grief and anger on Monday. (Feb. 16)

AP

135 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Raw: Egyptian airstrikes against IS in Libya | 00:39

An amateur video emerged on Monday showing an Egyptian airstrike against Islamic State group targets in the Libyan city of Darna. (Feb. 16)

AP

136 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Why ISIS targeted Egypt's Coptic christians | 01:45

A new video from ISIS shows the mass beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians who were recently kidnapped in Libya. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

137 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Christian hostages reportedly beheaded in Islamic State video | 01:00

A video released by the Islamic State purportedly shows militants beheading Christian hostages. There is speculation that these 21 detainees are Egyptian Coptic Christians that were kidnapped weeks ago.

VPC

138 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Roundtable: Obama calls for military action against ISIL | 06:40

Roundtable: Obama calls for military action against ISIL.

139 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIL: Second Japanese hostage beheaded | 01:06

A video reportedly released by the Islamic State shows the apparent beheading of Japanese journalist Kenji Goto. There is no word on whether or not a separate hostage, a Jordanian pilot, is still alive.

VPC

140 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Friend of Kayla Mueller: She was 'fearless' | 01:12

A friend of Kayla Mueller, the young woman who was taken hostage by ISIS, describes her as "fearless" and "an incredible person."

VPC

141 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

ISIS fighters attack Iraqi Base housing U.S. troops | 00:53

ISIS fighters attacked an Iraqi air base where more than 300 U.S. troops were stationed on Friday. Video provided by Newsy

Newslook

142 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Islamic State says it's holding "Israeli spy" in Syria | 01:18

Islamic State's English-language online magazine claims the group is holding an Israeli Arab for posing as a fighter in order to spy for Mossad. Mana Rabiee reports. Video provided by Reuters

Newslook

143 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Security in Iraq 'dramatically improving': Iraqi ambassador | 05:03

Iraqi Ambassador Lukman Faily on defeating the Islamic State and the air, training and technology support needed from the United States in this interview with USA TODAY military reporter Jim Michaels.

144 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Boehner: Obama's war request ties his own hands | 01:05

House Speaker John Boehner said Obama's request to Congress to authorize the use of force against Islamic State militants is too weak and restrictive and he said the House will hold hearings to push for a "strong, robust authorization." (Feb. 12)

AP

145 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama details military plan: 'ISIL will lose' | 01:10

President Obama is submitting a proposal to Congress on his plan to eliminate the Islamic State.

VPC

146 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama sends Congress force request against IS | 01:47

President Barack Obama asked Congress to formally authorize military force against the Islamic State group, declaring it's on the defensive and "going to lose." But he vowed not to repeat the large and costly ground wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Fe

AP

147 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Obama asks for authorization to fight Islamic State | 00:50

The White House is asking Congress to authorize military forces for up to three years of U.S. military force in the battle against the Islamic State.

VPC

148 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Australian police thwart imminent attack | 00:59

Counter-terrorism police prevent an imminent attack linked to Islamic State with the arrest of two men. Julie Noce reports. Video provided by Reuters

Newslook

149 of 150

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Family mourns death of US hostage in Syria | 01:03

The Arizona family of an American hostage in Syria held by Islamic State militants mourned her death on Tuesday after receiving confirmation that Kayla Mueller had been killed after months in captivity. (Feb. 10)

AP

150 of 150Last VideoNext Video

Obama: New U.S. troops in Syria will be essential

Trump: 'ISIL will be gone if I'm elected president'

Obama defends Iraq troop deployment

Carter: 'We're gonna do more' to defeat ISIL

The US is dropping bombs on ISIS Even faster than it's making them

Islamic State group's cause is lost: Obama

Obama: U.S. gaining 'momentum' in fight against Islamic State

Obama: 'Destroying ISIL Remains Top Priority'

Army seizes key ISIS bastion in central Syria: state TV

Obama: ISIL could 'lash out' around the world

Archaeologists rally to help formerly ISIS-controlled Syrian city

Drone footage captures Palmyra devastation

Iraq forces secure villages south of Mosul

Syrian forces take back iconic city of Palmyra from Islamic State

Pentagon: Islamic State's 'second in command' killed

Displaced Iraqi children tell of life under IS group

ISIS defector turns over information that could be huge
ISIL claims responsibility for deadly explosions in

Brussels

Islamic State group responsible for Brussels attack

American IS Fighter: I Made A Bad Decision

The U.S. is now calling ISIS atrocities 'genocide'

John Kerry: Islamic State committing genocide

Paris attackers' Names were found in alleged ISIS document leak

Pro-ISIL hackers release 'wanted' list of Minnesota police officers

IS captive describes rape, beatings and escape

ISIL detainee provides key intel to U.S. defense

U.K. terror chief warns of 'enormous' attack

Islamic State threatens Facebook and Twitter CEOs

Obama, Top Advisers Talk IS, Syria Strategy

U.S. airstrikes hit ISIL camp in Libya

Libyan ISIS training camp struck by U.S. warplanes

Al-Qaeda group claims responsibility for hotel attack in Burkina Faso

Islamic State Claims Deadly Jakarta Attacks

10 dead in Istanbul suicide blast

ISIS reportedly kidnaps hundreds after 'massacre' in Eastern Syria

NATO Urges Russia to Target ISIL

Twitter suspends 125,000 ISIL-related accounts

ISIL wife charged in death of Kayla Mueller

Intel officials warn ISIS will try to attack US this year

US Says Russian Campaign in Syria Helping ISIL

U.S., allies intensifying Islamic State fight

AP: Oldest Catholic Monastery In Iraq Is Razed

David Cameron says BBC use of 'Islamic State' causes Muslims 'despair'

Raw: Coalition Airstrike Destroys IS Cash Center

Obama Praises Australia's Role in IS Fight

Pentagon Chief Lays Out Broad Plan to Fight IS

ISIL reenters Syria Kurdish battleground town Kobani

Islamic State mints coins

Blasts claimed by ISIL kill 31 in Yemen

Veteran terrorist leader believed dead in U.S. airstrike

How the plan to destroy ISIS is progressing

Raw: Blast in Taliban attack shakes politicians

President Obama's new anti-Isis strategy met with skepticism

Soldier returns to Iraq alone to fight Islamic State

Shiite militia fight Islamic State jihadists in Baiji, Iraq

How far does ISIL reach?

Raw: Iraqi army fighting IS in Anbar province

ISIL is advancing in Iraq, Syria

Georgia man admits to trying to join ISIS

Legions of foreign fighters battle for ISIL

ISIL captures a third of ancient Syrian city

Raw: Airstrikes Target Islamic State Militants
 Susan Rice: Fight against ISIL 'a long slog'
 Santorum on ISIL: 'Bomb them back to the 7th century'
 Raw: Airstrikes against ISIS in Ramadi
 After IS Capture, Reinforcements Head to Ramadi
 Iraq renews effort against Islamic State
 Fighting resumes for control of Iraq's Baiji refinery
 6 Minnesotans accused of trying to join Islamic State
 No sign of ISIS at the U.S.-Mexico border
 Eerie echoes in new Islamic State video
 ISIL near the border? Mexican town disputes rumors
 Islamic State seizes village in Iraq's Anbar province
 Kansas man charged with suicide bomb attack plot
 French network hacked by group claiming IS ties
 Raw: IS group destroys ancient ruins of Nimrud
 Timbuktu's mausoleums rise again after Islamist occupation
 Hundreds of bodies found in mass grave (raw)
 National guardsman, cousin arrested in alleged ISIL plot
 Paris professor has dire predictions about French jihadists
 Raw: Iraqi troops enter Tikrit Palace
 Raw: Iraqis keep up Tikrit offensive against ISIL
 French tv network targeted by an Islamist group
 Moms, dads, end up on terror 'hit list'
 Raw: Iraqi Troops make final push toward Tikrit
 As U.S. launches airstrikes in Tikrit, who's on the ground?
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 Islamic State reportedly identifies U.S. troops to kill
 ISIL hit list terrorizes Florida mom and family
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 Identity of Islamic State's 'Jihadi John' revealed
 Shopkeeper in 'Jihadi John' neighborhood talks

Islamic State Suspect Described as 'Lost'
 Three men arrested in alleged plot to support ISIL
 3 nabbed in NY, Florida in plot to join IS
 Attorney: Terror suspect is 'young, innocent kid'
 Gen. Allen speaks on FBI terror arrests
 New Zealand joins fight against ISIL, sends troops to Iraq
 Western volunteers rally to Iraq Christian militia
 U.K. Families' emotional plea for girls' return
 Congress to debate military action against ISIL
 Roundtable: CPAC & White House summit on terrorism
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 Funeral held for Jewish guard killed in Denmark
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 Egypt strikes back for Coptic murders
 Anguish among Egypt Christians after beheadings
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 ISIL: Second Japanese hostage beheaded
 Friend of Kayla Mueller: She was 'fearless'
 ISIS fighters attack Iraqi Base housing U.S. troops
 Islamic State says it's holding "Israeli spy" in Syria
 Security in Iraq 'dramatically improving': Iraqi ambassador
 Boehner: Obama's war request ties his own hands
 Obama details military plan: 'ISIL will lose'
 Obama sends Congress force request against IS
 Obama asks for authorization to fight Islamic State
 Australian police thwart imminent attack
 Family mourns death of US hostage in Syria
 Tuesday's fatality was the second U.S. combat death in Iraq this year. A U.S. Marine was killed by rocket fire in March in northern Iraq, where his unit was establishing an artillery position to support Iraqi forces when the outpost came under militant fire.

Last year, a U.S. serviceman died while supporting Kurdish forces during a raid on an Islamic State prison that freed a number of captives.

Contributing: Tom Vanden Brook and Gregory Korte in Washington

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Navy SEAL Died In Combat Against ISIS In Iraq, Carter Says

By Scott Daugherty

[Military](#), May 3, 2016

A Navy SEAL adviser was killed in combat action Tuesday morning north of Mosul in northwestern Iraq reportedly when he came to the rescue of Kurdish Peshmerga and Christian fighters whose front lines were breached by a major ISIS counter-attack.

"It is a combat death, of course, and a very sad loss," Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said in Germany, where he was seeking more help from allies for the "accelerated" campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS.

The name and rank of the SEAL were being withheld until his family could be notified. His death would be the third in combat for U.S. forces in Iraq officially announced by the Pentagon, and the second to occur while accompanying Kurdish Peshmerga fighters.

Although the role of U.S. forces was to train, advise and assist local forces while avoiding "boots on the ground" combat themselves, Carter has frequently acknowledged that U.S. troops will occasionally engage in combat action.

The SEAL reportedly was killed by "direct fire," suggesting the fatality occurred in close contact with the enemy, U.S. defense officials said.

The Washington Post quoted Brig. Gen. Bahnam Aboush, a fighter with a Christian militia allied with the Kurds, as saying that he witnessed the attack that killed the SEAL as his men tried to hold their ground but were overwhelmed by ISIS fighters with better equipment and superior numbers.

"We tried to fight them, but we couldn't due our limited capabilities," he said. "We have only some old rifles we bought from our own money."

Aboush said he saw the SEAL suffer mortal wounds, The Washington Post reported. "American special forces came to rescue us in four vehicles," he said. "They opened the way for us to retreat, then one of their vehicles was hit" with a rocket-propelled grenade.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama had been briefed on the SEAL's death. "Everyone extends condolences to the service member killed," Earnest said, adding that it's a reminder of the risks Americans continue to face even in advisory roles.

Carter initially said that the U.S. fatality was "in the neighborhood of Irbil," the capital of the Kurdish Regional

Government and the site of a U.S. Joint Operations Center, but the Pentagon later clarified that the action was "north of Mosul," the ISIS stronghold about 50-60 miles to the west.

"The casualty occurred during an ISIL attack on a Peshmerga position approximately three to five kilometers (about two to three miles) behind the forward line of troops," Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook, using another acronym for ISIS, said in a statement.

"This sad news is a reminder of the dangers our men and women in uniform face every day in the ongoing fight to destroy ISIL and end the threat the group poses to the United States and the rest of the world," said Cook, who was traveling with Carter. "Our coalition will honor this sacrifice by dealing ISIL a lasting defeat," Cook said.

U.S. defense officials, including Joint Chiefs Chairman Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, in recent weeks have said that momentum was building to retake Mosul and Raqqa, the self-proclaimed ISIS capital in northeastern Syria, from fighters whose ranks and sources of funding have been weakened by U.S. and coalition airstrikes.

However, the death of the SEAL came during an ISIS offensive that appeared to show the terror group was still capable of mounting major counter-attacks.

The Kurdish news agency Rudaw, which had a reporter north of Mosul, said that the attack was mounted by about 400 ISIS fighters who used suicide bombers to breach front lines and swarmed through to overrun the town of Tel Skuf briefly. The attackers were then beaten back by at least 23 airstrikes by U.S. manned and unmanned aircraft, U.S. defense officials said.

Rudaw reported that "fierce fighting raged between the Kurdish Peshmerga forces and Islamic State militants on the northern Iraqi town of Tel Skuf Tuesday afternoon, where 400 ISIS fighters were reportedly fighting and a US serviceman was reported killed."

"Islamic State militants staged three suicide attacks on Peshmerga defense lines and the Kurds fought back, military officials told a Rudaw correspondent on the Nawaran frontline," Rudaw said.

The first U.S. combat death was that of Master Sgt. Joshua L. Wheeler, of Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, who was killed last October while coming to the aid of Kurdish forces in a raid on an ISIS prison in northern Iraq that freed about 70 hostages.

In March, Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin, 27, of Temecula, California, and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, was killed by ISIS rocket fire at a Marine fire base near Makhmour that was set up to support a staging area for Iraqi Security Forces gathering for a Mosul offensive.

The plan by the ISF to move north of Makhmour toward Mosul has stalled against heavy ISIS resistance amid a political crisis in Baghdad, where supporters of radical cleric

Muqtada al Sadr this week swarmed into the "Green Zone" and briefly took over parliament to protest corruption.

Kurdish efforts to block off Mosul from the North have also been hampered by the financial crisis in Irbil, resulting in the failure to pay the Peshmerga fighters for several months. Carter recently announced that the U.S. would send \$415 million to the Kurdish Regional government.

Carter has also said that he would not hesitate to send additional U.S. troops if needed, on top of the 217 mostly Special Forces troops slated to deploy to Iraq and another 250 to bolster the 50 Special forces advisers in Syria.

The official count for U.S. forces in Iraq now stands at about 4,200, although the number can reach 5,000 due to overlaps in troop rotations and temporary assignments.

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Navy SEAL Killed In Iraq After Islamic State Punches Through Front Line

By Loveday Morris, Dan Lamothe And Mustafa Salim
[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

BAGHDAD —A U.S. Navy SEAL was killed Tuesday in an attack by Islamic State fighters in northern Iraq, highlighting the evolving nature of the Pentagon's mission in Iraq and how American troops are serving closer than ever to the front lines.

The SEAL, whose identity was withheld until family members were notified, was killed by enemy fire about 9:30 a.m., U.S. military officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release information publicly.

The death occurred after Islamic State fighters north of Mosul penetrated a front line of Kurdish peshmerga forces by about three miles, a U.S. military official said.

The SEAL was the third U.S. service member killed in combat since the U.S. military campaign against the Islamic State began in June 2014.

The first, Army Master Sgt. Joshua L. Wheeler, 39, was a member of the elite Delta Force who was killed in a raid Oct. 22. But the latest two deaths show the kind of threats faced by the bulk of U.S. troops advising Iraqi soldiers near the front lines with the Islamic State.

A Kurdish official said the death occurred after Islamic State fighters began attacking peshmerga lines at dawn near the town of Telskuf, about 20 miles north of Mosul, the Islamic State's main stronghold in Iraq.

The attack involved "truck bombs supported by infantry," the official added, an indication that conventional Islamic State tactics were likely used.

An established front line — called a forward line of troops, or FLOT, by U.S. service members — has separated the Islamic State and Iraqi soldiers for months, and the Islamic State often tries to breach it using armored vehicles carrying explosives, with combat troops following behind.

Mortar rounds and artillery began hitting front lines near Telskuf, the largely Christian town, around 4 a.m., according to Kurdish officers and members of the Christian militia that hold the ground there.

Its inhabitants, speakers of ancient Aramaic, fled in August 2014 when the town was overrun by Islamic State forces, who burned and desecrated its churches. It was retaken by Kurdish forces later the same month, and some residents had since returned.

But after bombarding the area on Tuesday, the militants launched a multi-pronged attack on Telskuf at around 5:30 a.m. from three or four directions, using hundreds of fighters, commanders said.

Maj. Gen. Azad Jalil, a peshmerga officer, said they breached Kurdish front lines with more than 10 car bombs, also using bulldozers to push through.

The peshmerga then made a "tactical retreat" to reorganize their forces, he said. Islamic State militants overran the village.

Brig. Gen. Bahnam Aboush, a fighter with the Christian militia based in the town and known as the Nineveh Plain Protection Units, said his men tried to hold their ground but were overwhelmed.

"We tried to fight them, but we couldn't due our limited capabilities," he said. "We have only some old rifles we bought from our own money."

He said he witnessed the attack that mortally wounded the Navy SEAL, when a U.S. military contingent came to assist their struggling forces.

"American special forces came to rescue us in four vehicles," he said. "They opened the way for us to retreat, then one of their vehicles was hit" with a rocket-propelled grenade.

He said that one U.S. service member was seriously injured and was airlifted out by helicopter. "I heard he died after," he said.

The Kurdish official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information, also said that the U.S. service member died as he was being transported out of the area.

Matthew VanDyke, an American fighting alongside the Nineveh Plains Protection Units, said the Navy SEAL was hit by a sniper. A U.S. military official confirmed that the death was caused by a bullet. VanDyke said that about 20 Navy SEALs arrived not long after the town was lost at around 6:00 a.m.

"They went straight into the fight," he said. "They lined up on the edge of the town and they were unloading on ISIS."

He said the SEALs advanced in a convoy with peshmerga fighters.

"Every time we'd try to advance, they'd send car bombs," he said.

The SEALs kept fighting but then ran low on ammunition and pulled out as hundreds of peshmerga reinforcements arrived, VanDyke said. "The SEALs were involved in direct action. That's for sure."

In Washington, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said: "Today's incident is a vivid reminder of the risk our service members are taking, and three of them now have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country." He stressed that the U.S. mission in Iraq "is to support Iraqi forces on the ground that are taking the fight" to the Islamic State and that "Iraqi forces must fight for their own country."

Earnest said that U.S. troops cannot act "as a substitute" for Iraqi forces.

After the Christian and Kurdish forces retreated from Telskuf, Islamic State militants took control of the town, until an offensive was launched to recapture it with the help of U.S. air power, commanders said. They had managed to regain control of the town by late afternoon on Tuesday.

"The coalition had the key role in retaking the village," said Jalil. He said the Islamic State launched the attack because it is under pressure south of Mosul near Makhmour, where Iraqi forces, with the help of U.S. artillery and airpower, have managed to make some inching gains.

"It's showing how desperate and how broken they are," he said. "There are now more than 100 dead bodies of them in the village, plus they lost many vehicles," he said.

Jabbar Yawar, a spokesman for the Kurdish peshmerga, said a number of Kurdish fighters died in the attack but that he could not disclose how many.

"This sad news is a reminder of the dangers our men and women in uniform face everyday in the ongoing fight to destroy ISIL and end the threat the group poses to the United States and the rest of the world," Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said in a statement, using an acronym for the Islamic State.

Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter first announced the death while traveling in Stuttgart, Germany. He said the service member was killed by enemy fire but offered few additional details.

U.S. Army Special Operations troops operate across peshmerga front lines, often spending hours at outposts gathering information about the Islamic State's activity.

The small detachments, however, are usually stationed a few miles from the front to help coordinate airstrikes between peshmerga fighters and the joint command centers in Baghdad and Irbil, the administrative center of the semiautonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq.

Some 200 U.S. Marines are also now stationed less than 10 miles from the front line, near the northern town of

Makhmour, where Iraqi troops are building up for a future Mosul offensive. Marine Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin was killed there in a March 19 rocket attack.

Prior to Tuesday, 15 American service members had been wounded in the campaign in addition to the three deaths, according to Pentagon statistics.

Lamothe reported from Washington. Thomas Gibbons-Neff in Stuttgart, Germany, and William Branigin in Washington contributed to this report.

Navy SEAL Killed In Combat In Iraq, U.S. Officials Say

By W.j. Hennigan

[Los Angeles Times](#), May 3, 2016

An Islamic State offensive in northern Iraq repeatedly broke through Kurdish lines with truck bombs and mortar fire early Tuesday, killing a Navy SEAL two or three miles behind the front lines, U.S. officials said.

As the militants attacked several towns, the U.S. Air Force scrambled F-15 fighter jets and armed drones to help Kurdish ground troops fight back. The warplanes launched 25 airstrikes, officials said.

The Islamic State attack appeared aimed at pushing back the slow Kurdish and Iraqi encirclement of Mosul, the extremist group's self-declared capital in Iraq and the largest city under its control. The militants have lost significant territory in northern and western Iraq in the last year.

The SEAL, who was not publicly identified pending notification of his family, was advising Kurdish fighters, known as peshmerga. He was shot and killed as the militants stormed the town of Tel Skuf, about 20 miles north of Mosul, according to a Kurdish official.

In a statement, Islamic State said its fighters had attacked three towns with "remotely controlled, bomb-laden" vehicles, as well as cannons and mortars. The statement said the militants seized weapons and ammunition from Kurdish barracks and bases before retreating.

"It is a combat death," Defense Secretary Ashton Carter told reporters in Stuttgart, Germany, where he is meeting European allies and attending a change of command at U.S. military headquarters in Europe.

President Obama was briefed on the incident and has extended condolences to the SEAL's family, according to Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary.

Earnest declined to say whether the death was evidence that U.S. troops are moving closer to the front lines, rather than assisting from the rear.

"The president's been clear time and time again exactly what their mission is," he said. "That mission is to support Iraqi forces on the ground who are taking the fight" to Islamic State.

"They are not in a combat mission," Earnest said. "But they are in a dangerous situation. And they are in a dangerous place."

The U.S. airstrikes destroyed several trucks with mounted machine guns and other munitions, as well as two bulldozers that the militants apparently were using in the attack, according to U.S. officials. They said at least 21 militants were killed.

The fighting comes as Prime Minister Haider Abadi's government struggles to stem a political crisis and growing unrest in Baghdad, the capital.

Over the weekend, protesters loyal to a prominent Shiite Muslim cleric stormed the so-called Green Zone government complex and occupied the parliament overnight. Islamic State claimed responsibility for multiple suicide attacks in the capital that killed several dozen people.

Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John F. Kerry and Carter, the defense chief, all have visited in recent weeks.

Three members of the U.S. military have been killed, and 14 wounded, in fighting since the Obama administration began its war against Islamic State in August 2014. Since then, the Pentagon has launched more than 10,000 airstrikes and deployed about 5,000 troops in Iraq.

Marine Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin, 27, of Temecula, was killed in March by Islamic State rocket fire in northern Iraq two days after his unit established an artillery "fire base" near Makhmur, where U.S. advisors are helping Iraqi troops prepare for a long-awaited assault on Mosul.

Army Master Sgt. Joshua L. Wheeler died in an October raid against Islamic State militants in northern Iraq. The 39-year-old native of Roland, Okla., was shot when U.S. special operations forces and Kurdish peshmerga assaulted a compound in Hawija and rescued about 70 captives.

Special correspondent Nabih Bulos in Amman, Jordan, contributed to this report.

US Combat Death In Iraq Reflects Intensifying War

By Robert Burns And Susannah George

[Associated Press](#), May 3, 2016

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) – The combat death Tuesday of a U.S. Navy SEAL who was advising Kurdish forces in Iraq coincides with a gradually deepening American role in fighting a resilient Islamic State, even as the Iraqis struggle to muster the military and political strength to defeat the militants.

The SEAL, who has not been further identified, is the third American serviceman to die in combat in Iraq since the U.S.-led coalition launched its campaign against the Islamic State in the summer of 2014. Seven months ago, a special operations soldier, 39-year-old Master Sgt. Joshua L.

Wheeler, was killed during a Kurdish-led raid on an Islamic State prison in northern Iraq. In March, a Marine artilleryman, Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin, 27, was killed when the militants launched a rocket attack on a newly established U.S. firebase outside Mosul.

Over the course of the campaign, the Pentagon has slowly expanded the American military role. The strategy, criticized by some as incremental and inadequate, aims to ensure that the Iraqis do the ground combat, supported by U.S. airpower, special operations advisers and others. As the Iraqis have gained competence and confidence and prepared an assault in hopes of retaking Mosul, the Pentagon has announced plans to put more U.S. troops in Iraq and place them closer to the front lines.

In Defense Secretary Ash Carter's view, that means a greater chance for success. It also means more risk to U.S. troops, as he acknowledged Tuesday in announcing the latest death.

"It shows you it's a serious fight that we have to wage in Iraq," Carter said.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama had been briefed on the incident and extended condolences to the family of the service member killed in northern Iraq. Earnest said the incident was a "vivid reminder" of the dangers facing U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

"They are taking grave risks to protect our country. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude," Earnest said.

Tuesday's U.S. death coincides with diverging trends in Iraq. On one hand, Iraqi forces trained and advised by Americans have scored significant battlefield gains in recent months, including the recapture of Ramadi and other advances against IS-held towns in Anbar province. On the other hand, political conflict in Baghdad fed by sectarian rivalry is threatening to derail the entire effort.

Carter said on Monday that as the Iraqis gain battlefield momentum the Pentagon will pursue additional ways to support them. Recently that has meant adding more U.S. troops to advise Iraqi brigade and battalion commanders closer to the fight. Inevitably that means the likelihood of more U.S. combat casualties, even though the White House insists there are no U.S. "boots on the ground" in Iraq or Syria.

The risk can be expected to grow if, as planned, the U.S. sends Apache attack helicopters into battle in support of an Iraqi assault on Mosul in coming months. The U.S. also has committed to sending more mobile artillery as part of that effort and to providing up to \$415 million in support of the Kurds in northern Iraq. Obama recently authorized an increase in the number of troops that can deploy to Iraq to advise and assist Iraqi forces. The cap was increased last week from 3,870 to 4,087.

The U.S. also has announced it will increase the number of special operations forces in Syria from 50 to 300.

As described by an Iraqi Kurdish intelligence officer, Lt. Col. Manav Dosky, Tuesday's Islamic State attack was launched on Teleskof, about 14 miles north of Mosul, just after 6 a.m. The Islamic State broke through the Kurds' front-line position with a barrage of armored Humvees and bulldozers, Dosky said, and clashes killed at least three Kurdish peshmerga fighters. The SEAL was among Americans advising the peshmerga during that battle.

Maj. Gen. Jaber Yawer, a Kurdish peshmerga spokesman, told The Associated Press that the American was killed by IS sniper fire during an IS attack that also involved a number of car bombs.

A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the incident publicly, said the American was killed with small arms fire, suggesting that Islamic State fighters likely came within a few hundred yards of the U.S. forces.

The Americans were two to three miles behind that front line before the attack was launched, the official added.

American forces will continue to stay behind the front lines, the defense official said, but he acknowledged that the U.S. expects more ground fighting as the Iraqi and Kurdish militaries, backed by the U.S., push farther into Islamic State-controlled territory.

George reported from Baghdad. Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann in Washington, Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad and Balint Szlanko in Irbil, Iraq contributed to this report.

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U.S. Navy SEAL Killed In Islamic State Attack In Iraq

By Paul Sonne In Stuttgart, Germany And Matt Bradley In Beirut

[Wall Street Journal](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Islamic State Kills U.S. Navy SEAL In Northern Iraq

By Phil Stewart And Andrea Shalal

[Reuters](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Third U.S. Combat Death Comes As American Troops Edge Closer To The Front Lines In Iraq

By Loveday Morris

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

MAKHMOUR, Iraq — At the base of a rocky ridge rising from the surrounding farmland, the barrels of American artillery poke out from under camouflage covers, their sights trained on Islamic State-held positions.

Less than 10 miles from the front lines in the push toward the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the U.S. outpost, known as Firebase Bell, is manned by about 200 Marines.

"Having them here has raised the morale of our fighters," said Lt. Col. Helan Mahmood, the head of a commando regiment in the Iraqi army, as his truck bumped along the dirt track that divides his base from the American encampment, ringed by razor wire and berms.

"If there's any movement from the enemy, they bomb immediately," he said.

The new firebase is part of a creeping U.S. buildup in Iraq since troops first returned to the country with a contingent of 275 advisers, described at the time by the Pentagon as a temporary measure to help get "eyes on the ground."

Now, nearly two years later, the official troop count has mushroomed to 4,087, not including those on temporary rotations, a number that has not been disclosed.

The troops are moving outside the confines of more established bases to give closer support to the Iraqi army as it prepares for an assault on the northern city of Mosul — putting them closer to danger.

On Tuesday, a U.S. Navy SEAL was killed by "direct fire" about three miles from the front lines north of Mosul after Islamic State fighters penetrated Kurdish peshmerga forces, U.S. officials said. It was the third U.S. combat death in Iraq linked to the fight against the Islamic State.

The shift to give closer support to Iraqis comes at a time of political turmoil in Baghdad, which is threatening the legitimacy of Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, the key partner for the United States. Iraqi commanders said they are concerned that the crisis will complicate and slow progress on the battlefield.

It was inside Firebase Bell, a few miles outside Makhmour, a small mixed Arab and Kurdish town on the edge of Iraq's northern Kurdish region, that Marine Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin was killed on March 19 in a rocket attack, days after the Marines arrived here.

The area is prone to attack. Islamic State fighters sneak out at night to position explosives on the roads here and have sent a steady flow of suicide bombers to Iraqi army and Kurdish positions.

"One managed to infiltrate the base here," said Mahmood, pointing toward the main gate of his base, the headquarters of the Iraqi army's 15th Division, just a few

hundred yards from Firebase Bell. The assault, which included five suicide bombers, also took place shortly after the Marines arrived, he said.

"We eliminated them," he said, adding that none of his own men were killed in the attack.

Before the U.S. troops and their M777 Howitzers moved here, the base came under regular fire.

A propaganda video released recently by the Islamic State showed a montage of clips of rockets and mortar rounds being launched toward the Iraqi army positions around Makhmour.

"I'm jealous of you because you are going to heaven," a militant said to a bearded fighter who was leaving for a suicide mission.

The attacks have since subsided, but Iraqi troops are still struggling to recapture the Islamic State-held village of Nasr, eight miles from the base, despite launching an offensive shortly after Cardin's death.

After an overnight battle, the Iraqi forces withdrew in order to avoid casualties, Iraqi commanders said.

The village was heavily rigged with explosives. The Islamic State sent car bombs.

"It was a fierce fight," said Mahmood, who like many of the other soldiers here was with the Iraqi army in Mosul when it collapsed so spectacularly two years ago. Since then, he has completed 4½ months of training with the U.S.-led coalition.

He deemed the Nasr operation a success because dozens of militants were killed, even if the territory wasn't held. "My regiment isn't specialized in holding ground," he said. "We liberate and then withdraw."

Mahmood chuckled and shrugged when asked whether there were still no U.S. "boots on the ground" in Iraq, as President Obama initially repeatedly pledged.

"They've become more active, and for us, it's had a positive result," he said.

But the battle for Nasr was a faltering first step for the 5,000 freshly trained Iraqi troops in Makhmour, and an indication of the level of hand-holding by U.S. forces that will be required as these forces move toward Mosul.

The Iraqi troops have recaptured a cluster of hamlets and villages in the vicinity of Makhmour, though reports were mixed on how heavy the Islamic State presence was there before the Iraqi advance.

In Kharbadan, one village they seized, bodies still lay rotting in the sun.

On a dusty track there, Iraqi soldiers pointed out other hamlets and clusters of mud buildings they had regained. The Iraqi army also said it had cleared nearby Mahana on Wednesday.

The inching gains have helped secure the base near Makhmour, but the Iraqi forces are heavily dependent on American firepower to move forward. U.S. artillery and

airstrikes destroyed 30 or 40 Islamic State rocket and artillery positions in the area, said Maj. Gen. Najim al-Jabouri, head of Nineveh Operations Command, who is overseeing the buildup.

"They know very well it's not just the Iraqi army in the field," he said. "It's also the American air force and advisers with us, and artillery."

An operation for Mosul itself still appears distant, though. It will involve coordinating a mix of Sunni tribal fighters, Kurdish forces, Iraqi armed forces and Shiite and Christian militias, putting U.S. forces in the midst of a potentially drawn-out and complex battle for the ethnically and religiously mixed region.

Abadi, also commander in chief of Iraq's armed forces, faces the challenge of corralling them at a time when he is also fighting to steer the country out of its political crisis. Hundreds of protesters stormed parliament over the weekend demanding reform, in a major security breach.

Jabouri's own position is indicative of how politics can often complicate the battlefield in Iraq.

The commander, who was praised by then-President George W. Bush for his work to curb sectarian violence during the Iraq War, returned to the country last year after living in Virginia for eight years. He was directly appointed by Abadi, and his relationship with the Defense Ministry is openly fractious.

Jabouri admits that has caused "some problems."

"It's like a miracle here," he said. "Just the Iraqi army without any tanks, without any support, just from the American forces."

Unlike on other battlefields in Iraq, the army here is not supported by counterterrorism forces, the country's most elite troops, who have led the offensives for Hit and Ramadi. In any real push for Mosul, they'll be needed, Jabouri said. However, some of those already stretched special forces units have been recalled to the capital because of the problems there.

Jabouri hopes some tanks will arrive soon but is also in need of more troops, police and engineering units, he said.

The United States has said it will provide close air support from Apache helicopter gunships for Mosul, but that also puts pilots at risk of being shot down.

The battle will require coordination with the Kurdish regional government in the north, which has a strained relationship with Baghdad and complains that it lacks military support.

"There are political problems," said Mahdi Younis, a commander with the Kurdish peshmerga forces. "If they want us to participate, they should supply us like they are supplying the Iraqi army," he said of the United States, which currently supplies its military support to Iraq through Baghdad.

While Iraqi forces in Makhmour are equipped with U.S.-supplied M-16s, the peshmerga tote old Kalashnikovs.

Jabouri wouldn't give a specific timeline for the offensive but said it would be "soon," although even before the dramatic ransacking of Iraq's parliament Saturday, he expressed concern that the country's political crisis would have an impact.

"This has a big influence on us," he said. "It's a very, very tough crisis."

He used to speak to the prime minister every evening, he said, but hasn't now for a month. "He's very busy."

Mustafa Salim contributed to this report.

Navy SEAL Is Killed In Northern Iraq In Fight With ISIS

By Eric Schmitt

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

WASHINGTON — A Navy SEAL was killed in northern Iraq on Tuesday morning, according to a United States official — the third American service member to die in combat since a United States-led coalition began fighting the Islamic State in Iraq in 2014. It was also the third such death in combat since the American troop withdrawal from Iraq in 2011.

The SEAL was killed around 9:30 a.m., when enemy forces north of Mosul penetrated the front lines of the Kurdish pesh merga militias, which are fighting alongside the coalition against the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL. The SEAL, who was conducting "advise and assist" duties in support of the pesh merga, was not identified. He was two to three miles behind the front lines when he was killed.

Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter confirmed the death of a service member during a meeting in Stuttgart, Germany, and a Pentagon spokesman, Peter Cook, said in a statement: "This sad news is a reminder of the dangers our men and women in uniform face every day in the ongoing fight to destroy ISIL and end the threat the group poses to the United States and the rest of the world. Our coalition will honor this sacrifice by dealing ISIL a lasting defeat."

Mr. Cook and the top United States military spokesman in the region, Col. Steven H. Warren, said more details would be released when they were available.

In October, Master Sgt. Joshua L. Wheeler, 39, of Sequoyah County, Okla., became the first American in four years to die in combat in Iraq. Sergeant Wheeler was killed while responding to a helicopter raid by Kurdish commandos aimed at rescuing about 70 hostages who were about to be killed by Islamic State militants.

The second was Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin, 27, of Temecula, Calif., who was killed in March when rockets were launched at a secret fire base of about 100 Marines in northern Iraq. He was leading Marines under his command to a bunker for safety when a rocket exploded near him.

U.S. Mulls Expansion Of Military Force In Mideast To Battle ISIS

By Carlo Muñoz

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

American and European military leaders are considering options to step up the fight against the Islamic State, including possibly upping the number of U.S. and allied troops on the ground in Iraq and Syria and expanding military operations against the terror group in Libya, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said Tuesday.

"We are always looking to build momentum in this," Mr. Carter told reporters during a visit to U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. "As the campaign progresses [in Iraq] and in Syria, and more opportunities are presented to make different kinds of contributions, we're going to do that," he said.

Mr. Carter and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford met Tuesday with several of their European counterparts in Germany to discuss the ongoing campaign to quell the spread of the Islamic State — also known as ISIS or ISIL — through Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the Mideast.

Mr. Carter did not discuss specifics on how many more U.S. troops could be heading to Iraq and Syria or when those deployments could take place during Tuesday's briefing with reporters before meeting with European military leaders.

But he did note the upcoming offensive to retake the group's Iraqi capital of Mosul would be a much larger and more complicated campaign than recent anti-Islamic State operations in the Iraqi city of Ramadi and the country's volatile Anbar province.

U.S. military officials have estimated the fight for Mosul could require between seven to 10 Iraqi Army brigades or 25,000 troops.

President Obama in April ordered 200 U.S. troops backed by additional American air power and a shipment of heavy weapons to Iraq to support the upcoming Mosul offensive. Between 3,500 to 5,000 U.S. military advisers and special operations forces are already in country, training local forces and conducting counterterrorism operations against Islamic State targets.

The terror group's ongoing exploitation of the power vacuum in Libya caused by infighting among the country's numerous militias after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 is forcing Washington to consider ramping up its military efforts in the country, Mr. Carter said Tuesday.

"We want to be clear, the circumstances that exist there now have caused us to act, and we've taken some actions in Libya," he said.

For the first time in February, Rome gave the Pentagon the green light to begin armed drone strikes against Islamic

State targets in Libya and elsewhere in northern Africa from U.S and NATO bases in southern Italy.

U.S. special operations forces have been conducting clandestine counterterrorism missions and training U.S.-backed militias in the country since 2012, according to recent reports.

"If there is a threat against the homeland or U.S. personnel, we're going to act, and ... we've passed the threshold for that," in Libya regarding the Islamic State's growing influence in the country, Gen. Dunford said.

U.S. Africa Command chief Gen. David Rodriguez has met with members of Libya's Government of National Accord, the country's governing body officially recognized by the U.S. and United Nations, "to see what requirements may exist from a security perspective and from an operations perspective" to combat the Islamic State's encroachment into the country, Gen. Dunford said Tuesday.

"They want assistance ... [and] you know that a number of countries, including the United States ... are prepared to do that," the four-star general added.

Neither Mr. Carter nor Gen. Dunford weighed in as to how soon U.S. and European military assistance operations could begin in earnest in Libya.

"I don't want to put a timeline on it. I think it's going to be up to [the Libyans]. But I think that the signs are very positive there," Mr. Carter said.

How To Put The Middle East Back Together

By David Ignatius

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

SARI RASH, Iraq

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the Sykes-Picot Agreement that formed Iraq, Syria and the other fragile nations of the modern Middle East. The past few weeks have provided dramatic new evidence, if more were needed, that the old colonial framework created by Britain and France isn't working.

Iraq and Syria are coming apart: Iraq is effectively divided into three warring regions: a Sunni area ruled by the Islamic State, a Kurdish mini-state that's nearly autonomous, and a zone from the capital south that's controlled by the Shiite-led regime. A similar fragmented structure exists in Syria. Central government in both countries has vanished.

From his mountain headquarters here overlooking Irbil, Kurdish national security adviser Masrour Barzani offers a frank judgment in an interview: "For 100 years, a system has been in place in Iraq that has now failed. Iraq was never built on the right foundations. It was built to serve the interests of the great powers. A hundred years of failure is enough. We need to look at new options."

A similar sense that Iraq and the region are at a crossroads is expressed by Barham Salih, a former prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government and former

deputy prime minister of Iraq. We talked in Sulaymaniyah, 90 miles southeast of here, where he now runs the American University of Iraq-Sulaimani.

"This is not about a government reshuffle," argues Salih. "The post-2003 political system put in place by the U.S. is unraveling. This is a new era. The choice is between a chaotic breakdown into warlordism or, possibly, a new constitutional arrangement that would create a more decentralized, confederal Iraq."

During my visit to Iraq, I heard similar views from every Kurdish leader I met, and from some Sunnis, too. Iraq and Syria are at an inflection point, they argued. The immediate priority is to defeat the Islamic State. But the United States should be talking with its allies about a future political structure — an alternative to the "lines in the sand" drawn by Sir Mark Sykes and François Georges-Picot, and to the United States' post-2003 misadventure in neocolonialism.

For a model of how the United States should think creatively about fixing this catastrophe, look at American policy in 1944. Victory in World War II was still a blood-soaked year away. But President Franklin D. Roosevelt had the foresight to begin thinking carefully about the institutions that would maintain peace and prosperity after the war. By the end of that year, detailed planning had begun for the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations.

Here's a challenge for the rest of President Obama's term and the first months in office of the next president: Start building the foundations for a new order in the Middle East that can provide better security, governance and economic well-being — for Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, and for the smaller minorities that are interwoven in the fabric of the region. Help the peoples of this shattered region build and maintain governance structures that work.

The Kurds may force the question soon, with a referendum that will ask their people whether they want an independent Iraqi Kurdistan. The United States should support such a process, but if — and only if — it's created through a negotiated agreement with the central government in Baghdad. Many Sunni and Shiite leaders in Iraq have told me privately they favor a new constitution for a confederal Iraq that would include a Sunni regional government, as well as a Kurdish one. A similar negotiation for a loose federal or confederal Syria should be part of the political transition there, too.

Trying to hammer the pieces into unitary states just won't work. America tried and failed in Iraq. Now, Iran, too, finds itself unable to maintain order there. That's the lesson of last week's mayhem in the Shiite-dominated Iraqi parliament, which was largely an internal Shiite-on-Shiite quarrel.

"The Iranians are making the same mistakes the U.S. did after 2003," explains one prominent Iraqi. "They went in

too heavy. They thought they could do it all. But the Shiite monolith is breaking down.”

Fixing a shattered Middle East is the work of a generation. But it's past time for the United States, Europe, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Iran to start thinking urgently with the people of Syria and Iraq about new structures that will finally cure the mistakes and injustices of a century ago.

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The Post's View: The White House's Iraq delusion

Jackson Diehl: The saddest piece of Obama's legacy

The White House's Iraq Delusion

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

TWO PERSISTENT failings of U.S. foreign policy have been an overdependence on individual leaders, who frequently fail to deliver on American expectations, and a reluctance to accept that an established status quo can't hold. The Obama administration has committed both those errors in Iraq — and it has done so more than once.

In its zeal to withdraw all U.S. troops in time for Mr. Obama's reelection campaign in 2012, the administration threw its weight behind then-prime minister Nouri al-Maliki, with disastrous consequences. Mr. Maliki's Shiite sectarianism fractured the fragile political system and opened the way for the Islamic State. In 2014, having pushed for Mr. Maliki's removal, the administration bet on Haider al-Abadi; now, in its impatience to reduce the Islamic State before Mr. Obama leaves office, it clings to a prime minister who has proved unable to govern the country or reconcile its warring factions.

Mr. Abadi's impotence was revealed most dramatically over the weekend, when Shiite supporters of anti-American firebrand Moqtada al-Sadr stormed into Baghdad's walled-off Green Zone and invaded the parliament. Nominally, the protesters were supporting one of Mr. Abadi's aims, to create a new, technocratic cabinet to replace a corrupt system of dividing ministries according to party and sectarian lines. But Mr. Abadi denounced the invasion, which showed him as unable to control either the political insurgents or the established parties that have repeatedly rejected his reform proposals.

The blowup came at a particularly awkward time for the Obama administration, which had just doubled down on its support for Mr. Abadi during a visit to Baghdad by Vice President Biden. As The Post's Greg Jaffe reported, an administration briefer told reporters that Mr. Biden's visit was “a symbol of how much faith we have in Prime Minister Abadi” and expressed optimism that his government was getting stronger.

Whether Mr. Abadi survives the present crisis will likely depend on whether Shiite parties, with help from Iran, can

patch their differences. But already he has proved incapable of addressing Iraq's fundamental political problem, which is the schism among the Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish communities. That brings us to the Obama administration's second error: an unwillingness to accept that Iraq cannot survive under its present system of governance, which centralizes power in Baghdad.

Since the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq's Sunni-majority areas, the administration has stubbornly stuck to the slogan of a “unified Iraq,” even though that has effectively meant depriving Kurdistan's autonomous government and armed forces of the resources they need to fight the war, and critically delayed the development of a Sunni leadership that could effectively govern areas liberated from the terrorists.

The latest crisis should prompt a reconsideration. Kurdish leaders are now openly saying that Iraq's post-2003 political structure has collapsed; the United States should be forging closer ties to their regional government. It should also be working to encourage a similar federal state in Sunni areas of Iraq. If Iraq survives as a nation-state, it will be because power, and oil revenues, are radically decentralized from Baghdad. Continuing to center U.S. support on a single Iraqi leader, whether it is Mr. Abadi or someone else, is a recipe for more failure.

'Politically Correct' Obama Admin Weakening Military: Ex-Navy SEAL

By Carlo Muñoz

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

A former U.S. special operations forces member is lashing out at the Obama White House, accusing the administration of instilling a culture of conformity within the U.S. military, which has led to a generation of apologists and a dearth of leadership among the services' top brass.

Mr. Higbie, a member of SEAL Team 10, recalled the time when he and his eight-man team were brought up on charges of prisoner abuse after their 2009 capture of al Qaeda in Iraq leader Ahmed Hashim Abd al-Isawi in Fallujah.

Al-Isawi, dubbed “The Butcher of Fallujah,” was reportedly the head of al Qaeda fighters in the Iraqi city and reported directly to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the then-chieftain of al Qaeda in Iraq. Al-Isawi played a prominent role in the 2014 film “American Sniper,” which chronicled the life of former SEAL Chris Kyle.

Shortly after al-Isawi's capture, Mr. Higbie's team were accused of abusing the al Qaeda member before handing him over to U.S. officials. He claimed the charges were “part of a politically-charged movement to get out of Iraq,” spearheaded by the Obama administration.

“That is where we went wrong,” he added.

The entire episode was infused “with this feeling ... that [al-Isawi] was more important” than the SEAL team members who captured him, Mr. Higbie said Tuesday.

The “politically correct aura” within his unit’s leadership led to three members of the team requesting an official court-martial on the abuse charges, forgoing the non-judicial procedures initially proposed by the unit’s commanders, Mr. Higbie said.

In the end, the three team members were found not guilty.

“The fact is we did nothing wrong,” Mr. Higbie said Tuesday.

Kerry Hopes To Salvage Frayed Syrian Peace

By Julian Hatten

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

American diplomats are scrambling to secure a new ceasefire agreement in Syria this week, following days of fighting that fractured a two-month truce.

“Literally thousands of lives have been saved” because of the temporary halt in violence since February, Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday.

But in recent weeks, that stability has begun to fray, resulting in rising bloodshed that threatens to return the chaos-ridden country to the darkest days of the five-year-old civil war.

In particular, Aleppo, once Syria’s largest city, is “in danger of spiraling out of control,” warned Kerry, fresh off a trip to Geneva to hammer out the terms of a potential new peace deal.

“There is no solution to this other than at the negotiating table,” he said. “Our teams are engaged in these conversations so that we can establish a more sustainable mechanism than what was put in place previously.”

Aleppo has been battered by the violence in Syria, even as other areas of the country have entered a relative calm following the February ceasefire brokered by the U.S. and Russia, Kerry said on Tuesday. The city was not included in smaller, temporary peace deals struck in recent days.

Hundreds of people have been killed in Aleppo over the past weeks, which have seen multiple attacks on hospitals, medical clinics and other civilian areas.

“There is no justification for this horrific violence,” Kerry said on Tuesday.

The Obama administration has repeatedly argued that embattled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad must leave office before peace can be achieved. But Assad has stood fast in his post, bolstered by the aid of Russian military forces.

The sprawling war has killed hundreds of thousands of people, forced millions out of their homes and left a vacuum that has allowed for the growth of extremist groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

United Nations special envoy Staffan de Mistura has decamped to Moscow this week to meet with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, in the hopes of coming up with terms of a new peace agreement.

Aleppo remains divided between the opposition and Assad’s government, turning it into a deadly battlefield.

“The line that we’re trying to draw now would prohibit any kind of incursion into Aleppo. It will not allow Aleppo to fall,” Kerry said on Tuesday.

“If Assad’s strategy is to somehow think he’s going to carve out Aleppo and carve out a section of the country, I’ve got news for you and for him: This war doesn’t end,” he added.

“It is simply physically impossible for Assad to just carve out an area and just pretend that he’s going to make it safe while the underlying issues are unresolved.”

Kerry Warns Assad Of ‘Repercussions’ Over Syria Truce Violations

[AFP](#), May 3, 2016

Washington (AFP) – US Secretary of State John Kerry warned Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad on Tuesday of “repercussions” if his regime flouts a new ceasefire being negotiated with Moscow for the battered city of Aleppo.

“If Assad does not adhere to this, there will clearly be repercussions and one of them may be the total destruction of the ceasefire and they go back to war,” Kerry told reporters.

“I don’t think that Russia wants that. I don’t think that Assad is going to benefit from that,” he said.

“There may be even other repercussions that are being discussed but that is for the future to determine.”

A February 27 truce between the Syrian regime and non-jihadist rebels raised hopes for efforts to resolve the five-year conflict.

But it has all but collapsed amid renewed fighting, the worst of it in Aleppo where a surge in violence has claimed more than 270 lives since April 22.

Washington and Moscow are now working together to include Aleppo in a freeze in fighting aimed at bolstering the broader truce brokered by both world powers.

“The cessation of hostilities was put in place precisely to give the people on the ground who are innocently caught between these warring factions some breather, some ability to be able to be safe and work this out at the negotiating table,” Kerry said.

“That is why we are working urgently right now to reaffirm the cessation of hostilities nationwide.”

Russia said Tuesday it hoped a new ceasefire could be announced within hours for Aleppo.

Syria Conflict: Assad Strategy Won't End Civil War, Says Kerry

[BBC News \(UK\)](#), May 3, 2016

US Secretary of State John Kerry has warned Syrian President Bashar al-Assad that seeking military gains will not end the civil war.

Mr Kerry said there would be “repercussions” if the Syrian government flouted a cessation of violence agreed in February.

A resurgence in fighting, particularly in the northern city of Aleppo, has threatened to derail the partial truce.

More than 250 people have been killed in Aleppo in the past 10 days.

As diplomatic efforts intensified on Tuesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said a unilateral truce declared by the Syrian military could be extended to Aleppo “in the next few hours”.

Aleppo's 'last paediatrician' dead

Russia's continuing war

Has opportunity for peace been lost?

What is left of Syria?

After talks with UN envoy Staffan de Mistura in Moscow, he said Russia was working with the UN and US to include Aleppo in the “regime of calm” that has covered Damascus and Latakia since Saturday.

On Tuesday, 19 people were killed by rebel rocket fire in government-controlled areas of Aleppo, monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

State media said a hospital was hit, killing three people and wounding 17.

Last Wednesday, an air strike on a hospital in a rebel-held area killed 55 people. The US blamed the attack on government forces.

Speaking in Washington, Mr Kerry said he was hopeful the cessation of violence could be restored, and he warned President Assad of consequences if violations continued.

“If Assad does not adhere to this, there will clearly be repercussions, and one of them may be the total destruction of the ceasefire and then go back to war. I don't think Russia wants that,” he said.

Mr Kerry added: “If Assad's strategy is to somehow think he's going to just carve out Aleppo and carve out a section of the country, I've got news for him – this war doesn't end.

“It is simply physically impossible for Assad to just carve out an area and pretend that he's somehow going to make it safe, while the underlying issues are unresolved in this war. And as long as Assad is there, the opposition is not going to stop fighting it... one way or the other.”

He reiterated there was an August deadline for starting a political transition in Syria.

Earlier this year, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond warned that Russia might be trying to create a mini-state for President Assad in the north-west of the country, which includes Aleppo. Russia strongly denied the idea.

Speaking on Tuesday, Mr Lavrov told reporters that he expected a decision on including Aleppo in the separate regime of calm “in the very near future – maybe in the next few hours”.

The unilateral truce had been effect in Latakia and the eastern Ghouta region around Damascus since the weekend thanks to the efforts of the Russian and US militaries, he said.

The aim of Russian, US and UN negotiators was to extend the regime of calm and “ideally make it indefinite”, Mr Lavrov added.

But he warned that so-called moderate rebel groups in Aleppo had to leave areas where militants from al-Nusra Front, an al-Qaeda affiliate that is excluded from the cessation of hostilities, were being targeted.

The partial halt in fighting has raised hopes that tentative peace talks in Geneva might bring forward a solution to Syria's bloody five-year civil war.

But the truce all but collapsed after renewed violence, particularly in Aleppo.

Also on Tuesday, the UN Security Council passed a resolution demanding the protection of hospitals, clinics and health workers in war zones.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said there was no justification for attacks on medical facilities.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) warned last week that Aleppo was being “pushed further to the brink of humanitarian disaster”.

Kerry Vows Not To Let Aleppo Fall To Assad

By Guy Taylor

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

Secretary of State John F. Kerry vowed Tuesday not to allow Syria's largest city and onetime moderate opposition stronghold of Aleppo to fall to the regime of Syrian president Bashar Assad — even if that means abandoning the fragile cease-fire that U.S. officials have been trying to uphold in the war-torn nation.

“If Assad's strategy is to somehow think he's going to just carve out Aleppo and carve out a section of the country, I got news for you and for him: this war doesn't end,” Mr. Kerry told reporters at the State Department.

Mr. Kerry also suggested that if serious progress is not made toward politically removing Mr. Assad from power by August, the Obama administration will have no other choice but to dramatically change its approach to Syria's 5-year-old civil war.

Regional experts warned in February, when the administration first engineered the cease-fire, that it would

effectively consolidate the Assad regime's gains around Aleppo — putting all of Syria's major cities back under Mr. Assad's control.

But Mr. Kerry said Tuesday that U.S. officials and Syrian opposition representatives remain determined not to let that happen.

While the cease-fire has all but collapsed during recent weeks beneath a wave of Russian and Syrian strikes in and around Aleppo, the secretary of state said U.S. negotiators are now scrambling to reinstate the truce in "a way that protects the integrity" of the city.

It was unclear Tuesday whether Russia, the Assad regime's main backer in the war, will agree to work toward that goal or try to disrupt it.

According to the BBC, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said his own negotiators were working with the United Nations and U.S. officials to include Aleppo in a "regime of calm" that has covered other regime-held areas of Syria since the weekend.

But Mr. Lavrov also warned that Syrian opposition rebels — backed by Washington — would have to leave certain territory around Aleppo, where Russian and Syria forces are targeting Islamic terrorists and some 250 people have been killed in fighting during recent days.

Mr. Kerry, meanwhile, said the hopes for a renewed cease-fire in Syria will only dim if Russia and Iran, which also backs Mr. Assad, do not get behind a push to politically remove the Syrian president from power.

"It will not hold unless there is a bona fide effort to put in place a transition," Mr. Kerry said. "The target date for the transition is the first of August. So we're not coming up to May. So, either something happens in these next few months or they are asking for a very different track."

Kerry Warns Assad To Start Transition By Aug. 1 _ Or Else

By Bradley Klapper

[Associated Press](#), May 3, 2016

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry warned Syria's government and its backers in Moscow and Tehran on Tuesday that they face an August deadline for starting a political transition to move President Bashar Assad out, or they risk the consequences of a new U.S. approach toward ending the 5-year-old civil war.

But given the various, unfulfilled U.S. threats throughout the Arab country's conflict — from declaring Assad's days "numbered" five years ago to promising military action if chemical weapons were used — it was unclear what effect Kerry's ultimatum might have.

And it's unlikely that the Obama administration, so long opposed to an active American combat role in Syria, would significantly boost its presence beyond the 300 special forces

it has authorized thus far in the heart of a U.S. presidential election season. More feasible might be U.S. allies like Saudi Arabia giving the rebels new weapons to fight Assad, such as portable surface-to-air missiles.

"The target date for the transition is 1st of August," Kerry told reporters at the State Department. "So we're now coming up to May. So either something happens in these next few months, or they are asking for a very different track."

The top American diplomat spoke following a meeting between the U.N. envoy for Syria and Russia's foreign minister in Moscow on Tuesday, a day after discussions with Kerry in Geneva. The goal was to restore a partial truce that has all but unraveled amid 12 straight days of bitter fighting in Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

Kerry condemned a hospital attack in the city that killed at least 20 people on Tuesday and said the missile appeared to have been fired from rebel-controlled territory. He said the U.S. rejects violence against civilians, whether it's by Assad's government or Western-backed opposition groups.

But Kerry saved his sharpest comments for Assad and his government's two key military, economic and diplomatic lifelines: Russia and Iran.

"If Assad does not adhere to this, there will clearly be repercussions," Kerry warned. "One of them may be the total destruction of the cease-fire and then go back to war. I don't think Russia wants that. I don't think Assad is going to benefit from that. There may be even other repercussions being discussed. That is for the future."

Kerry said the U.S. and Russia were working on the details of a more durable cease-fire that would include Aleppo and prevent the metropolis from falling. He said leaders on all sides must refrain from fighting for the cause of peace.

On its face, the threat of continued fighting doesn't seem to carry much weight. Assad has aggressively sought to crush any and all opposition groups in a war that emerged from the government's violent repression of largely peaceful, Arab Spring-inspired protests in 2011. Despite a death toll that numbers in the hundreds of thousands, Russian planes and Iranian troops continue to fight alongside the Syrian military.

Kerry also appeared to undermine his own selling of a truce by stressing that the opposition would never accommodate Assad's leadership. The current U.N.-endorsed transition plan for Syria says nothing about Assad relinquishing power or being prevented from running for an eventual re-election as president. His family has ruled Syria for four decades.

"If Assad's strategy is to somehow think he's going to just carve out Aleppo and carve out a section of the country, I got news for you and for him: This war doesn't end," Kerry said.

"As long as Assad is there, the opposition is not going to stop fighting," he said.

Kerry said he has told his counterparts in Moscow and Tehran that calm won't prevail in Syria if they're not prepared to move quickly toward a new Syrian government.

"Assad cannot reunite the country – it's that simple," Kerry said.

"Having gassed his people, barrel bombed his people, dropped bombs on hospitals, driven 12 million people out of their homes, tortured people, starved people, what kind of legitimacy should somebody who's committed these kinds of atrocities suddenly claim to run the country? It's pretty hard for anybody to understand how you make peace out of that record of chaos and depravity."

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Kerry Says Confident Syria Ceasefire Can Be Reached, Warns Assad

[Reuters](#), May 3, 2016

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Moscow Hopes For Truce 'Within Hours' As Fighting Rocks Aleppo

By Anna Smolchenko With Rim Haddad In Damascus

[AFP](#), May 3, 2016

Moscow (AFP) – Russia hoped Tuesday a new ceasefire could be announced within hours for Syria's battered city of Aleppo, where fresh fighting including rocket fire on a maternity hospital left at least 19 dead.

As the city was struck by some of its heaviest reported clashes in days, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said efforts were under way to agree a freeze in the fighting.

"I am hoping that in the near future, maybe even in the next few hours, such a decision will be announced," Lavrov said after meeting UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura in Moscow.

France and Britain called for an urgent UN Security Council meeting on Aleppo, boosting the major push by world powers this week to end the fighting.

"Aleppo is burning and it is crucial that we focus on this top priority issue," said British ambassador to the UN Matthew Rycroft.

A February 27 truce between President Bashar al-Assad's regime and non-jihadist rebels raised hopes for efforts to resolve the five-year conflict.

But it has all but collapsed amid renewed fighting, especially in Aleppo.

A surge of violence that erupted on April 22 has killed more than 270 people in the divided northern city and undermined efforts to revive peace talks.

In Washington, US Secretary of State John Kerry warned Assad of "repercussions" if his regime continues to flout a new ceasefire being negotiated for Aleppo.

"If Assad does not adhere to this, there will clearly be repercussions and one of them may be the total destruction of the ceasefire and they go back to war," he told reporters.

"There may be even other repercussions that are being discussed but that is for the future to determine."

– UN condemns attacks –

After a relative lull Monday and early Tuesday, rebels in eastern Aleppo fired at least 65 rockets into government-controlled neighbourhoods, said Syrian state news agency SANA.

The rockets killed 16 people and wounded 68, including at least three women at Al-Dabbeet maternity hospital, it reported.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said it had counted at least 19 dead and 80 wounded from the attacks on government-held areas.

Fierce fighting also raged on Aleppo's western edges after rebels detonated explosives in a tunnel, an AFP correspondent said, adding the clashes subsided at nightfall.

It was the most violent day for the city's regime-held west since clashes resumed 11 days ago.

New regime strikes also hit rebel-held eastern areas, another AFP correspondent reported.

As warplanes thundered above, rebel and government forces exchanged nearly non-stop artillery fire.

Civil defence workers said air strikes on the rebel-held east killed three people, including a child.

The rocket attack was the sixth time a medical facility has been hit in 11 days in Aleppo, the International Committee for the Red Cross said, calling it "unacceptable".

The Security Council unanimously voted Tuesday to condemn the targeting of health facilities in war zones.

Kerry also condemned the attacks.

"The cessation of hostilities was put in place precisely to give the people on the ground who are innocently caught between these warring factions some breather... and work this out at the negotiating table," he said.

"That is why we are working urgently right now to reaffirm the cessation of hostilities nationwide."

– 'Regime of silence' –

In Moscow after seeing Kerry in Geneva on Monday, De Mistura said it was crucial for the ceasefire to be "brought back on track", hailing the February truce as a "remarkable achievement".

Diplomatic efforts were set to continue Wednesday in Berlin with De Mistura joining the German and French foreign ministers for talks with Syria's main opposition leader.

Washington and Moscow are working together to include Aleppo in a so-called "regime of silence" – a freeze in fighting – aimed at bolstering the broader truce.

They have agreed to boost the number of Geneva-based truce monitors to track violations "24 hours a day, seven days a week," Kerry said Monday.

In a nod to Moscow's demands, Kerry said Washington would press moderate rebels to separate themselves from Al-Nusra Front jihadists in Aleppo.

Russia and Assad's regime have used the presence of Al-Nusra, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda which was not party to the ceasefire, as an excuse to press their offensive.

The Observatory says more than 270 civilians – including 54 children – have been killed on both sides of divided Aleppo since April 22.

The city was initially excluded from a deal announced last week to "freeze" fighting along two major fronts in the northwest and in Eastern Ghouta near Damascus.

Meanwhile, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said there were "extremely worrying" signs IS may be making its own chemical weapons and may have used them already in Syria and Iraq.

Syria's conflict erupted in 2011 after anti-government protests were put down, and escalated into a multi-faceted war that has killed more than 270,000 people and forced millions from their homes.

Russia, U.S. Push To Revive Syrian Cease-fire Amid New Fighting

By Gregg Zoroya

[USA Today](#), May 3, 2016

Renewed fighting in Syria's largest city of Aleppo targeted another hospital Tuesday, as both U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called for reviving a cease-fire that went into effect in late February.

Rocket attacks by rebels on Dubeet Hospital in a government-controlled neighborhood of Aleppo left four dead, according to Associated Press. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also confirmed the attacks.

Aleppo has been the center of violence over the past 12 days that left more than 250 civilians dead in the contested city, the AP reported. Last week, a government airstrike on a hospital supported by Doctors Without Borders in a rebel-held portion of the city left at least 27 dead.

"There is no justification for this horrific violence that targets civilians or medical facilities or first responders no matter who it is, whether it's a member of the opposition

retaliating or the regime in its brutality," Kerry said Tuesday in Washington.

Lavrov, speaking at a news conference in Moscow, said he hoped a new cease-fire covering Aleppo would be announced "in the nearest future, even in the coming hours," the AP reported. He said Russia and the U.S. would work toward creating a rapid response to cease-fire violations in Syria.

The Syrian observatory said more than 3,000 people have been killed in the country since the truce negotiated between the U.S. and Russia was put in place Feb. 27. The cease-fire applied to Syrian President Bashar Assad's military forces and armed opposition groups engaged in a five-year civil war, but excluded terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State and al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front.

Kerry defended the partial cease-fire for vastly reducing the rate of 200 deaths per day. "Much of the nation is quiet and has remained quiet," Kerry said.

But he said the ultimate success of any cease-fire would include the beginning of a political transition in Syria and allowing humanitarian aid and medical supplies to reach population areas in dire need.

The human rights monitoring group, in its statement, listed hundreds of killings it said were committed by both Syrian government forces and rebel organizations.

The White House had expressed trepidation about the truce when it was first announced. "We recognize ... this is going to be difficult to implement," White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters at that time.

U.S. And Russian Officials Will Sit Side By Side To Monitor Syria Cease-fire

By Karen Deyoung And Erin Cunningham

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

U.S. and Russian military officials will sit in the same room 24 hours a day and jointly pore over maps and intelligence to monitor cease-fire violations in Syria under a new system they hope will save a fast-collapsing truce, Secretary of State John F. Kerry said Tuesday.

Under the new arrangement, which Kerry said could be finalized by Wednesday, lines will be drawn in and around Aleppo, scene of the heaviest recent fighting, to prevent new incursions or attacks from any party in the Syrian civil war.

The city will not be allowed to fall to the government, Kerry said. "If [Syrian President Bashar al-] Assad's strategy is to somehow think he's going to carve out Aleppo . . . I've got news for him," he told reporters at the State Department.

He spoke just hours after another deadly strike on a hospital in Aleppo, this time by opposition forces. The official Syrian Arab News Agency said "scores" of people were killed in a rocket assault on government-held neighborhoods in the western part of the city, which has been divided between the

opposing forces since 2012. Activists put the number of dead at 19.

Kerry acknowledged rebel responsibility, saying that “today’s attack . . . appears to be rockets that have come from some area of opposition — we are trying to determine which.”

Over the past two weeks, government airstrikes and shelling, including last week’s bombing of a pediatric hospital in the city, have left at least 250 civilians dead.

Syria’s information minister, Omran al-Zoubi, warned that the government is ready to strike back against rebel shelling of civilian areas. Activists said opposition-held areas were also pummeled by Syrian government airstrikes Tuesday, and at least two people were killed in the city’s Fardous district.

“The bottom line is, there is no justification for this horrific violence,” Kerry said, “whether a member of the opposition retaliating or the regime in its brutality against civilians . . . We condemn any of these attacks, no matter who commits them.”

The U.N. Security Council on Tuesday passed a unanimous resolution calling for an end to attacks on health-care workers and health facilities worldwide.

“This resolution cannot end up like so many others, including those passed on Syria over the past five years: routinely violated with impunity,” Joanne Liu, international president of Doctors Without Borders, which supported the government-destroyed al-Quds hospital, told the council.

The renewed fighting, in Aleppo and elsewhere, has brought a cease-fire brokered by the United States and Russia in late February to the verge of collapse. After an urgent appeal by U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura to do something to prevent that from happening, Kerry said he and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov have come up with the new monitoring plan.

Washington and Moscow have ostensibly been monitoring the cease-fire since it began, but only from a distance. Russian military officers at their base in Hmeymim, Syria, and U.S. counterparts in Amman, Jordan, communicate by telephone and videoconference, and they have rarely met in person.

At a new coordination center in Geneva, “U.S. and Russian counterparts will be sitting at the same table,” Lavrov said at a Moscow news conference with de Mistura. “They will be looking at the same maps. They will be analyzing proposals and they will work together to make sure that any violations are nipped in the bud.”

The cease-fire and the lifting of sieges around civilian areas that have blocked delivery of humanitarian aid were supposed to pave the way for political negotiations between the opposition and the government to end the war and install a transition government in Syria. Two weeks ago, the

opposition walked out of the talks to protest ongoing government violence.

The Obama administration, which halted all military cooperation with Russia after its incursion into Ukraine, has been reluctantly dragged back into coordination over Syria. The two governments back opposite sides in the long-running civil war, but the United States has tried to keep Moscow at arm’s-length.

“We have a responsibility — we, those who support the opposition . . . have an obligation to work with the opposition to keep the opposition from breaking” the truce, Kerry said. “Likewise, two parties — Iran and Russia — have a particular responsibility that they assumed at the same time that we assumed ours.”

Left unclear by both Kerry and Lavrov was what they proposed to do if and when they determine one side or the other has crossed the new lines they intend to delineate. Kerry, who met Tuesday at the White House with President Obama, has long favored a direct U.S. military response against Assad that Obama has resisted.

Kerry acknowledged that they were still grappling with what to do about Jabhat al-Nusra, the al-Qaeda affiliate whose forces are excluded from the cease-fire but are intermingled with some opposition forces around Aleppo.

“Are they somehow commingled? Are they fair game? These are the kinds of things that have to be worked out, so that there’s no misunderstanding” about “who is doing what, where, when and how,” Kerry said.

“We don’t control the terrorists,” he said. “They can obviously move and try to use other people as a human shield . . . that’s where it gets complicated.”

Cunningham reported from Istanbul.

Another Aleppo Hospital Is Hit, This Time On Government-Held Side

By Anne Barnard

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Insurgent shelling hit a maternity hospital in the government-held section of the Syrian city of Aleppo on Tuesday, according to state media and footage from the scene, underscoring what rights groups are calling a growing disregard for the rules of war.

It was the sixth assault on a medical facility in the divided city in less than a week and the first to have caused casualties on the government-controlled side. At least three women were reported killed and 17 people wounded, including children.

On Wednesday, warplanes destroyed a pediatric hospital and a clinic on the rebel-held side of the city, leaving dozens of people dead, including medical workers, women and children.

That attack, believed to have been carried out by the Syrian government despite its denials, came as intensifying airstrikes and rebel shelling shattered what remained of a fragile truce that had prevailed for a few months. The violence of the past week has plunged Aleppo back into all-out war, killing scores of people, mainly civilians.

The strikes on hospitals and clinics have incited a new wave of outrage from international humanitarian organizations, which called for an end to the attacks and emphasized that, if deliberate, they constitute war crimes. The United Nations Security Council condemned the attacks in a resolution on Tuesday that passed unanimously.

"This breaks all the rules of humanity," Pawel Krzysiek, the spokesman for the International Committee for the Red Cross in Damascus. "These indiscriminate attacks must stop."

Several rebel groups denied having shelled the Dabbit maternity hospital, but numerous other insurgents operate in the city of Aleppo, including some fighters of the Nusra Front, which is linked to Al Qaeda.

A commander of an American-backed rebel group said his men were not involved, and contended that other groups that had carried out indiscriminate attacks in the past were being brought under control.

But that did not explain the scores of civilians killed in dozens of shelling attacks on government-held neighborhoods in the past week, which suggest either that American-backed groups are carrying them out, or that they are unable to stop other groups from doing so.

Some anti-government activists — and even the rebel commander, who goes by the name Abu Qutaiba — suggested that the shelling of the maternity hospital had been carried out by the government to tarnish the insurgents.

But other anti-government activists said they assumed the attack had been carried out by insurgents, even as they debated whether it had been a missile or rocket strike, as state media has said, or a car bomb. Some condemned the assault, like Razan Ghazawi, who wrote on Twitter that attacking medical workers was a tactic of President Bashar al-Assad and "committing those crimes only makes us a criminal like him."

Others sought to justify it.

"We will target their areas more," Khaled Eido, an activist and former fighter, said by text message, calling the attack retaliation for "the massacres the regime committed in the past and on Obama's silence."

Abu Qutaiba, the rebel commander, said his group, called Go Straight As You Were Commanded, receives aid through a covert program run by the C.I.A. and allied intelligence agencies, including what he called "precise weapons," and "would never randomly shell regime-held areas." But a number of rebel groups use missiles improvised from gas canisters, which are both powerful and imprecise.

Even with the escalation of violence, the Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, expressed hopes that a truce could be restored in Aleppo within hours. Russia is the most powerful backer of the Syrian government.

He spoke in Moscow after meeting with Staffan di Mistura, the United Nations special envoy for the Syria conflict, who is trying to revive peace talks stalled after the collapse of a partial cease-fire that began in February.

Footage from the government-held side of Aleppo showed the maternity hospital's facade partly sheared off, along with the blackened wreckage of a car, and patients, including several children, being rushed to other hospitals.

State news media said that the death toll could rise and that in all, 14 people had died Tuesday in insurgent attacks.

"Today, Aleppo is a place of slaughter," said the Rev. Ibrahim Nsier, a Protestant clergyman. He listed places struck Tuesday morning, including near his apartment, where he said a shell had killed a 5-year-old schoolboy.

"We gathered his flesh from everywhere," he said.

On the rebel-held side, a suspected government airstrike destroyed a warehouse holding medical supplies, Mr. Krzysiek said. And rescue workers said at least six people died in other government attacks.

Rebel Shelling Hits Aleppo Hospital Amid Cease-fire Efforts

By Erin Cunningham

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

ISTANBUL — A Syrian rebel assault on government-held parts of Aleppo killed as many as 19 people, activists and Syrian state media said Tuesday, in attacks that included a deadly rocket strike on a hospital even as diplomats struggled to find ways to quell the fighting.

The United Nations special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, traveled to Moscow to push for a halt to the violence that monitoring groups say has killed more than 250 people in the past week. Russia is a key ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"We all hope" that there will soon be "a relaunch of the cessation of hostilities," de Mistura said at a joint news conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

An earlier cease-fire brokered by the United States and Russia across Syria has all but collapsed.

"What the Syrians want to hear is no bombs, no rockets, no shelling, no aerial bombing," de Mistura said. Then peace efforts will be back "on the right track."

But on Tuesday, the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said "scores" of people were killed or injured in rebel shelling of government neighborhoods in the western part of Aleppo, which has been divided between the rebels and the regime since 2012. The number of dead and injured could not immediately be confirmed.

Rebel fighters attacked several government positions in the Zahra neighborhood of Aleppo but were eventually repelled, activists said. The Syrian military also said it had fought off "terrorist" forces in the area, according to a statement reported by the Associated Press.

The bombardment included a rocket attack on a hospital and maternity clinic in Aleppo, SANA reported. At least three women were reported killed.

The strike came just hours before the U.N. Security Council passed a unanimous resolution calling for an end to attacks on health-care workers and facilities worldwide. Support for the resolution gained momentum after a deadly air raid on the Quds hospital in rebel-held Aleppo killed more than 50 people last week.

"This resolution cannot end up like so many others, including those passed on Syria over the past five years: routinely violated with impunity," Joanne Liu, international president of Doctors Without Borders, which supported the Quds hospital, said in an address to the Security Council on Tuesday.

"In Syria, where health care is systematically targeted and besieged areas are cynically denied medical care . . . uphold your obligations," Liu said.

The mounting death toll in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, has stirred international outrage and concern that the country's civil war could be tumbling into a new round of bloodshed and humanitarian misery.

Syria's information minister, Omran al-Zoubi, warned Tuesday that the government was ready to strike back against rebels shelling civilian areas. Opposition-held areas have also been pummeled by Syrian government airstrikes, and at least two people were killed Tuesday in the city's Fardous district, activists said.

As many as 400,000 people have been killed in the five-year conflict, de Mistura said last month.

In Moscow, Lavrov said the United States and Russia would establish a joint center in Geneva to monitor the Syrian conflict. The United States has been launching airstrikes against the Islamic State in Syria and has also supported some rebel groups.

"U.S. and Russian counterparts will be sitting at the same table. They will be looking at the same maps," Lavrov said of the proposed monitoring center. "They will work together to make sure that any violations [of the cease-fire] are nipped in the bud."

"There are groups in Syria trying to escalate violence," Lavrov said. "And they shouldn't be allowed to do so."

Zakaria Zakaria in Istanbul and Brian Murphy in Washington contributed to this report.

Renewed Fighting Kills Some Two Dozen In Aleppo, Syria

U.N. Syria envoy meeting with Russian officials to renew cease-fire

By Raja Abdulrahim

[Wall Street Journal](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Fla. Businessman Paid \$10K For Va. Senator's Trip To Meet Syrian President Assad

By Laura Vozzella

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

RICHMOND — The Virginia state senator who met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad last week made his unlikely journey at the expense of a Florida businessman, who estimated the cost was \$10,000.

State ethics officials signed off on the gift to Sen. Richard H. Black (R-Loudoun) ahead of his trip to the war-torn country, finding that it complied with state ethics laws. He will be required to report the free business-class air travel and accommodations on the financial disclosure form he files with the state.

But Black is not sure how to put a dollar figure on something the Syrian government lavished on him during his visit: security.

"We went around in a four-ton, bullet-proof car," he said. "When we went to Palmyra, as we were traveling some of the roads, they had a very large assault jet flying in at tree-top level with ear-splitting roars. And on the other side were four assault helicopters. And we had a truck with a dual-barreled cannon on the front."

Accounting for largesse of that sort will be a new one in Richmond, even after three rounds of ethics reform.

"I don't think that was contemplated when we talked about gifts," Black said. "I couldn't tell you the cost of that. I suspect I could have gone out there in a Vespa motor scooter and putted down the road, but I might have needed to wear a black wig and darkened my skin so I didn't get kidnapped by the rebels."

The General Assembly has overhauled the state's ethics rules every year since 2014, when former governor Robert F. McDonnell (R) left the governor's mansion in the aftermath of a \$177,000 gifts scandal. But legislators still left room for extravagant largesse from certain givers.

Once free to take unlimited personal gifts, Virginia's public officials can no longer accept anything worth more than \$100 from lobbyists or government contractors.

But Black's benefactor, Tampa area gasoline wholesaler Paul Jallo, is neither. So there is no limit on his gifts.

A Syrian-born Christian, Jallo became aware of Black in 2014, when the senator wrote a well-publicized letter to Assad, thanking him for protecting Syrian Christians. Jallo Oil

Distributors has since donated \$10,000 to Black's Senate campaign account.

The average public official might not welcome an all-expenses-paid jaunt to a war-ravaged country. Two members of Congress initially planned to join Black and Jallo on the trip but backed out due to security concerns, Jallo said in an interview Tuesday. He declined to identify them.

Black, 71, said the most valuable thing he got out of the week-long trip, which included a two-hour sit-down with Assad and several days in Lebanon, was a deeper understanding of the region.

"It sort of took it from black-and-white to Technicolor," Black said. He came away more convinced than ever that the United States should respect Assad, he said.

The White House considers Assad a brutal dictator and suggested last week that Black's view stemmed from ignorance.

Jallo, 48, spent his early years in Syria but mostly grew up in Lebanon and moved as a teenager to New York, where he found work sewing handbags in the city's garment district. He followed a brother into the gas station business and today has a string of stations in New York, New Jersey and Florida, as well as a wholesale business.

"I came to the U.S. with no money," said Jallo, whose Instagram account is filled with images of his palm-lined mansion, exotic cars and Jesus. "This is the American dream. You come to America. If you're a good person and work hard, God always blesses."

Jallo said he wants nothing from Black or the state of Virginia, just peace in his homeland. He hopes attention drawn by Black's visit will contribute to that cause.

"Senator Black feels if Assad goes, ISIS will take over Syria," Jallo said. "He believes all the Christians will be killed, and I believe the same thing."

As a state legislator, Black plays no role in crafting U.S. foreign policy. But he has an intense interest in international affairs as a Vietnam veteran and former Pentagon lawyer who was stationed in Germany in the 1980s.

While in Syria, Black said he was free to go wherever he liked. When visiting a hospital in Damascus, he said he darted down corridors at will and struck up conversations with wounded soldiers. He came away angry to learn that U.S. financial restrictions were making it difficult for doctors there to obtain medicines and prosthetics.

He said he was impressed by evidence of religious freedom, including a chorus singing Christian songs in the majority-Muslim city of Homs.

Black and Jallo met Assad in the president's palace office, where their discussion ranged from what they had seen on their trip to international politics to their respective families. The president's wife joined them for much of the discussion, and Black said he was struck by their affectionate, "very Westernized relationship."

"The media likes to refer to him as a monster and this and that," Black said. "They very seldom depict him speaking, and the reason is, he is a very mild-spoken, rather genteel-sounding person, almost a little bit shy in nature."

Assad praised Black not only for making a visit, but for doing so publicly, Jallo said.

"The president was talking to the senator, saying, 'A lot of times people visit Syria and they don't want to be in the news. You, senator, you speak your mind,'" Jallo said. "He was ... saying, 'You're one of a kind.'"

U.N. Security Council Condemns Attacks On Health Workers In War Zones

By Somini Sengupta

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

Warplanes level a hospital in the rebel-held half of Aleppo, Syria, killing one of the city's last pediatricians. A Saudi-led military coalition bombs a hospital in Yemen. In Afghanistan, American aircraft pummel a hospital mistaken for a Taliban redoubt.

The rules of war, enshrined for decades, require hospitals to be treated as sanctuaries from war — and for health workers to be left alone to do their jobs.

But on today's battlefields, attacks on hospitals and ambulances, surgeons, nurses and midwives have become common, punctuating what aid workers and United Nations officials describe as a new low in the savagery of war.

On Tuesday, the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution to remind warring parties everywhere of the rules, demanding protection for those who provide health care and accountability for violators.

But the resolution also raised an awkward question: Can the world's most powerful countries be expected to enforce the rules when they and their allies are accused of flouting them?

Russian warplanes were blamed for the bombing of a Syrian hospital in Idlib, for instance, and Syrian soldiers, backed by the Kremlin, continue to remove even painkillers from United Nations aid convoys heading into rebel-held areas.

At the same time, Britain and the United States back a Saudi-led coalition that is accused of attacking health facilities in Yemen. China and Russia support the government of Sudan, which is accused of at least two attacks on health facilities supported by Doctors Without Borders, the international medical charity, in Kordofan State. Front-line clinics operated by the charity have also been repeatedly attacked on various battlefields.

Dr. Joanne Liu, the international president of Doctors Without Borders, attended the Security Council vote and pointed to its permanent members in her remarks afterward.

"You therefore must live up to your extraordinary responsibilities, and set an example for all states," she said. "I repeat: Stop these attacks."

Without naming the countries, she criticized the United States — for having refused to submit the American attack last October on her organization's hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, to an independent international inquiry — just as she scolded Russia for having denied that its warplanes had hit civilian targets in Syria.

"Broad attacks on communities and precise attacks on health facilities are described as mistakes, are denied outright or are simply met with silence," she said.

Just hours before, a maternity hospital was reported hit in Aleppo, on the government-held side. Syrian state news media reported fatalities and heavy damage at the hospital and blamed insurgent shelling.

There is plenty of blame to go around. In 11 of the world's war zones, between 2011 and 2014, the International Committee of the Red Cross tallied nearly 2,400 acts of violence against those who were trying to provide health care. That works out to two attacks a day.

Peter Maurer, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who attended the Security Council vote, commended members for what he called a "strong" resolution, even if only to remind combatants of longstanding rules of war.

"What is needed is a fundamental change of behavior in warfare," he said.

He warned members not to grow accustomed to attacks on hospitals and ambulances. "These are not collateral damage. These are not sad realities we have to get used to," he said. "They are abominations to fight and trends to roll back."

That the resolution only echoed rules laid out decades ago was not lost on one of its main proponents, Gerard van Bohemen, the ambassador of New Zealand. "These legal requirements already exist," he said. "Some are among the oldest rules of international humanitarian law. The problem is one of respect and compliance."

In Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East, a fourth of all health care facilities were destroyed or shuttered in one year of war, according to the United Nations.

The Security Council action came less than a week after airstrikes believed to have been carried out by the Syrian government demolished a hospital in the rebel-held portion of Aleppo, killing dozens of people including one of the city's last pediatricians.

It is difficult to say whether the attacks on health centers and medical workers have gone up or down when compared to earlier eras of conflict. Certainly, there have been high-profile attacks in the past.

Serbian troops stormed a hospital in the Croatian town of Vukovar in 1991, removed several hundred patients and

executed them. Sri Lankan forces were accused of attacking hospitals in the Tamil Tiger-held towns of the north in 2008 and 2009, during the last few months of the civil war in that country. In Pakistan, Taliban militants have assassinated dozens of health workers trying to vaccinate children against polio.

Targeting a medical facility is considered a war crime, if proved to be deliberate. That is a difficult legal hurdle, and few prosecutions have been made against warring parties accused of attacking hospitals and health workers.

The Pentagon has said that the strike on the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz last October was unintentional. British officials have similarly insisted that their allies in the Saudi-led coalition waging war in Yemen have not violated international law. A United Nations panel of experts, though, has documented what it described as "widespread" breaches, pointing to airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition as well as shelling of health facilities by Houthi rebels.

The Security Council resolution approved on Tuesday is delicately worded. Drafted by Egypt, Japan, New Zealand, Spain and Uruguay, it avoids a direct reference to possible prosecutions by the International Criminal Court, a delicate topic for some countries.

But the resolution cites the statute that created the court, condemns the "prevailing impunity" for attacks on health centers and calls on governments to carry out independent investigations.

It also demands that armed combatants allow unimpeded access to health workers. Those demands have been repeatedly made in Syria — and been ignored. Millions of people living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas have no access to medicines.

Edward Snowden: 'Governments Can Reduce Our Dignity To That Of Tagged Animals'

By Edward Snowden

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#), May 3, 2016

"I've been waiting 40 years for someone like you."

Those were the first words Daniel Ellsberg spoke to me when we met last year. Dan and I felt an immediate kinship; we both knew what it meant to risk so much — and to be irrevocably changed — by revealing secret truths. One of the challenges of being a whistleblower is living with the knowledge that people continue to sit, just as you did, at those desks, in that unit, throughout the agency; who see what you saw and comply in silence, without resistance or complaint. They learn to live not just with untruths but with unnecessary untruths, dangerous untruths, corrosive untruths. It is a double tragedy: what begins as a survival strategy ends with the compromise of the human being it sought to preserve and the diminishing of the democracy

meant to justify the sacrifice. But unlike Dan Ellsberg, I didn't have to wait 40 years to witness other citizens breaking that silence with documents. Ellsberg gave the Pentagon Papers to the New York Times and other newspapers in 1971; Chelsea Manning provided the Iraq and Afghan war logs and the Cablegate materials to WikiLeaks in 2010. I came forward in 2013. Now another person of courage and conscience has made available the extraordinary set of documents published in *The Assassination Complex*, the new book by Jeremy Scahill and the staff of the Intercept. We are witnessing a compression of the timeframe in which unconstitutional activities can continue before they are exposed by acts of conscience. And this permits the American people to learn about critical government actions, not as part of the historical record but in a way that allows direct action through voting – in other words, in a way that empowers an informed citizenry to defend the democracy that “state secrets” are nominally intended to support. When I see individuals who are able to bring information forward, it gives me hope that we won't always be required to curtail the illegal activities of our government as if it were a constant task, to uproot official lawbreaking as routinely as we mow the grass. (Interestingly enough, that is how some have begun to describe remote killing operations, as “cutting the grass”.) A single act of whistleblowing doesn't change the reality that there are significant portions of the government that operate below the waterline, beneath the visibility of the public. Those secret activities will continue, despite reforms. But those who perform these actions now have to live with the fear that if they engage in activities contrary to the spirit of society – if even a single citizen is catalysed to halt the machinery of that injustice – they might still be held to account. The thread by which good governance hangs is this equality before the law, for the only fear of the man who turns the gears is that he may find himself upon them. Hope lies beyond, when we move from extraordinary acts of revelation to a collective culture of accountability within the intelligence community. Here we will have taken a meaningful step towards solving a problem that has existed for as long as our government. Not all leaks are alike, nor are their makers. David Petraeus, for instance, provided his illicit lover and favourable biographer information so secret it defied classification, including the names of covert operatives and the president's private thoughts on matters of strategic concern. Petraeus was not charged with a felony, as the Justice Department had initially recommended, but was instead permitted to plead guilty to a misdemeanour. Had an enlisted soldier of modest rank pulled out a stack of highly classified notebooks and handed them to his girlfriend to secure so much as a smile, he would be looking at many decades in prison, not a pile of character references from a Who's Who of the Deep State. There are authorised leaks and also permitted disclosures. It is rare for senior administration officials to explicitly ask a subordinate to

leak a CIA officer's name to retaliate against her husband, as appears to have been the case with Valerie Plame. It is equally rare for a month to go by in which some senior official does not disclose some protected information that is beneficial to the political efforts of the parties but clearly “damaging to national security” under the definitions of our law. This dynamic can be seen quite clearly in the al-Qaida “conference call of doom” story, in which intelligence officials, likely seeking to inflate the threat of terrorism and deflect criticism of mass surveillance, revealed to a neoconservative website extraordinarily detailed accounts of specific communications they had intercepted, including locations of the participating parties and the precise contents of the discussions. If the officials' claims were to be believed, they irrevocably burned an extraordinary means of learning the precise plans and intentions of terrorist leadership for the sake of a short-lived political advantage in a news cycle. Not a single person seems to have been so much as disciplined as a result of the story that cost us the ability to listen to the alleged al-Qaida hotline. If harmfulness and authorisation make no difference, what explains the distinction between the permissible and the impermissible disclosure? The answer is control. A leak is acceptable if it is not seen as a threat, as a challenge to the prerogatives of the institution. But if all the disparate components of the institution – not just its head but its hands and feet, every part of its body – must be assumed to have the same power to discuss matters of concern, that is an existential threat to the modern political monopoly of information control, particularly if we're talking about disclosures of serious wrongdoing, fraudulent activity, unlawful activities. If you can't guarantee that you alone can exploit the flow of controlled information, then the aggregation of all the world's unmentionables – including your own – begins to look more like a liability than an asset. Truly unauthorised disclosures are necessarily an act of resistance – that is, if they're not done simply for press consumption, to fluff up the public appearance or reputation of an institution. However, that doesn't mean they all come from the lowest working level. Sometimes the individuals who step forward happen to be near the pinnacle of power. Ellsberg was in the top tier; he was briefing the secretary of defense. You can't get much higher, unless you are the secretary of defense, and the incentives simply aren't there for such a high-ranking official to be involved in public interest disclosures because that person already wields the influence to change the policy directly. At the other end of the spectrum is Chelsea Manning, a junior enlisted soldier, who was much nearer to the bottom of the hierarchy. I was midway in the professional career path. I sat down at the table with the chief information officer of the CIA, and I was briefing him and his chief technology officer when they were publicly making statements such as: “We try to collect everything and hang on to it for ever,” and everybody still thought that was a cute business slogan.

Meanwhile, I was designing the systems they would use to do precisely that. I wasn't briefing the policy side, the secretary of defense, but I was briefing the operations side, the National Security Agency's director of technology. Official wrongdoing can catalyse all levels of insiders to reveal information, even at great risk to themselves, so long as they can be convinced that it is necessary to do so. Reaching those individuals, helping them realise that their first allegiance as a public servant is to the public rather than to the government, is the challenge. That is a significant shift in cultural thinking for a government worker today. I've argued that whistleblowers are elected by circumstance. It's not a virtue of who you are or your background. It's a question of what you are exposed to, what you witness. At that point, the question becomes: "Do you honestly believe that you have the capability to remediate the problem, to influence policy?" I would not encourage individuals to reveal information, even about wrongdoing, if they do not believe they can be effective in doing so, because the right moment can be as rare as the will to act. This is simply a pragmatic, strategic consideration. Whistleblowers are outliers of probability, and if they are to be effective as a political force, it is critical that they maximise the amount of public good produced from scarce seed. When I was making my decision, I came to understand how one strategic consideration, such as waiting until the month before a domestic election, could become overwhelmed by another, such as the moral imperative to provide an opportunity to arrest a global trend that had already gone too far. I was focused on what I saw and on my sense of overwhelming disenfranchisement that the government, in which I had believed for my entire life, was engaged in such an extraordinary act of deception. At the heart of this evolution is that whistleblowing is a radicalising event – and by "radical" I don't mean "extreme"; I mean it in the traditional sense of "radix", the root of the issue. At some point, you recognise that you can't just move a few letters around on a page and hope for the best. You can't simply report this problem to your supervisor, as I tried to do, because inevitably supervisors get nervous. They think about the structural risk to their career. They are concerned about rocking the boat and "getting a reputation". The incentives aren't there to produce meaningful reform. Fundamentally, in an open society, change has to flow from the bottom to the top. As someone who works in the intelligence community, you've given up a lot to do this work. You've happily committed yourself to tyrannical restrictions. You voluntarily undergo polygraphs; you tell the government everything about your life. You waive a lot of rights because you believe the fundamental goodness of your mission justifies the sacrifice of even the sacred. It's a just cause. And when you're confronted with evidence – not in an edge case, not in a peculiarity, but as a core consequence of the programme – that the government is subverting the constitution and violating the ideals you so fervently believe

in, you have to make a decision. When you see that the programme or policy is inconsistent with the oaths and obligations that you've sworn to your society and yourself, then that oath and that obligation cannot be reconciled with the programme. To which do you owe a greater loyalty? One of the extraordinary things about the revelations of the past several years, and their accelerating pace, is that they have occurred in the context of the United States as the "uncontested hyperpower". We now have the largest unchallenged military machine in the history of the world, and it is backed by a political system that is increasingly willing to authorise any use of force in response to practically any justification. In today's context that justification is terrorism, but not necessarily because our leaders are particularly concerned about terrorism in itself or because they think it is an existential threat to society. They recognise that even if we had a 9/11 attack every year, we would still be losing more people to car accidents and heart disease, and we don't see the same expenditure of resources to respond to those more significant threats. What it really comes down to is the reality that we have a political class that feels it must inoculate itself against allegations of weakness. Our politicians are more fearful of the politics of terrorism – of the charge that they do not take terrorism seriously – than they are of the crime itself. As a result, we have arrived at this unmatched capability, unrestrained by policy. We have become reliant upon what was intended to be the limitation of last resort: the courts. Judges, realising that their decisions are suddenly charged with much greater political importance and impact than was originally intended, have gone to great lengths in the post-9/11 period to avoid reviewing the laws or the operations of the executive in the national security context and setting restrictive precedents that, even if entirely proper, would impose limits on government for decades or more. That means the most powerful institution that humanity has ever witnessed has also become the least restrained. Yet that same institution was never designed to operate in such a manner, having instead been explicitly founded on the principle of checks and balances. Our founding impulse was to say: "Though we are mighty, we are voluntarily restrained." When you first go on duty at CIA headquarters, you raise your hand and swear an oath – not to government, not to the agency, not to secrecy. You swear an oath to the constitution. So there is this friction, this emerging contest between the obligations and values that the government asks you to uphold, and the actual activities that you are asked to participate in. These disclosures about the Obama administration's killing programme reveal that there is a part of the American character that is deeply concerned with the unrestrained, unchecked exercise of power. And there is no greater or clearer manifestation of unchecked power than assuming for yourself the authority to execute an individual outside a battlefield context and without the involvement of

any sort of judicial process. Traditionally, in the context of military affairs, we have always understood that lethal force in battle could not be subjected to ex ante judicial constraints. When armies are shooting at each other, there is no room for a judge on that battlefield. But now the government has decided – without the public's participation, without our knowledge and consent – that the battlefield is everywhere. Individuals who don't represent an imminent threat in any meaningful sense of those words are redefined, through the subversion of language, to meet that definition. Inevitably, that conceptual subversion finds its way home, along with the technology that enables officials to promote comfortable illusions about surgical killing and nonintrusive surveillance. Take, for instance, the holy grail of drone persistence, a capability that the US has been pursuing forever. The goal is to deploy solar-powered drones that can loiter in the air for weeks without coming down. Once you can do that, and you put any typical signals-collection device on the bottom of it to monitor, unblinkingly, the emanations of, for example, the different network addresses of every laptop, phone and iPod, you know not just where a particular device is in what city, but you know what apartment each device lives in, where it goes at any particular time, and by what route. Once you know the devices, you know their owners. When you start doing this over several cities, you are tracking the movements not just of individuals but of whole populations. By preying on the modern necessity to stay connected, governments can reduce our dignity to something like that of tagged animals, the primary difference being that we paid for the tags and they are in our pockets. It sounds like fantasist paranoia, but on the technical level it is so trivial to implement that I cannot imagine a future in which it won't be attempted. It will be limited to the war zones at first, in accordance with our customs, but surveillance technology has a tendency to follow us home. Here we see the double edge of our uniquely American brand of nationalism. We are raised to be exceptionalists, to think we are the better nation with the manifest destiny to rule. The danger is that some people will actually believe this claim, and some of those will expect the manifestation of our national identity, that is, our government, to comport itself accordingly. Unrestrained power may be many things, but it is not American. It is in this sense that the act of whistleblowing increasingly has become an act of political resistance. The whistleblower raises the alarm and lifts the lamp, inheriting the legacy of a line of Americans that begins with Paul Revere. The individuals who make these disclosures feel so strongly about what they have seen that they are willing to risk their lives and their freedom. They know that we, the people, are ultimately the strongest and most reliable check on the power of government. The insiders at the highest levels of government have extraordinary capability, extraordinary resources, tremendous access to influence and a monopoly on violence, but in the final

calculus there is but one figure that matters: the individual citizen. And there are more of us than there are of them.

Snowden Cheers On Increasing Pace Of Government Leaks

By Julian Hattam

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

Edward Snowden cheered on the increasingly swift pace of government leaks that are giving the public access to reams of official secrets.

Snowden wrote in an article for *The Intercept* that in the past it took years or even decades for classified data to make their way to news outlets. But now, secrets can be made public almost instantaneously — an evolution that has deeply frustrated government officials.

"We are witnessing a compression of the working period in which bad policy shelters in the shadows," Snowden said.

"And this temporal compression has a significance beyond the immediate headlines; it permits the people of this country to learn about critical government actions, not as part of the historical record but in a way that allows direct action through voting — in other words, in a way that empowers an informed citizenry to defend the democracy that 'state secrets' are nominally intended to support."

In his op-ed, which was extracted from a book published by *Intercept* staff detailing U.S. drone operations, Snowden vehemently defends his leak of massive amounts of data about U.S. surveillance. The former National Security Agency contractor fled the country immediately before handing the information over to journalists, and he now lives in Russia to avoid federal charges in the U.S.

Putting secret evidence of wrongdoing into the public domain is the only way to promote change, he said.

"Unrestrained power may be many things, but it's not American," he wrote. "It is in this sense that the act of whistleblowing increasingly has become an act of political resistance. The whistleblower raises the alarm and lifts the lamp, inheriting the legacy of a line of Americans that begins with Paul Revere."

NATIONAL NEWS

Obamacare Customers Overpaid \$8M By IRS

Mistake due to incorrect information

By Tom Howell Jr.

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

The IRS mistakenly overpaid more than \$8 million to HealthCare.gov customers and Obamacare users in California, and cheated tens of thousands of others out of nearly \$2 million in 2015 because the government relied on

incorrect information to figure their taxes, an audit revealed Tuesday.

About 70,850 filers received \$8.3 million in federal subsidies that they didn't deserve, while roughly 69,400 taxpayers missed out on \$1.9 million they should have got, based on a review of returns filed between late January and late May in 2015, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration said.

The problem stemmed from erroneous forms the government sent to about 800,000 customers, which used the wrong benchmark to measure what their Obamacare payments should have been.

After the error, the Treasury Department decided it wouldn't bother to try to collect the overpayments, leaving tens of thousands of Obamacare customers with a bonus, courtesy of their fellow taxpayers.

"I can understand the IRS taking the position that recovering the \$8.3 million overpaid because of defective 1095-As in the first year of the program was not their highest priority given the more than \$400 billion that the IRS loses every year from uncollected taxes elsewhere," said Timothy Jost, a law professor at Washington and Lee University in Virginia who closely tracks the health care law.

Under the Affordable Care Act, customers who overestimate their annual income get a bigger refund at tax time, because they didn't get enough in federal subsidy to help them pay for coverage they purchased on the law's web-based insurance exchanges.

Those who underestimate their actual income must pay back subsidy they didn't deserve.

Obamacare customers use information off a form known as the 1095-A to reconcile the amount of federal tax credits they received against what they actually earned.

But because of what the administration said was a flaw in computer coding, about 800,000 of the forms had a wrong subsidy calculation. Also, Covered California said 100,000 of its customers received 1095-A forms with errors and 50,000 more didn't receive the form, according to the IG report.

Federal and state officials scrambled to send out new forms, but it was too late in some cases.

The Treasury decided it would not try to recoup the amount it overpaid by forcing affected customers to file an amended return, saying it wanted to "mitigate any harm to tax filers," although Obamacare customers who were shortchanged could re-file.

The 2015 filing season marked the first time that American taxpayers had to address their health care status on their returns.

While most people just had to check a box saying they were covered, others had to pay a tax penalty for flouting the "individual mandate" requiring most Americans to hold health insurance, or else claim an exemption from the rule.

Overall, the inspector general's report said the government properly calculated the tax subsidy in 93 percent of the 2.6 million cases it examined.

The inspector general's office said it is working with the IRS to sort out discrepancies in calculating subsidies tied to 150,000 returns, though it did say the agency incorrectly calculated subsidy amounts for nearly 28,000 returns because of "computer programming errors."

In response, IRS management said it would take a look at the those returns and "prioritize them against existing workload demands and resource constraints so that they may be addressed accordingly."

Blue Mass Honors Fallen Police Officers Amid Increased Targeting Fears

By Andrea Noble

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

Hundreds of officers from federal and local law enforcement agencies honored their fallen comrades at the 22nd annual Blue Mass in the District on Tuesday amid growing worries about officers being targeted in attacks and frustration with how the public views their role.

Concern that the backlash against police misconduct and killings has encouraged anti-police sentiments has led to calls by the National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) to do more to protect officers.

The union has pushed for years to expand federal hate crimes laws to also provide protections to law enforcement, and found some success this year with the introduction of the Blue Lives Matter Act by Rep. Ken Buck, Colorado Republican. The bill, which has 10 co-sponsors, would make an attack on a police officer a hate crime.

"There is a great deal of rhetoric and vitriol out there, and it hasn't been challenged," said Timothy Richardson, senior legislative liaison with the FOP.

At Tuesday's Mass, which both Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch and FBI Director James B. Comey attended, Monsignor Salvatore A. Criscuolo acknowledged during his homily that officers at times face criticism from citizens who do not understand their profession.

He sought to remind citizens who do not work in law enforcement about the sacrifices first responders and their families make every day and to emphasize that while officers may make mistakes, they are on the whole working to have a positive effect on their communities.

"You make so many sacrifices the citizens never hear about, never know about," Monsignor Criscuolo said. "They need to be reminded, and you need to be thanked."

The annual Blue Mass is traditionally held before the start of National Police Week, which draws upward of 25,000 visitors to the District as part of a series of events meant to honor fallen officers.

The bulk of this year's police week events will be held next weekend, with the candlelight vigil for fallen officers held on the National Mall on May 13 and the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service held on May 15.

Data provided by the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund shows 34 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty so far this year. A total of 124 officers were killed in 2015.

But while the number of overall law enforcement fatalities remains about even with the number recorded at this time last year — when there were 32 officer deaths — an increase in firearms-related deaths this year raises the possibility that officer deaths are increasingly the result of direct targeting.

As of Tuesday, half of this year's deaths, or 17 fatalities, were firearms-related. The 17 deaths account for a 113 percent increase over the eight firearms-related deaths that were recorded as of this time last year.

One particularly deadly week in February saw six officers and deputies fatally shot in separate incidents in Georgia, North Dakota, Maryland, Oregon and Colorado and raised concern among police advocacy groups that officers were increasingly coming under attack.

According to the fund's figures, six of the 17 firearms-related deaths were ambush-style attacks, five occurred in tactical situations such as barricades or high-risk entries, three happened during arrest attempts, and three came as officers were investigating suspicious persons or circumstances.

For families of fallen officers, the annual tradition at St. Patrick Catholic Church serves as a meaningful way to remember their loved ones while also acknowledging the ongoing sacrifices that others in the profession continue to make.

Among the 14 first responders who died last year and who were being honored at the Mass was Montgomery County Police Officer Noah Leotta, who was struck and killed by a drunken driver during a DUI task force traffic stop.

"I think it is truly proper and fitting that we do recognize Noah and all these officers, not just the fallen, but also those who are out here every day so we can just go about our daily lives," said Noah's father, Richard Leotta. "They are out there every day knowing that they may not come home to their loved ones, but they still go out there. They love what they are doing. They want to protect and serve the public. I know my son definitely felt that way, believed that way, with all of his heart and soul."

Federal and local law enforcement agencies honored 14 first responders who died last year, including Leotta, six Air Force service members killed in a suicide attack near Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, a U.S. Marshal who was fatally shot while serving a search warrant and an ATF agent and a U.S. Marshal who both died of cancer linked to their

responses to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

"I feel cleansed," said Metropolitan Police Department Assistant Chief Diane Groomes, emerging from the Mass. "I don't care what faith you are, I think this just uplifts us and gives us a stronger belief in what we do."

Obama To Meet With Michigan Gov. Snyder In Flint

By Brianna Gurciullo

[Politico](#), May 3, 2016

When President Barack Obama visits Flint, Michigan, on Wednesday, he will meet with Republican Gov. Rick Snyder, the White House announced Tuesday.

The president will stop at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint, participate in a neighborhood roundtable and make a speech at Northwestern High School, press secretary Josh Earnest said during the daily White House briefing.

"I do anticipate that the president will have an opportunity to visit with the governor when he is in Flint, as is customary," Earnest said, adding that Snyder was invited to greet Obama on the tarmac when he arrives in Michigan. He said Snyder and Karen Weaver, the Democratic mayor of Flint, will "likely" be at the food bank as well.

"And I wouldn't be surprised if the president also has an opportunity to visit with both the governor and mayor outside the context of that larger meeting as well," Earnest said.

A reporter later asked Earnest to comment on allegations that Flint was ignored because it is a poorer, primarily black community. Earnest said the White House is aware of independent investigations into the Flint water crisis that are ongoing, but said he has held back from commenting on "accountability" because it would be "premature."

"I think the president is concerned that there was a failure on the part of government officials to ensure that the people of Flint were protected," Earnest said. "I think the fact that something like this happened in a community that is so economically disadvantaged is something that troubles the president."

When asked whether the president thinks the water in Flint is safe to drink, Earnest said the Environmental Protection Agency has found that filtered tap water is safe.

Rick Snyder Wants Obama To Drink Flint Water

[Huffington Post](#), May 3, 2016

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R) hopes President Barack Obama has a drink when he visits Flint on Wednesday.

Snyder has been trying to get Flint residents to trust Environmental Protection Agency assurances that their water is safe to drink when it's filtered.

"We are hopeful the president will drink the water in Flint, to help reinforce Gov. Snyder's actions and the EPA's message that filtered Flint water is safe to drink," Snyder spokeswoman Anna Heaton told The Huffington Post in an emailed statement.

Testing shows unfiltered Flint water is still dangerous. High lead levels have poisoned residents' taps since the city started pumping from the Flint River in April of 2014 and failed to treat the water correctly.

To demonstrate the effectiveness of filters, Snyder drank from a Flint resident's tap last month. He vowed to continue to drink the city's water for at least 30 days.

Flint mayor Karen Weaver dismissed Snyder's water drinking as a publicity stunt. She urged people who are pregnant, nursing or under the age of 6 to keep drinking bottled water.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest suggested Monday that Obama wouldn't sample Flint's water during his visit.

"I'm not aware of any photo ops that involve the president's consumption of the water," Earnest said.

He added that Flint residents should follow the government's guidance on water consumption – and Obama would do the same.

"I certainly would encourage people to listen to the advice that they get from our scientific and public health experts about what water is safe to drink and the president will certainly follow that advice," he said.

I'm not aware of any photo ops that involve the president's consumption of the water.

The White House did not have any additional comment on the matter on Tuesday morning.

Flint residents might be a little skeptical of the government's advice on water because authorities insisted it was safe, even though it was brown and funky for 18 months. State regulators told the city not to treat the source water with anti-corrosion chemicals that can reduce the amount of metals leached from lead pipes connected to people's homes. Researchers discovered high amounts of lead in Flint kids' blood last fall, prompting Snyder's government to tell people not to drink the water and take emergency measures.

Lead is a deadly neurotoxin that can permanently damage children's developing brains. Lead poisoning has emerged as a possible explanation of surging crime rates in the 20th century.

Snyder has repeatedly apologized for his government's handling of the Flint water crisis, though he has also blamed the EPA for not acting decisively when it learned of high lead levels in Flint's water last summer.

When Obama announced his Flint visit last week, Snyder initially said he wouldn't have time to meet with the president. The governor has since reversed course and said he wants to meet with Obama.

Snyder, Weaver and the EPA have been encouraging Flint residents to at least run their taps. Paradoxically, reduced water usage has slowed improvement to the city's water infrastructure.

"The very low water use rates in some Flint homes hinders recovery of the system due to the improved corrosion control," Virginia Tech researcher Siddhartha Roy wrote in a blog post last month. Roy is part of a team from the university that has been testing water samples from Flint homes. "Less water use means that the orthophosphate and chlorine added to help improve the water quality and reduce lead and bacteria, are not flowing through the homes as much as is desired."

Despite Obama Visit, Flint Aid Faces Battle In Congress

[Detroit News](#), May 4, 2016

President Barack Obama arrives in Flint on Wednesday nearly four months after he declared a state of emergency while Congress continues to debate whether the federal government should help finance the removal of lead-leaching pipes.

U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, who first proposed \$1 billion in federal aid to replace Flint's lead-tainted pipes, said she believes that Democrats' heaping of blame for the crisis on Republican Gov. Rick Snyder has hindered the chances of a GOP-run Congress sending more federal aid.

"When you sit there and keep saying ... it's all the governor's fault, really a person who's a member of Congress from Oregon is saying, 'Well, why are we giving them money if it's all the governor's fault? Can't Michigan do it then?'" said Miller, R-Harrison Township. "It sure makes it more difficult for people like me on the Republican side who want to assist."

Miller said the federal government has to share in the cost of recovery in Flint because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "is culpable" for knowing for months last year that Flint's water was going untreated with chemicals that guard against lead leaching from old pipes.

U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint Township, said Republicans are quick to denounce the EPA and its leadership, but unwilling to pay for the agency's mistakes.

"While they say this happened with some federal responsibility, when it comes to actually paying for the problem, they pull sort of a political jiu jitsu and go back to it being a state-created problem," Kildee told The Detroit News. "That, to me, is duplicitous and not acceptable."

The division reflects the difficulty any Flint aid package will have getting through Congress.

"As tragic as it is, as important as it is, we here in Michigan see it most clearly. Others might not," said Dave Dulio, chairman of Oakland University's political science department.

"A lot of people probably think it's pork, and they don't want to be seen as adding to the deficit or providing a huge giveaway to the state of Michigan."

The U.S. Senate could vote as early as next week on a \$220 million package inspired by Flint's water crisis that includes low-cost loans for Flint to pay for lead pipe removal. It cleared a Senate committee last week in a 19-1 vote.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved legislation that includes a \$100 million subsidized loan program for lead pipe replacement and fixing damaged water mainlines. The drinking water revolving fund loans could be converted into a forgivable loan.

Michigan's Democratic U.S. Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow have been promoting the legislation, while arguing state government is most at fault because Flint did not properly treat river water under the watch of a Snyder-appointed emergency manager and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

"But that should not preclude the federal government from lending a helpful hand, and that's what this legislation does," Peters said in a Tuesday interview.

The Senate could vote as early as next week on the \$9.4 billion Water Resources Development Act, which includes 25 Army Corps of Engineer harbor and port projects as well as money for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The bill's other Flint-related components include \$70 million to finance \$700 million in secured low-interest loans for water infrastructure anywhere in the country as well as \$50 million for national health programs dealing with children's lead poisoning.

"This is not just about Flint," said Peters, D-Bloomfield Township. "It's about water infrastructure, nationally. It's about public health and the significant negative impact of lead on the people's health and well-being in communities across the country."

Stabenow and Peters pursued the water infrastructure legislation after U.S. Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, blocked their attempt to get aid for Flint attached to an energy bill.

If the legislation clears the Senate, it faces a potentially tougher sell in the more conservative House.

The 36-member Freedom Caucus has been pushing House Speaker Paul Ryan for spending cuts beyond the compromise federal budget agreement that Ryan's predecessor John Boehner struck with Obama before retiring in late October.

Among the Freedom Caucus Republicans is Rep. Justin Amash, the west Michigan lawmaker who has criticized the state's role in the Flint crisis. Amash, a member of the U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that has held three hearings on Flint, argues state government should tap a nearly \$600 million reserve fund to pay for Flint's needs.

Amash was the only one of the state's nine House Republicans who did not back a bill introduced last month by U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar of Midland that would make \$30 million available to crisis-stricken Flint and another \$40 million to rural communities for water infrastructure improvements.

The slow pace of congressional action and dwindling amount of potential aid reflects the divisions in Washington, Dulio said.

"This is mainly about how much other members are motivated to want to do something about it," he said.

Obama has vowed to support Flint. He was last in Michigan on Jan. 20 to tour the North American International Auto Show, four days after declaring a federal emergency in Flint but denying Snyder's request for a disaster zone designation.

The Obama administration contends Flint's man-made environmental and public health calamity does not qualify for disaster assistance given to cities and towns devastated by a hurricane, tornado or flood.

"We will have the backs of Flint's people," Obama vowed during a speech.

Because of the limited emergency designation, which expires Aug. 14, the federal government has sent \$5 million in direct cash assistance for Flint. It has helped pay for 9 million liters of bottled water and 50,000 water filters, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday.

By comparison, the state Legislature has spent \$67 million to date in state tax dollars and is working on another Flint aid bill containing \$100 million in state funds for this fiscal year.

Other assistance has flowed to Flint from Washington, including emergency management personnel, expanded capacity at Head Start preschools, additional food assistance and more community health care services through \$3.6 million in one-time funding, according to the White House.

"The EPA has surged resources to significantly expand water testing and offer technical advice as needed," Earnest told White House reporters Tuesday during his daily briefing.

On Monday, the state will begin enrolling up to 15,000 additional Flint residents in Medicaid in an effort to identify more residents suffering from the effects of lead poisoning.

The federal government, which approved the expanded Medicaid program two months ago, is covering \$20.8 million of the cost, while the state has to contribute \$4.4 million in matching funds.

But the bigger question is who will pay for replacing Flint's damaged underground water pipes, most on private property.

Peters hopes Obama's visit to Flint will highlight for members of Congress "that this crisis has not gone away."

"It's very much still alive," Peters said. "People are still drinking from bottled water, still have filters (and) still don't

have confidence that the water coming out of the tap is clean and not a threat and to their families.”

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President's visit

President Barack Obama is be greeted at Flint Bishop International Airport late Wednesday morning by Gov. Rick Snyder and others. Snyder and Flint Mayor Karen Weaver will participate in a briefing with Obama at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. The president also may meet with the governor and mayor outside of the briefing. Obama will take part in a roundtable discussion with residents to hear their firsthand accounts about the impact of the crisis. He also will meet Mariyanna Copeny, the 9-year-old girl who wrote the president a letter asking to meet him and visit her hometown. He finishes his visit with a 4 p.m. speech at Northwestern High School. In mid-January, Obama declared a federal emergency that was subsequently extended and ends Aug. 14.

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U.S. Racism, Class Discrimination To Blame For Flint Water Scandal: U.N.

By David R. Sands

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

The United Nations is weighing whether to insert itself in the probe into contaminated drinking water for residents of Flint, Michigan, after a trio of U.N. human rights experts in Switzerland said that racism and class discrimination may have played a key role in the scandal.

The U.N. human rights office in Geneva called on authorities to draw up a “human rights complaint strategy” to address the crisis, a day ahead of a planned visit by President Obama to the Michigan city to talk with residents and local officials.

Experts in the U.N. office say the human rights complaint could be lodged in order to ensure that other U.S. municipalities don't make the same mistakes that local, state and federal officials made in handling Flint's water supply needs, which has left residents dealing with the health impact of lead-contaminated water.

“Decisions would never have been made in the high-handed and cavalier manner that occurred in Flint if the affected population group was well-off or overwhelmingly white,” Philip Alston, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, said in a statement Tuesday.

“Elected officials would have been much more careful, there would have been a timely response to complaints rather than summary dismissals of concerns, and official accountability would have been insisted upon much sooner,” he added.

“The fact that Flint residents have not had regular access to safe drinking water and sanitation since April 2014

is a potential violation of their human rights,” warned Leo Heller, the office's top expert on the right to save drinking water. “Serious problems reported on water quality, particularly high concentrations of lead, are also concerning human rights issues.”

Lawsuit Challenges Senate Inaction On Garland

By Josh Gerstein

[Politico](#), May 3, 2016

A citizen gadfly in Maryland has filed a federal lawsuit challenging Senate leaders' decision not to act on President Barack Obama's nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court.

Liberal activist Brett Kimberlin filed the suit against Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley late last month in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt.

“Defendants have waived their right to advice and consent by (a) stating publicly and on the Senate floor that they refuse to advise and consent on the nomination of Merrick Garland, (2) putting pressure on other Republicans not to advise and consent, and (3) refusing to advise and consent,” the suit asserts. “Plaintiff is entitled to a declaratory judgment against Defendants stating that they have waived their right to advise and consent.”

The suit seems to be a longshot, in part because courts are often reluctant to wade into disputes between Congress and the White House and in part because there is debate about whether the Constitution really does obligate the Senate to act on Obama's nominee or whether the Republicans' current refusal to act is one of the responses the Constitution contemplates.

Spokespeople for Garland and Grassley did not respond to requests for comment on the case.

The White House declined to comment, but White House Counsel Neil Eggleston has publicly endorsed one of the central contentions of the new suit: that the Senate is required by the Constitution to respond to Obama's nomination of Garland.

“It's our view that the Constitution is worded in a way, I think, that makes it mandatory,” Eggleston said at a POLITICO Playbook Breakfast last month. “I know the Republicans say it's not mandatory and they can do whatever they want. But it says the president shall nominate and with the advice and consent of the Senate shall appoint...I read that as saying he nominates and they have an obligation to give their advice and consent.”

“We think the Constitution obligates them to provide advice and consent as the language says,” Eggleston added.

Asked if the Constitution similarly requires that Obama make nominations for judicial vacancies—some of which

have been open for years without nominees—the White House counsel said it does.

“He’s continuing to exercise his Constitutional obligation to nominate people....The president does have an obligation, I think, to nominate,” Eggleston said. He said Obama was moving forward with nominations for some of the longstanding vacancies even when the White House had been unable to obtain the customary consent of home-state senators.

Regardless of what the Constitution may require, it’s far from clear whether a court can remedy any failure on either side. Even if it could, a citizen lawsuit may not be the way to do it.

The suit filed last month raises obvious questions about Kimberlin’s standing: whether he has a personal stake in the membership of the Supreme Court sufficient to pursue a lawsuit. Kimberlin says he has three other federal suits pending and “has a right to have his cases considered by the full nine Justice Supreme Court.” That may not be enough of a personal interest to allow the case to proceed.

Kimberlin also has a checkered and politically colorful background. In the 1980s, he was sentenced to more than 50 years in prison for a string of bombings and other crimes. He achieved national notoriety while in federal prison in 1988 after he alleged he had sold marijuana to Vice Presidential candidate Dan Quayle. Reagan administration officials cut off media access to Kimberlin, fueling suspicion about a cover-up.

Kimberlin was paroled in the 1990s. He now runs a non-profit group called Justice Through Music, the suit says.

The new suit has been assigned to Judge George Hazel, an appointee of President Barack Obama.

New Fed Bailout-Prevention Rule To Reach Beyond Banks

Regulation would change financial contracts of the type that destabilized financial markets after the 2008 collapse of Lehman

By Ryan Tracy And Katy Burne

[Wall Street Journal](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Workers Are Getting A Bit More Of The Economic Pie (and Shareholders Less)

By Neil Irwin

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

American workers are reaping fewer of the gains of a growing economy in the form of pay and benefits. Shareholders are reaping more in the form of corporate profits. That shift has been one of the most important economic stories of the last several decades, and it is the key

to understanding stagnant wages for middle-class workers and a soaring stock market in the last quarter-century.

Here is what is less widely understood: That trend appears to be reversing itself.

It is early and the reversal may not last. And it certainly hasn’t fully undone the shift underway since the 1980s. But the numbers are quite clear that in the last couple of years workers have claimed a bigger piece of the economic pie and shareholders a smaller one.

The evidence available so far in 2016 — steady growth in wages and weak earnings for publicly traded companies — suggests that the reversal is continuing this year.

At the start of 2013, for example, 61 percent of national income went to pay and benefits for workers. But by the end of 2015, that had risen to 62.6 percent. (That said, in the early 1990s, that figure was around 66 percent.)

If the proportion of national income going to workers in early 2013 had stayed constant, there would now be \$251 billion a year less flowing into Americans’ paychecks than is the case. That is about \$1,900 a year per household.

At the same time, corporate profits’ share of national income has fallen, from 14.2 percent in the middle of 2014 to 12.1 percent by the end of 2015. That translates to \$328 billion less in annual corporate profits than there would be if the earlier proportion had held.

You can pick different numerators and denominators to get at the same concept — using just wages and salaries instead of total compensation, for example, or dividing by gross domestic product instead of the related concept of national income — but the same basic pattern reveals itself.

And there is plenty of other anecdotal information and data consistent with the shift. Among the companies in the Standard & Poor’s 500, first-quarter earnings are on track to be 7.6 percent lower than a year earlier. Weak earnings growth, and lately an outright contraction in corporate profits, are a culprit in a stock market that has largely moved sideways for more than two years.

A big part of the story is a steep decline in the profitability of the energy sector, reflecting a much lower price of oil and natural gas. Total corporate profits were \$64 billion lower in 2015 than in 2014. A fall in the profitability of the petroleum and coal products sector accounted for \$40 billion of that.

There may be something broader going on that is holding back corporate profits beyond simply cheap oil. You might expect that the hit to profits in the energy sector caused by cheaper fuel would be counterbalanced by higher profits in sectors that use fuel, like airlines and trucking firms.

That is where the other side of the equation — higher worker compensation — comes into play. Part of the reason corporate profits are falling appears to be that companies are having to pay their employees more.

Hiring has been quite strong over three years, with millions of Americans getting jobs. That has pushed the unemployment rate steadily downward, to about 5 percent. Very gradually, a labor market that was very much tilted in favor of employers is tilting the other way.

That means companies are having to work harder to attract good employees. They do that by paying higher wages and salaries (up 10 percent in 2015 compared with 2013) and more generous benefits package (up 6 percent over the two-year period).

It is worth noting that this doesn't necessarily mean that pay is rising by that much for the typical worker. After all, the pay for chief executives and other highly paid people counts in those compensation numbers.

Still, paired with other evidence, it doesn't look as if this is solely a phenomenon of the highest-paid workers making more. For example, average hourly earnings for nonmanagerial private sector workers rose 2.56 percent in 2015 in a year of very low inflation. That number was only 1.69 percent in 2012, when inflation was higher.

It is hard to say definitively what has driven these trends, but here's a try:

The shift of national income toward shareholders and away from workers since the 1980s was driven in part by a decline in union power and a rise in shareholder-driven capitalism that made managers more ruthless than their predecessors in seeking to minimize salary expense. (That includes refusing to give raises and laying off employees.)

That long-term trend, along with a cyclical downturn amid the 2008 recession and its aftermath, left workers with very little bargaining power and shareholders with the upper hand.

In the last two or three years, as the economy has firmed up, workers have regained some of that bargaining power they lost in the recession. But they have not, not at this point at least, gained the power they lost over the last three decades.

In the meantime, workers celebrate getting a little bit bigger piece of the economic pie, and shareholders bemoan their smaller piece.

It would be better if the pie were bigger to begin with. If overall national income were rising rapidly (it decidedly isn't), there would be room for both workers and shareholders to be fat and happy. One of the great questions for the economic future is what it would take to make that happen.

White House Tells Federal Agencies: Start Preparing For A New President

By Lisa Rein

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

The federal budget, more than most responsibilities of a president, is a statement of an administration's priorities for

governing. And being so far-reaching and complex, a budget takes a long time to craft and get approved by Congress.

With this in mind and an emphasis on easing the transfer of power to the next president, the Obama administration told federal agencies last week that rather than begin the work of drawing up new policy proposals they should instead soon focus on assembling the basic budget information the new president will need to help assemble their agenda early next year.

"At this time, you should proceed with your internal review procedures to prepare information to help the next administration quickly produce its budget," Shaun Donovan, director of the Office of Management and Budget, wrote April 29 in a memo to heads of departments and agencies.

The memo underscores the priority the administration is putting on transition planning, which history shows has not always gone smoothly once the campaigning is over.

Planning for the upcoming handover is starting earlier and involving more formal sharing with both major-party nominees, thanks to a new law that allows more time for the Obama administration to pull together the expertise and experience it wants to share, along with more government resources than ever for the candidates once they are official nominees.

The arcane budget process is a good Exhibit A.

Agency officials usually start assembling their wish lists for a new spending plan in September and they are then submitted to the White House budget office as part of a review process to determine what ultimately makes it into the president's annual budget proposal. But last week Donovan instructed agencies, as first reported by Government Executive, to instead work on putting together a list of the costs to continue existing programs so that the new administration can quickly get to work on the new president's policy proposals.

Donovan writes in the memo:

"You should also work with your OMB representatives to identify key programmatic and budget issues that may require attention from the incoming administration. For example, this may include areas in which the implementation of program changes due to legislation or policy is in process and may require a decision on continuation; areas in which future funding needs may be significantly different than a standard current services baseline; or issues with significant budgetary implications that could require decisions early in the next administration."

The new transition rules also require the administration to establish a council of White House staff and agency representatives to aid in the transfer of power no later than six months before the November election.

Sanders: Clinton Team Thinks Race 'Is Over. They're Wrong'

By Ken Thomas

[Associated Press](#), May 3, 2016

WASHINGTON (AP) – Bernie Sanders said Tuesday that his primary bid against Hillary Clinton was far from over, pointing to his victory in Indiana and strength in upcoming races as a sign of his durability in the presidential campaign.

"I know that the Clinton campaign thinks this campaign is over. They're wrong," Sanders said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from New Albany, Indiana. "Maybe it's over for the insiders and the party establishment but the voters today in Indiana had a different idea."

Sanders spoke to the AP after he defeated Clinton in Indiana's primary, predicting that he would achieve "more victories in the weeks to come" in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oregon and California. The Vermont senator acknowledged that he faced an "uphill climb" to the Democratic nomination but said he was "in this campaign to win and we are going to fight until the last vote is cast."

Sanders' win in Indiana likely won't make much of a dent in Clinton's lead of more than 300 pledged delegates. Clinton is still more than 90 percent of the way to clinching the Democratic nomination when the count includes superdelegates, the elected officials and party leaders who are free to support the candidate of their choice.

Sanders said in the interview that he would be the best-positioned Democrat to take on Republican Donald Trump, who is now the likely Republican nominee after Texas Sen. Ted Cruz dropped out of the race. "There is nothing more I would like than to take on and defeat Donald Trump, someone who must never become president of this country."

Sanders said he had no intention to drop out of the race and rejected the notion that his criticism of Clinton's record on issues like trade, campaign finance and the Iraq war would help Trump.

"There is nothing that I have said about Secretary Clinton that the Republicans are not more than aware of. They must have dozens and dozens of opposition researchers," Sanders said. "They will go into areas that I have chosen not to go into. They will be talking about emails. They will be talking about the Clinton foundation."

Sanders said he wants to debate Clinton in California later this month, noting that both campaigns had reached an agreement in principle to hold the forum in the nation's largest state.

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Sanders' Indiana Primary Win Slows Clinton's March To Nomination

By John McCormick

[Bloomberg Politics](#), May 4, 2016

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders won an upset victory in Indiana's Democratic presidential primary on Tuesday, slowing Hillary Clinton's progress to the nomination and giving his campaign a much-needed boost as the campaign enters its final stage.

Based on vote counts and exit polls, Sanders was projected the winner by multiple television networks. In the Republican primary, Donald Trump emerged as the party's all but certain nominee with a decisive victory that forced his main challenger, Texas Senator Ted Cruz, out of the race.

Clinton, the former secretary of state, narrowly led in the most recent polling in the state, although her campaign had worked to lower expectations for a win ahead of the results. Still, the margin of Sanders' victory came as a blow at a time when she is trying to focus on the general election. With two-thirds of precincts reporting, Sanders had 53 percent to Clinton's 47 percent.

The victory will do little to diminish Clinton's nearly insurmountable delegate lead. Ahead of the Indiana results, she had more than 90 percent of the 2,383 delegates and superdelegates needed to win the nomination, according to an Associated Press tally. Sanders had 1,357, or about 57 percent.

Indiana will award 92 Democratic delegates, with their distribution determined by the vote statewide and in each of nine congressional districts.

Sanders has given no indication that he'll drop out of the race before the final Democratic primaries in June. His continued presence creates a delicate balancing act for Clinton, who needs to be careful not to be dismissive of him and his supporters while also trying to pivot to the general election.

Clinton was already making that pivot on Tuesday, campaigning in the traditional general election battleground state of Ohio. She also made campaign stops this week in West Virginia and Kentucky, which hold primaries on May 10 and May 17.

Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders Hope To Score Indiana Primary Win

By Chelsea Schneider, And Brian Eason

[Indianapolis Star](#), May 3, 2016

Bernie Sanders was projected to win Indiana's primary, narrowly defeating Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton in an election dynamic defined by the loss of manufacturing jobs in the state.

In Indiana, Sanders faced a critical challenge where he needed to muster enough Hoosier support to justify continuing his campaign through to the Democratic National Convention as he's promised supporters.

But while Sanders appeared to best Clinton, her wide delegate lead indicates she's still the favorite to win the Democratic nomination, and even Sanders has begun to scale back his campaign.

CNN projected a Sanders win shortly after 9 p.m. Election results show Sanders leading Clinton with 53 percent to nearly 47 percent, according to the Associated Press. That's with 3,705 of the state's more than 5,300 precincts reporting.

Sanders narrowly defeating Clinton doesn't come as a surprise. Most polls in the run-up to the race showed the Democratic front-runner carrying only a slight lead, and he ran television ads in the state where Clinton did not. It's a boost for the candidate whose signature message is calling for a "political revolution."

In the wake of Carrier and an affiliate's plans to lay off 2,100 workers to move operations to Mexico, Sanders struck a nerve. He lobbed criticism at free trade agreements that he argued forced manufacturing jobs to leave the United States, while calling for a \$15 minimum wage and a Medicare-for-all public health care system.

His criticism elevated what some feel is a weakness for Clinton, her husband signing the North American Free Trade Agreement that many blue-collar workers blame for the decline of American manufacturing. Indiana shed nearly a fourth of the 672,200 manufacturing jobs it had at its peak in 1999, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. As of March, 515,900 Hoosiers were employed in manufacturing.

Sanders earned endorsements from key steelworker unions. And to cement that support, he came to the Indiana Statehouse to rally with union workers against Carrier's plans.

"They have no shame," Sanders said at the Friday rally. "... Stop the greed. Stop destroying the middle class in America."

Indiana seemed well-suited for Sanders, said Kyle Kondik, managing editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball at the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

"It is an open primary state, and Sanders has done better in states that have greater numbers of self-identified independents," Kondik told IndyStar. "While Indiana does have a sizeable African-American vote, which has been friendly to Clinton, it's not a very diverse electorate. That's also been helpful to Sanders."

Even with the win, Sanders has shown signs of shifting the purpose of his campaign. He's remained publicly

committed to staying in the race through the June 7 California primary that with its high delegate count he considers a "major prize." Short of landslide victories in the remaining states, Sanders can't overcome Clinton's lead. And in speaking to thousands of supporters in Bloomington last week, his message began evolving to more focus on the lasting impact he could make on the party's platform.

Indianapolis City-County Council Vice President Zach Adamson, a Sanders supporter, said that this election is bigger than Sanders – it's a movement of ideas, and he hopes Sanders stays in the race through the convention even as victory looks more and more unlikely.

"Once it becomes clear that you're not going to be the nominee, it becomes even more important that what survives is the mission," said Adamson, a Democrat.

Adamson said Sanders has already pushed Clinton to the left on a number of issues as the campaign has gone on: "You can't call this a failed campaign if for only that reason."

Councilman Jared Evans, another Sanders supporter, was drawn to the candidate because he has pushed for systemic change in how Americans elect their leaders, beginning with an overhaul of how campaigns are financed and the role that party elites play in the nominating process.

"We are trying to get out of this system of Clintons and Bushes and people who were crowned the nominee from the very beginning," said Evans, a moderate Democrat who himself was elected despite the opposition of local party leaders. "It's exactly that type of setup that's given way to voter fatigue."

For Clinton, Indiana's primary didn't carry as high of stakes, and she'll still leave the Hoosier state picking up delegates. She focused her time in the state touring two manufacturing plants in northern Indiana and holding a single rally in Indianapolis.

At those events, she called for a "manufacturing renaissance."

"Indiana has so much potential for the future and I want it to be part of the kind of positive, confident future I'm offering in this election," Clinton told IndyStar on Sunday.

Beyond manufacturing, Clinton focused on what she described as an "assault" on rights that has played out across the country and in Indiana. Clinton said she would stand up for marriage equality, women's reproductive health rights and workers' rights to organize.

She criticized Republican Gov. Mike Pence and the Republican-controlled Indiana General Assembly for enacting stricter abortion restrictions this past legislative session. She also decried the state's passage of a "right to work" law that opponents say undercuts labor unions.

In aiming for a replay of her 2008 primary win in Indiana against Barack Obama, Clinton enjoyed the support of many of the Democratic leaders in the state.

"She wants to work to create better jobs, more opportunity so that a Carrier doesn't happen again," said U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly, who joined Clinton supporters at an election night party Tuesday.

Political observers say Clinton needs to focus on growing support among young voters who went heavily for Sanders.

In Indiana, 92 Democratic delegates were at stake. The majority are divvied out proportional to the vote in the state's congressional districts, with the remaining proportional to the statewide outcome. Nine are considered superdelegates and free to support who they want.

Before Indiana, Clinton's delegate count, including unpledged superdelegates, was at 2,165 and Sanders was at 1,357, according to the Associated Press. A candidate needs 2,383 delegate votes to win the Democratic nomination.

Call IndyStar reporter Chelsea Schneider at (317) 444-6077. Follow her on Twitter: @IndyStarChelsea.

IndyStar reporter Amy Bartner contributed to this story.

Read or Share this story: <http://indy.st/1TJWPYu>

Sanders Wins Indiana, Keeping His Movement Alive

By Evan Halper And Kate Linthicum

[Los Angeles Times](#), May 3, 2016

Sen. Bernie Sanders remains on track to lose the Democratic nomination race, but he nonetheless managed to keep his agenda at the center of it with a victory in Indiana over the front-runner, Hillary Clinton.

The lone state that voted Tuesday was a test of the continued potency of Sanders' fight as the Vermonter sought to maintain his political revolution as a force with which Clinton will need to wrestle.

The win in Indiana will help with that effort.

"I sense a great deal of momentum," Sanders told reporters in Indiana after the results were in.

"We understand – and I do not deny it for one second – that we have an uphill battle in front of us," he said. But there is a "path to victory, although it is a narrow path."

Nonetheless, because the Democrats distribute delegates proportionately according to each candidate's vote totals, the primary results will have little impact on the actual race.

The two candidates will split Indiana's 83 pledged delegates roughly in half. That result benefits Clinton, who is closing in on a delegate majority.

Clinton's campaign clearly signaled its lack of concern about the outcome here, spending no money at all on television advertising, in contrast with the roughly \$1.5 million that Sanders spent.

Clinton has built a lead of roughly 300 pledged delegates over Sanders. Combined with the super-delegates

who have vowed to support her at the party's nominating convention in Philadelphia in July, the front-runner has already secured 90% of what she needs to lock up the nomination.

Sanders needs overwhelming victories in the remaining primaries to overtake the former secretary of State.

Those daunting odds, however, did not worry some Sanders voters as they lined up to cast ballots for him here.

Harry Pai, a 50-year-old in Noblesville, a suburb northeast of Indianapolis, works as a caregiver to his elderly parents. He said he voted for Sanders even though he doesn't think the Vermont senator can win.

"I need to see more progressive views from Hillary Clinton," he said.

Pai said Sanders should be in no hurry to exit the Democratic primary. "He's OK to stay in the race, so long as he doesn't get too antagonistic," he said.

On the north side of Indianapolis, Kathy Dickerson said she, too, was not ready to give up on Sanders. The 59-year-old waitress has a younger child suffering from a chronic and costly illness and older children hamstrung by student debt. The healthcare system and free public colleges Sanders envisions are a big draw for her.

"Seeing a woman in office would be great," she said. "But Bernie would represent the working class better than anybody else."

However, Dickerson also said that at some point, the two candidates need to overcome their differences.

"I think it's getting down to the wire, and they need to join forces," she said of Sanders and Clinton. "I'm terrified of Donald Trump."

The exit poll showed Sanders continuing to enjoy strong support from younger voters and also revealed that in Indiana, as in other states, the overwhelming majority of Democratic voters felt the spirited primary campaign had energized their party.

About half of those polled wanted a continuation of President Obama's policies, while roughly a third wanted a more liberal agenda in the White House.

The demographics of the Indiana electorate, which is heavily white, were particularly favorable to Sanders, who does best in states with smaller minority populations. The rules in Indiana, a state where independents can vote in Democratic primaries, also helped the insurgent candidate.

Sanders also benefited from his arguments against U.S. trade agreements; the state's workforce has been hit hard by the offshoring of manufacturing jobs.

Despite a string of setbacks in recent weeks, Sanders kept up the unrelenting pace here that has defined his run. He campaigned vigorously throughout the state, speaking at the kind of large rallies at college towns that initially sparked his movement and set in motion the fundraising machine that until recently had been outperforming Clinton's.

He vowed to continue racking up delegates and to use them to push the Democratic Party in a more progressive direction, regardless of whether he is the nominee.

"We are going to create an economy that works for all of us, not just the 1%," Sanders said at a campaign rally in Louisville, Ky., Tuesday night.

Clinton has largely ignored Sanders in the past week while turning her attention to Trump, the Republican front-runner. She was not even in Indiana on election day, nor was she there the day before.

"I'm really focused on moving into the general election," Clinton said Tuesday on MSNBC, while campaigning in West Virginia. "I think that's where we have to be, because we're going to have a tough campaign against a candidate who will literally say or do anything. And we're going to take him on at every turn on what's really important to the people of our country."

She also campaigned in Ohio, a state crucial to the general election, before returning to her home in Chappaqua, N.Y., for the night.

After crushing Sanders in New York last month and then scoring victories in four of the five Eastern states that voted the week after – including Pennsylvania and Maryland – the Clinton campaign declared the Democratic primary all but over and shifted its focus toward road-testing strategies for battling Trump.

Those included rolling out an official "Woman's Card" in response to Trump's remark that "the only thing she's got going is the woman's card" and that Clinton would not even garner 5% of the vote if she were male.

Clinton's strategy has been to avoid getting drawn onto Trump's turf of personal insults. Her campaign's carefully crafted response was met with enthusiasm by donors. The "Woman Card" online fundraising effort was Clinton's most successful yet.

Sanders, meanwhile, is looking to regain his footing and, at the very least, mount an aggressive fight at the party's national convention to seek reforms in the primary system and to insert into the party platform his signature agenda of free public university tuition, government run healthcare for all and a \$15 federal minimum wage.

In recent days, Sander's fundraising, while still impressive, has plummeted. His campaign laid off more than 200 workers late last month. The senator has sought to boost morale of supporters – and keep the donor dollars flowing – by outlining an improbable road map for victory that would involve a contested national convention, something more commonly associated with this year's chaotic GOP primary.

Even under such a scenario, which assumes a mass defection of superdelegates away from Clinton, the math would still work in Clinton's favor. Sanders would need to beat Clinton in California and each of the other remaining

states by some 30 points to overtake her lead in pledged delegates at this point.

Even as the two candidates continue jousting, fear of Trump is pulling many of their supporters together. Worry about the likely Republican nominee was partly what propelled Indianapolis mechanic Joel Dent to cast a ballot for Clinton on Tuesday.

Dent, 33, initially thought about voting for Sanders, but decided not to after he saw Trump employing a Sanders critique of Clinton that she was "unqualified."

"He lost me when he started turning real ugly," Dent said of Sanders. "He's basically giving ammo to Donald Trump."

Dent said he thinks it's fine for Sanders to continue to campaign until the Democratic convention and try to influence the party platform, but only if he softens his critiques of Clinton and stops indicating that he has a path to victory in his fundraising emails, something Dent believes is dishonest.

"He needs to stop attacking Hillary and focus on the issues that are important for him. He cannot keep running in such a divisive manner," Dent said.

"To me, it's over, and I'm just ready to have everybody on the Democratic side come together."

But his wife, Karhma, 41, disagreed. A stay-at-home mom, she cast her ballot for Sanders. While she said she would certainly support Clinton against a Republican in November, she said she wants Sanders to fight to the end.

"He's like a real person," she said. "I like everything he stands for."

Halper reported from Washington and Linthicum reported from Indianapolis. Staff writer Melanie Mason in Noblesville, Ind., contributed to this report.

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This story was updated with quotes from Sanders' news conference.

This story was updated with Sanders' projected victory and other information.

Surprise Indiana Win Vaults Bernie Sanders Toward Convention

By Ben Wolfgang

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

Sen. Bernard Sanders captured a surprise win in the Indiana primary Tuesday, giving his campaign more fuel to fight until the Democratic National Convention in July and frustrating Hillary Clinton, who desperately wants to shift into general election mode.

Networks called the race by 9:10 p.m. EDT, just over two hours after the Indiana polls closed. With 84 percent of the vote counted at 10 p.m., Mr. Sanders had 53 percent compared with 47 percent for Mrs. Clinton.

The Indiana win ends an impressive string of victories for Mrs. Clinton, who captured six of the past seven contests heading into Tuesday. The Sanders victory also prolongs a race that the former first lady is eager to put behind her as she turns her attention to presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

Despite having little realistic path to his party's nomination, Mr. Sanders appears intent on remaining in the race to continue pushing Mrs. Clinton further left on issues such as Wall Street reform and income inequality.

Speaking to supporters in Louisville, Kentucky, Mr. Sanders said his message is resonating with key constituencies in the Democratic Party, and that the platform he crafted has struck a chord across the country. He gave no indication that he is taking his foot off the gas pedal anytime soon.

"I'll tell you what is extremely exciting for me, and that is that in primary after primary, caucus after caucus, we end up winning the vote of people 45 years of age or younger, and that is important because it tells me that the ideas we are fighting for are the ideas for the future of America, and the future of the Democratic Party," Mr. Sanders said before blasting income inequality, Wall Street, college debt and other issues that have become central themes in his stump speech.

"In America today, we have millions of people working longer hours, for lower wages," he said. "We have families today where mom is working 40 hours, dad is working 40 hours, the kids are working and they're still not earning enough money to provide for their family. That is why we are going to create an economy that works for all of us, not just the 1 percent."

Despite the outcome in Indiana, the race increasingly looks like Mrs. Clinton's to lose. Heading into Tuesday's primary, she had a substantial lead over Mr. Sanders in the delegate race, 2,165 to 1,357, according to an Associated Press tally.

Among pledged delegates, Mrs. Clinton still leads 1,645 to 1,318. Among superdelegates, she is ahead 520 to 39.

There are 83 pledged delegates at stake in the Indiana primary, and the state also has nine superdelegates, seven of whom have said they will support Mrs. Clinton.

With such a substantial lead, Mrs. Clinton has made clear that she intends to virtually ignore attacks from the Sanders campaign and will instead focus on the general election, where she almost certainly will face Republican Donald Trump.

Mr. Trump's chief competition, Sen. Ted Cruz, dropped out of the Republican race Tuesday night after a crushing defeat in Indiana.

"I'm really focused on moving into the general election," the former first lady told MSNBC on Tuesday. "I think that's where we have to be, because we're going to have a tough campaign against a candidate who will literally say or do

anything. And we're going to take him on at every turn on what's really important to the people of our country."

But Mrs. Clinton already has stumbled in the early phase of her general election campaign.

On Monday, an out-of-work coal miner confronted Mrs. Clinton in West Virginia and questioned her about past statements that more coal miners will be out of work under her administration and that the entire industry would be put "out of business" as she transitions the nation to clean energy.

Mrs. Clinton was touring Appalachia ahead of next week's West Virginia primary and the May 17 contest in Kentucky. The two states remain the heart of the U.S. coal industry, and Mrs. Clinton's comments could carry political consequences in her contests against Mr. Sanders.

At a town hall meeting in West Virginia, she tried to clarify her position.

"I don't know how to explain it other than what I said was totally out of context from what I meant because I have been talking about helping coal country for a very long time, and I did put out a plan last summer," she said. "I didn't mean that we were going to do it. What I said was that is going to happen unless we take action to try to help and prevent it."

Mr. Sanders, meanwhile, has mounted a campaign aimed at persuading superdelegates to change their minds at the party convention in July, saying he has a better shot at defeating Mr. Trump in the fall than does Mrs. Clinton. Indeed, polls show him faring better against the billionaire businessman than his opponent.

The Sanders campaign also continues to attack Mrs. Clinton on a host of issues, some of which could weaken her in a general election by fueling the notion that she is dishonest and untrustworthy.

On Tuesday, for example, Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver told supporters that the Clinton campaign is skirting campaign finance laws and misleading Democratic donors by holding joint fundraisers with other Democratic Party organizations.

The system allows donors to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars into the Hillary Victory Fund, which is supposed to benefit both the Clinton campaign and state Democratic parties.

A Politico investigation this week found that about 99 percent of the \$61 million raised by the Hillary Victory Fund has been used on the Clinton campaign. The Sanders campaign capitalized by circulating a petition calling on Mrs. Clinton to return millions of dollars to the state party organizations.

"It's unfortunate that Hillary Clinton has benefited from tens of millions of dollars in cash transfers and advertising to campaign against us in the primary. But it's not too late for her campaign to do the right thing by the state parties we're

going to need to win elections up and down the ticket this November,” Mr. Weaver said in an email.

Slumping Sanders Aims For Indiana Upset

Polls showed a tight race in the Hoosier State, but Hillary Clinton has already moved on.

By Nick Gass

[Politico](#), May 3, 2016

Hillary Clinton’s campaign hopes to hammer one more nail in the coffin of Bernie Sanders’ presidential bid Tuesday night in Indiana, while the Vermont senator is aiming for a strong performance to bolster his contention that the race will run all the way through late July in Philadelphia.

After dominating the recent slate of Democratic primaries and extending her already daunting lead over Sanders, Clinton made clear again ahead of Tuesday night’s returns that she’s already moved on from the primary campaign and is focusing on Donald Trump in November.

“I think we had a good campaign, we ran hard. But, you know, I’m really focused on moving into the general election,” Clinton said in an interview Tuesday with MSNBC’s “Andrea Mitchell Reports.” “And I think that’s where we have to be, because we’re going to have a tough campaign against a candidate who will literally say or do anything. And we’re going to take him on at every turn on what’s really important to the people of our country.”

With 83 pledged delegates at stake, Indiana looms large as an opportunity for Sanders to pull an upset in a state where Clinton has led narrowly in most recent polls. An NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist survey conducted last week showed her with a 4-point lead.

Sanders and his team, as usual, said the outcome hinges on turnout.

“Well, we certainly could win. If people come out, we will certainly win in Indiana, absolutely,” campaign manager Jeff Weaver told CNN on Tuesday afternoon. “But, you know, it all depends on people coming out. People got to go to the polls.”

Sanders had kept up his criticism of the Democratic nomination process, riffing to crowds across Indiana on Monday about the outsize role superdelegates play and vowing to fight for a contested nomination should Clinton need those superdelegates to put her over the magic number of 2,383 to clinch.

Clinton entered the night with 1,645 pledged delegates to Sanders’ 1,318; among superdelegates, she has a staggering, 520 to 39 advantage.

“I have a whole lot of problems with the nature of superdelegates right now and the power that they have,” Sanders remarked Tuesday morning to MSNBC in Indianapolis, before jetting off to Louisville, Kentucky, to rally supporters later in the evening. “I mean, the truth is, you’ve

got over 700 superdelegates and that is too many, I think. So I think that’s something we have to rethink.”

“But the basic point here is I think given where we are right now, with superdelegates playing a very, very powerful role, although they were not elected by their constituents, I think it is appropriate that those superdelegates sit and think which candidate will be the strongest candidate in defeating Donald Trump, and I think the objective evidence is that I will be,” Sanders said.

Sanders also sounded off on Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who earlier this week said that she would prefer the Democratic nominating process be restricted to members of the party.

“Well, I think Debbie has got it backwards,” Sanders told MSNBC. “More and more people are going outside of the Democratic and Republican parties.”

Sanders has had the look of a man struggling to come to terms with his almost nonexistent chance of wresting the nomination from Clinton.

In the wake of his recent string of losses, in one breath his campaign said it was in reassessment mode, shedding campaign staff and hinting strongly that the end game is to yank the Democratic platform to the left; in the next the candidate was blasting Clinton and talking about a contested convention in Philadelphia, like nothing had changed.

Clinton backers are exasperated by Sanders’ refusal to bow to what they call political reality, but are treating him gently because he’ll be critical to the task of uniting the party for the general election. The frustration is all the more palpable with Trump saying that the Sanders’ harsh criticisms will be a gift to the billionaire in a match-up with Clinton.

Asked on Fox News Sunday to defend his remark that Clinton wouldn’t get 5 percent of the vote if she were a man, Trump responded, “Well, Bernie Sanders said a lot worse than that. He said that she almost shouldn’t be allowed to run, that she’s not qualified to run and she’s not capable. ... You know, what he said is incredible.”

The Clinton campaign has turned its attention away from Indiana in the days immediately preceding the contest, seeking to tamp down expectations in a state where Clinton has led in the polls but only narrowly defeated then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama in the 2008 primary.

While Sanders barnstormed through Fort Wayne, Evansville and Indianapolis on Monday, Clinton set out on a two-day van tour of Appalachia, visiting West Virginia and Kentucky, which will vote on May 10 and May 17, respectively. She also went to Ohio, where she addressed jobs and manufacturing.

During that swing, Clinton faced down criticism in coal country for comments she made in March in which she vowed to “put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business.”

Though Clinton had followed up by saying she would make sure those who lost work would not be forgotten, the former secretary of state was confronted by a man in West Virginia on Monday evening.

"I'm not writing off any part of America, any people in our country, and that includes here in West Virginia, in coal country," she said Tuesday on MSNBC.

Clinton Still On Track For Nomination Despite Indiana Setback

By Jonathan Easley

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

Hillary Clinton is still on track to win the Democratic presidential nomination even after falling short to Bernie Sanders in Indiana on Tuesday.

With 93 percent of precincts reporting, Sanders leads Clinton 53 percent to 47 percent in Indiana.

But because Democrats award delegates proportionately, Sanders will only gain about a half-dozen delegates if that margin holds. The Associated Press shows Sanders with 43 delegates, while Clinton has 37 of the state's 83 delegates.

Clinton will end the night with about 1,688 delegates and 520 superdelegates, bringing her total to 2,208, according to the Associated Press count. A candidate needs 2,383 delegates to win the nomination, leaving Clinton about 175 short.

That means Clinton only needs to win about 19 percent of the 933 delegates up for grabs between now and June 14, when the District of Columbia will close out the Democratic primary season.

Clinton is likely to clinch the nomination a week earlier on June 7, when California and five other states will cast ballots.

Sanders said after Tuesday night's election that he intends to upset Clinton and win the Democratic nomination. He has said he intends to take the fight all the way to a contested convention because Clinton won't be able to win the nomination without the help of super-delegates.

He's right – Clinton would have to win about 75 percent of outstanding pledged delegates to reach 2,383 without the help of any superdelegates.

But Democratic candidates routinely rely on the superdelegates to put the leader over the top. That's how it worked in 2008, when Clinton bowed out of the race before the convention rather than fight for the support of then-Sen. Barack Obama's superdelegates.

Sanders trails Clinton by more than 300 delegates and would have to win about two-thirds of the outstanding pledged delegates to catch Clinton.

That's highly unlikely considering Democrats award their delegates proportionately.

Unless Sanders can pull that off, there will be little reason for super-delegates to abandon Clinton and move to Sanders.

Furthermore, Sanders is 983 delegates shy of the nomination with only 933 pledged delegates still up for grabs.

He would need to win all of the delegates awarded at primaries and caucuses and attract a few dozen superdelegates still on the board to reach 2,383.

Sanders continues to lobby Clinton's superdelegates to move over and support him, but that's a massive feat.

Clinton has a 520 to 39 lead among superdelegates. There are still 153 who have not publicly announced their support for either candidate.

Clinton Looks Ahead, While Sanders Hopes For Symbolic Win In Indiana

By Heidi M Przybyla

[USA Today](#), May 3, 2016

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Hillary Clinton is already looking ahead to the general election, but Bernie Sanders is hoping Tuesday's Indiana primary will give him a symbolic boost heading into a final round of Democratic primary voting in June.

A recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist poll found Clinton leading Sanders by just four points in the Hoosier state, a gap the Sanders campaign hopes to close with high turnout.

Sanders, a Vermont senator, insists his goal remains to win the party's presidential nomination, even if it appears to be mathematically out of reach. He would need to win all future contests by huge margins and convince many superdelegates — party leaders and elected officials free to support either candidate — to switch their votes to him, even in states where Clinton won.

"I'm really focused on moving into the general election ... We're going to have a tough campaign," she said during an interview with MSNBC Tuesday.

In a swing through West Virginia and eastern Ohio, Clinton is campaigning as the presumptive nominee, though she is facing questions about a remark she made during a March town hall on CNN when she said she would "put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business."

She was asked during the MSNBC interview about an encounter she'd had the day before with Bo Copley, a former coal employee who lost his job, who pressed her on the coal comment and the impact the coal industry had on his family.

She said she was "honored" that he'd been "so open and honest, emotionally" in explaining his experience in the coal business.

"I think we've got to move both toward a clean energy future. ... But we also have to remember who turned on the

lights and powered the factories and provided the energy we needed to build our country," she added.

Clinton's aim in the two-day swing through Appalachia is to begin outreach to underserved communities that may be ground zero for Donald Trump's attempts to build a bigger Republican coalition.

West Virginia, which holds its primary in a week, is a solid red state, and is trending more so in recent cycles.

"She knows the politics of West Virginia," said Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., who joined her at a substance abuse forum. "But it didn't stop her from caring" and traveling to the state, he said.

Sanders, meanwhile, is holding events in Kentucky on Tuesday, which holds its Democratic primary on May 17.

Another reason it makes sense for Sanders to continue his uphill battle: Every delegate he acquires strengthens his hand at the Democratic convention in July in Philadelphia.

His priorities are becoming increasingly clear: an emphasis on changing the campaign finance system and the role of superdelegates in the Democratic nominating system. Sanders has already declared victory for pushing Clinton to the left on trade and other issues.

Superdelegates have traditionally cast their votes for the candidate with the most pledged delegates who is leading in the popular vote, helping to put them over the top.

Bernie Sanders greets a voter while having breakfast in Indianapolis on May 3, 2016. (Photo: Joe Raedle, Getty Images)

But Sanders is insisting, including in a Sunday news conference, that superdelegates representing states he won should stand with him, with the aim of forcing a contested convention. He's also sought to appeal to them by citing national polls showing he beats Republican Trump by a wider margin than Clinton does.

The Vermont senator is hunkering down for a fight all the way to the convention, even as his campaign's fundraising juggernaut is showing signs of slowing. Sanders reported \$25.8 million in contributions from April, about \$20 million less than the \$46 million he posted in March.

Clinton has a lead of more than 300 pledged delegates entering Tuesday's contest. She also has the support of an estimated 520 superdelegates, according to the Associated Press, including many who committed before their states cast votes. Sanders has only won the backing of 39 superdelegates.

Clinton will need superdelegates to take her over the top at the convention in Philadelphia, Sanders told reporters Sunday at the National Press Club in Washington.

Bernie Sanders Seeks Indiana Win As Hillary Clinton Looks To November

Even with a win, Vermont senator unlikely to meaningfully reduce front-runner's delegate advantage

By Laura Meckler And Colleen McCain Nelson

[Wall Street Journal](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Independents Are Souring On Hillary Clinton

The Democratic primary race takes its toll on the front-runner's standing

By Rebecca Ballhaus

[Wall Street Journal](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Poll: Sanders Trails Clinton By Double Digits In Calif.

By Harper Neidig

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton leads Bernie Sanders by 10 points in California, according to a Capitol Weekly poll released on Tuesday.

Among likely Democratic voters, Clinton leads with 49 percent support, with Sanders lagging at 39 percent.

The findings roughly mirror RealClearPolitics' average of polls in the state that puts the former secretary of State at 51 percent and Sanders at 41.3.

Tuesday's poll also shows that Sanders remains dominant among independent voters. Voters with no party preference in California favor the Vermont senator by 15 points.

And among newly registered voters, Sanders leads 67 percent to 27 percent, the poll found.

Still, that edge may not be enough to counter Clinton's high favorability ratings among black and Hispanic voters.

The poll surveyed 1,617 people between April 28 and May 1.

California, which has 475 delegates up for grabs, holds its primary on June 7.

Poll: Bernie Up With Independents, But Hillary Still Holds Sway Capitol Weekly

[Capitol \(CA\) Weekly](#), May 3, 2016

It may not be as consequential a contest as we had hoped for a few weeks ago, but California's Democratic presidential primary on June 7 still presents a fascinating case study for political junkies.

Bernie Sanders has been stronger in states like California with "open" primaries — those that allow non-Democrats voters to cast a ballot. California Democrats allow voters not registered with any other political party to vote in their primary.

But the question is this: In what numbers will these non-partisans vote? Can Sanders surf this wave of support to a victory in California?

The answer, according to our data, is probably not.

Click here to see the survey's methodology and results. The survey of 1,617 people was conducted between April 28 and May 1.

While our latest poll of Democratic and No Party Preference (NPP) likely voters shows Sanders leading among the non-Democrats by 15 points, Hillary Clinton leads overall 49% to 39%, holding a 14-point advantage among partisans.

The final result likely will be closer, however, and there is some hope for Sanders, based on the overwhelming support he has received from new registrants since January 1, 2016.

But this group of new registrants is far smaller, only 16% of the number of likely voters. If that entire group were to vote, and favor Sanders by an 80%-to-20% margin, it would almost close the current gap. Our data — admittedly a small sample — shows Sanders leading Clinton in this group by 67%-27%.

That Sanders advantage could be blunted by any higher-than-expected turnout of African-American and Latino voters, where Clinton has a decided advantage.

Unlike the Republican primary, which awards an equal number of delegates to the winner of each Congressional District, the Democrats award their pledged delegates proportionally within each district and the number of delegates is related to the number of Democrats.

This makes California a microcosm for the presidential race to date.

Even where Sanders is strong, Clinton has enough support to keep any victory margin to a single delegate. Meanwhile, in the heavily African-American and Latino districts in Los Angeles County, Clinton is likely to win by larger margins and earn extra delegates.

In Sanders' most notable open primary victories, Michigan and Wisconsin, the non-Democratic segment of the electorate was 28%.

Our results estimate them to be 22% to the Democrats' 78%, the same proportions as in the Field Poll early last month. But that margin is for the primary election overall.

In our survey, one-third of NPP voters said they did not plan to vote in the Democratic presidential primary. The remainder is evenly split between re-registering as Republicans or not casting a presidential vote.

That alone takes the NPP percentage under 20%.

Then there is the additional issue for NPP voters described in depth on this site last week — the half of NPP voters who are Permanent Absentee Voters and must fill out and return a card to their County Clerk requesting the Democratic presidential ballot. As Paul Mitchell pointed out,

the return rate has been anemic thus far. If half of these voters don't end up with a Democratic presidential ballot, the NPP percentage for that election falls to around 15%.

Sanders' outsider persona also is somewhat limited in its appeal in California, as more than four-in-five primary voters say that President Obama has done an "excellent" (39%) or "good" (43%) job. That figure includes 73% of the NPP voters.

But also, Sanders' supporters seem to be losing steam, as one would expect based on the fact that Clinton has maintained a substantial delegate lead for the last two months and has led in every national poll, as well. Three out of every four likely primary voters expect Clinton to win the nomination. And by better than a two-to-one margin, more believe Clinton is a stronger general election candidate (59%) than Sanders (28%).

Perhaps most tellingly, only 36% believe Sanders "should continue to campaign as hard as can to win," while 43% believe he should "tone down his attacks on Clinton so she can start to unify the party," and 22% believe that he "should suspend his campaign, as he really cannot win." This kind of pessimism often has the effect of depressing turnout among the less successful candidate's supporters.

But in an election year that has confounded the convention wisdom more than once, who's to say there isn't one final surprise in store?

Poll: Sanders Leads By 8 Points In West Virginia

By Rebecca Savransky

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders leads front-runner Hillary Clinton in West Virginia's Democratic primary, according to a new Public Policy Polling survey.

Sanders has 45 percent support, with Clinton taking 37 percent. According to the poll, 18 percent of voters are undecided.

Among those who are undecided, Sanders is viewed favorably by 15 percent, and Clinton is viewed favorably by 12 percent.

Clinton is leading among registered Democrats in the state, 43 to 41 percent. Sanders holds a large lead over the front-runner among independents, 56 to 19 percent.

Clinton leads with liberals, but Sanders leads among moderates and conservatives.

In West Virginia, 79 percent of Clinton's voters are firmly committed to her, while 65 percent of Sanders voters are firmly committed to voting for him.

Both Clinton and Sanders lose in general election match-ups in the state. Republican front-runner Donald

Trump leads Clinton 57 to 30 percent and Sanders 56 to 35 percent.

The poll was conducted among 1,201 West Virginia voters from April 29 to May 1. The margin of error is 2.8 percentage points overall. Among the sample of 637 likely Democratic primary voters, the margin of error is 3.9 points.

West Virginia holds its primaries on May 10. The Democratic primary carries 29 pledged delegates.

Should Bernie Leave The Race? New Poll Points To 'Stay'

By Max Lewontin

[Christian Science Monitor](#), May 3, 2016

Despite a slew of pundits pointing to Hillary Clinton's primary victories and suggesting Bernie Sanders should drop out of the Democratic primary, the majority of Democratic voters want Senator Sanders to stay in the race.

Among Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters, 57 percent say Sanders should stay in the race until the convention in Philadelphia, a NBC News/Survey Monkey poll released Tuesday found.

About 25 percent say he should drop out if he is still running behind Mrs. Clinton in the final primary, in Washington, DC, in June, while 16 percent say he should drop out now.

How well do you know Bernie Sanders? Take our quiz.

The numbers may point to a desire among voters to see Sanders continue to influence the race, particularly by nudging Mrs. Clinton, the former secretary of State, farther to the left, Linda Feldmann reports for The Christian Science Monitor.

By staying in the race, Sanders argues he can also keep a variety of progressive positions – such as free public college, breaking up the big banks, free Medicare for all, an end to “disastrous” trade policies, and a \$15 minimum wage – on the table as the race turns toward the general election in November.

“The people in every state in this country should have the right to determine who they want as president and what the agenda of the Democratic Party should be. That’s why we are in this race until the last vote is cast,” he said in a statement last week after losing primaries in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania while winning in Rhode Island.

For Clinton, her own refusal to drop out of the 2008 despite a commanding lead by then-Sen. Barack Obama may also play a role in her decision not to call directly for Sanders to drop out of the race.

She currently has about 300 more pledged delegates than Sanders, more than the nearly 160 delegate lead Obama had following the 2008 North Carolina primary, Mother Jones reports.

But Sanders's substantial fundraising may give him an advantage in continuing to push for his own agenda. He had \$17 million on hand at the end of March, while Clinton left the 2008 race \$22.5 million in debt.

In recent weeks, the Clinton campaign has cast her 2008 decision with a rosy glow. “I think she set a gold standard for how people who don’t end up with the nomination, who lose in that effort, should come together and help the party,” said her communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, on the night of Clinton’s New York primary win.

But in May 2008, a month before she bowed out of the race, a series of racially-tinged comments Clinton made against Obama also drew notice.

A recent poll, she told USA Today at the time, “found how Senator Obama’s support among working, hard-working Americans, white Americans, is weakening again, and how whites in both states who had not completed college were supporting me.”

“There’s a pattern emerging here,” she added. “These are the people you have to win if you’re a Democrat in sufficient numbers to actually win the election.”

Among supporters, the race also got nastier, with Clinton supporter Paul Begala saying that the party couldn’t win with only “eggheads and African Americans.”

Now, some have argued, Sanders should take the high road. “Sanders needs to cease his negative campaign attacks, because at this point, they are only undermining the already low-level of Democratic Party enthusiasm,” wrote Lara M. Brown, an associate professor in the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University, in a New York Times op-ed.

“His challenge is also likely making more independent voters less enthusiastic about participating at all in the general election,” she added. “She needs the next three months. Sanders should give them to her.”

But the poll points to a different conclusion, even among Clinton supporters. While 40 percent of her supporters say Sanders should drop out after the final primaries and 30 percent say he should drop out now, 28 percent argue he should stay in the race through the convention.

Among Sanders supporters, 89 percent say he should stay in the race, while 10 percent say he should drop out after the final primaries.

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Poll: Majority Of Democrats Want Sanders To Stay In The Race Through Convention

[MSNBC](#), May 3, 2016

After Hillary Clinton's significant primary wins last week in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Connecticut, the

Democratic front-runner is now up 14 points nationally over Bernie Sanders—the widest margin of support since early March. As the campaign moves into the final month of contests this week, Clinton's campaign is slowly shifting focus away from beating Sanders to beating the Republican nominee in the general election in November.

Though the Clinton campaign and many in the party elite may be ready for a Sanders exit, a majority of Democrats and Democratic-leaningers would like to see Sanders stay in the race through the Democratic convention in July. These results are according to the latest from the NBC News|SurveyMonkey Weekly Election Tracking Poll conducted online from April 25 through May 1 of 14,640 adults including 12,462 registered voters.

The question for Clinton becomes whether she will be able to effectively win over Sanders' supporters in the coming months. This will largely depend on when—or if—Sanders decides to leave the primary race. While it's highly improbable that Sanders can catch up to Clinton's delegate lead, he is hoping to win a majority of pledged delegates and to persuade more superdelegates in the coming weeks as a last ditch effort to keep the race competitive.

A 57 percent majority of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters agree that Sanders should stay in the race through the convention in July. A quarter think he should drop out in June if he still running behind after the final primary contest, and only 16 percent think he should drop out of the race now.

Unsurprisingly, 89 percent of Sanders' supporters say they would like to see Sanders stay in the race through the Democratic convention in July. Another 10 percent say he should drop out in June if he still running behind after the final primary.

While Clinton's supporters are much more divided on what Sanders should do, a sizable 28 percent of Clinton's supporters agree that Sanders should stay in the race through the convention. A plurality—40 percent—would like to see him drop out after the final primary race in June even if he still behind. Only three in 10 would like to see him drop out now.

This majority support among Democrats for Sanders remaining in the race until the convention may point to signs that Democrats see Sanders as beneficial to Clinton's candidacy primarily by sharpening her message and making her ready for a general election that will likely be very negative.

The NBC News|SurveyMonkey Weekly Election Tracking poll was conducted online April 25 through May 1, 2016 among a national sample of 14,640 adults aged 18 and over, including 12,462 who say they are registered to vote. Respondents for this non-probability survey were selected from the nearly three million people who take surveys on the SurveyMonkey platform each day. Results have an error

estimate of plus or minus 1.2 percentage points. For full results and methodology for this weekly tracking poll, please [click here](#).

The presidential campaign: Bernie Sanders

The self-described democratic socialist is known for pushing change on income inequality, college affordability and criminal justice reform.

Pro Golfers Really Don't Like Hillary Clinton, According To Anonymous Poll

By Luke Kerr-Dineen

[USA Today](#), May 3, 2016

Sports Illustrated released its anonymous poll of PGA Tour players on Tuesday, which is great news, because it always produces some interesting results. Last year a large number of PGA Tour players said Rickie Fowler was "overrated," and it became such a big story that it spurred him onto victory.

And what tidbits are we treated to this time? Lots, so really you should read it in its entirety, but this was my favorite:

Good thing 50 percent tax breaks for professional golfers isn't written into Hillary Clinton's campaign platform...

SI Anonymous Player Poll: PGA, Champions, LPGA Pros Sound Off

By Alan Shipnuck

[Golf](#), May 3, 2016

Sports Illustrated

polled more than 150 players across three tours to get their takes on topics inside and outside the ropes. Nothing was off limits. Will Tiger Woods win again? Who has the best swing? Bubba Watson or Kevin Na? Adam Scott or Rickie Fowler? (But not in the way you think...) Scroll down to read unfiltered answers from PGA Tour, PGA Tour Champions and LPGA tour players. And let us know what you think about some of the game's burning topics, too, by chiming in with your opinions in the interactive poll below. [Surveys by Josh Berhow, Marika Washchysyn and Sean Zak.] Will Tiger Woods win another PGA Tour event?

PGA TOUR

Yes 42%

No 27%

Don't know 31%

Loose Lips: "I'm optimistic, but running out of reasons."

CHAMPIONS

Yes 72%

No 23%

Don't know 5%

Loose Lips: "I don't even know if he'll play again."

LPGA

Yes 36%

No 64%

Photo:

Getty Images

Going forward, who will win more majors: Jordan or Rory?

PGA TOUR

Jordan 56%

Rory 44%

CHAMPIONS

Jordan 48%

Rory 45%

Don't know 7%

Loose Lips: "Rickie."

Have you gone on a date with a woman you met at a tournament?

PGA TOUR

No 71%

Yes 29%

Loose Lips: "Not yet, but ask me again at the end of this season."

CHAMPIONS

No 57%

Yes 43%

If you were to be in a bar fight, who would you want to have your back?

PGA TOUR

Ernie Els 15%

Keegan Bradley 9%

Ángel Cabrera 7%

Pat Perez 5%

Brooks Koepka 4%

No one out here 18%

Others 42%

Loose Lips: "I've heard some bar stories about Ernie."

CHAMPIONS

Jim Thorpe 17%

Esteban Toledo 15%

Bill Glasson 12%

Marco Dawson 7%

Kenny Perry 7%

Others 42%

Loose Lips: "Esteban—he's a boxer."

Photo:

Getty Images

Does the caddie deserve 10% of a winner's check?

PGA TOUR

Yes 67%

No 33%

Loose Lips: "Maybe more like 8%."

CHAMPIONS

Yes 76%

No 12%

Don't know 12%

Loose Lips: "I'll pay it, but they don't deserve it."

Do you use social media?

PGA TOUR

Yes 84%

No 16%

Loose Lips: "Someone does it for me."

CHAMPIONS

Yes 56%

No 44%

Loose Lips: "I have a Twitter, but I have never twittered."

Who has the prettiest swing on your tour?

PGA TOUR

Adam Scott 31%

Louis Oosthuizen 20%

Me 27%

Others 22%

Loose Lips: "Whichever one won last week."

CHAMPIONS

Tom Purtzer 37%

Fred Couples 7%

Grant Waite 7%

Others 49%

LPGA

Na Yeon Choi 18%

Can't tell 11%

Hyo Joo Kim 7%

Alison Lee 5%

Minjee Lee 5%

Others 54%

Loose Lips: "Not the Americans, that's for sure."

Photo:

Getty Images

If Hillary Clinton could guarantee to cut your taxes in half and the Republican candidate would keep them the same, would you vote for her?

PGA TOUR

No 56%

Yes 33%

Don't care 11%

Loose Lips: "If you paid what I pay in taxes, you would vote for her."

CHAMPIONS

No 74%

Yes 14%

No comment 12%

Loose Lips: "I wouldn't vote for her if she were the last person on Earth."

Should the WGC-Cadillac be moved to a different venue because of Donald Trump's stances?

PGA TOUR

No 45%

Yes 39%

Don't care 16%

Loose Lips: "No. I love that golf course."

CHAMPIONS

No 88%

Yes 7%

No comment 5% Keep scrolling for more eye-opening results from our survey. But first share your own opinions on the game's burning topics in the interactive poll below. PGA TOUR ONLY

Would you rather win the PGA Championship or an Olympic gold medal?

PGA 71%

Gold 29%

Loose Lips: "Gold would be cool, but a major is a major."

The Players or a gold medal?

The Players 62%

Gold 38%

The Texas Open or a gold medal?

Gold Medal 76%

Texas 24%

Loose Lips: "Texas Open comes with a big paycheck."

Would you rather be paired with Bubba Watson or Kevin Na?

Watson 62%

Na 16%

Neither 22%

Loose Lips: "At least Kevin will be quiet."

Who would make a better Ryder Cup captain, Tiger or Phil?

Phil 49%

Tiger 44%

Neither 7%

Loose Lips: "I want to play for Tiger. Phil, not so much."

Photo:

Getty Images

Would you rather drive it like Dustin Johnson or putt it like Jordan Spieth?

Putt like Spieth 75%

Drive like Johnson 25%

Loose Lips: "Spieth wins majors. DJ doesn't."

Photo:

Getty Images CHAMPIONS TOUR ONLY

Would you wear Rickie Fowler's hightops?

No 88%

Yes 12%

Loose Lips: "If they paid me, sure."

Whom are you supporting in the Republican primary?

Donald Trump 34%

Undecided 22%

John Kasich 12%

Ted Cruz 10%

None 22%

Loose Lips: "Anyone who can beat a Democrat."

Which Champions tour major is most important?

U.S. Senior Open 74%

Senior British 17%

All 5%

Senior PGA 2%

Senior Players 2%

Loose Lips: "To be honest, I don't even know which ones are the majors."

Are you O.K. with your grandkids (or any kids) seeing so many Viagra and Cialis ads during golf telecasts?

Yes 53%

No 42%

No comment 5%

Loose Lips: "I've been watching golf with my daughter, and it's been very embarrassing."

How many pain pills do you take during a tournament week?

None 40%

1-7 26%

8-15 17%

20-plus 17% LPGA ONLY

Will Michelle Wie win another major?

Yes 64%

No 36%

Photo:

Getty Images

Will Yani Tseng win another LPGA event?

Yes 76%

No 24%

Adam Scott or Rickie Fowler?

Scott 84%

Fowler 11%

Neither 5%

Loose Lips: "Is there a third option?"

Wearing face paint at the Solheim Cup is . . .

Cute 56%

Lame 44%

Loose Lips: "Capital L-A-M-E."

Suzann Pettersen's apology was . . .

P.R. 53%

Sincere 38%

Both 9%

Loose Lips: "Sincere, but I think the rest of my team would say otherwise."

LPGA Takeaway: What LPGA Players Think About a Women's Masters

For years, talk about a Women's Masters at Augusta National has been a topic of lively debate. But what do the women who play on the tour think of the prospective idea?

Have you ever taken something from a hotel minibar and tried to get away without paying for it?

No 73%

Yes 27%

Loose Lips: "Last week!"

Should the PGA tour hold tournaments on courses owned by Donald Trump?

Yes 67%

No 17%

Don't Care 16%

Are you supporting Hillary Clinton?

No 44%

Yes 33%

No response 23%

Loose Lips: "Absolutely f----- not."

Clinton: FBI Hasn't Contacted Me For Email Interview

By Mark Hensch

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton on Tuesday said the FBI has not contacted her as part of its investigation into her personal email server.

"No," Clinton responded after MSNBC host Andrea Mitchell asked if the agency had contacted her for an interview.

Clinton also said there is no evidence that the server was hacked by bad actors during her tenure as secretary of State.

"No, not at all," Clinton responded when asked if there had been any possible intrusions.

The FBI formally confirmed its investigation of Clinton's email server to the State Department in a letter released in February.

State then announced in March that it was deferring its own analysis of Clinton's device until the FBI's investigation concluded.

FBI Director James Comey said last month that his agency feels no pressure to finish the probe before the Democratic National Convention in July, when Clinton is expected to become the Democratic presidential nominee.

"The urgency is to do it well and do it promptly," Comey told *The Niagara Gazette*. "And 'well' comes first. [I'm staying] close to this one to make sure we have the resources to do it competently."

Clinton has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing with her server and has said it was never used to send classified information.

Critics argue that Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of State potentially jeopardized sensitive national intelligence.

Once A Clinton Stronghold, Appalachia Now Trump Country

By Lisa Lerer

[Associated Press](#), May 3, 2016

When President Bill Clinton rolled into the small Appalachian town of Ashland, Kentucky, in 1996, cheering crowds lined the streets. Local boy-turned-country music star Billy Ray Cyrus performed a special version of his hit, "Achy Breaky Heart" before nearly 20,000 supporters at a riverfront re-election rally.

Back then, this was Clinton country. Today, it looks an awful lot more like Trump town.

Hillary Clinton was met in Ashland on Monday by just a handful of supporters and a lone heckler, who shouted: "Go home, Hillary!" Later on, hundreds of protesters stood in pouring rain, waved Donald Trump signs and chanted "Kill-ary" as Clinton toured a health center in Williamson, West Virginia.

The unwelcome reception marks a striking political shift for the Clintons, who've long staked their electoral fortunes on working class white voters. Bill Clinton won the White House in 1992 by wooing Southern swing voters in places such as Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee, and his wife swept all three states in her primary run in 2008 against then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.

Eight years later, Trump's connection with those voters could pose a threat to Clinton in the coal mining communities of Appalachia she visited on Monday, but also in parts of the Rust Belt and upper Midwest hit hard by the decline of domestic manufacturing.

"I am well aware of the politics in West Virginia," she told MSNBC in Charleston, W.Va on Tuesday. "It's gotten increasingly challenging for Democrats to be successful."

As she increasingly focuses her efforts on the general election, Clinton is trying to replicate the electoral strategy that twice boosted Obama into the White House by concentrating on wooing young, minority and female voters.

Trump may afford them new opportunities to expand what's known as the Obama coalition: Her aides calculate the billionaire's penchant for controversy could put traditionally Republican-leaning states such as Georgia, North Carolina and Arizona into play.

"As an old duck hunter, I know the truth of the saying, 'You gotta hunt where the ducks are at,'" said Paul Begala, who helped engineer Clinton's victory in 1992. "President Obama understood this, as does Secretary Clinton."

But at the same time, Clinton's long history with the region means she and her husband aren't willing to give up on places such as Ashland. Her campaign explained her swing through the coal-mining region as one that highlights her willingness to speak to the entire country — even those people who don't support her bid. Aides say she's unlikely to win either Kentucky or West Virginia in the primaries later this month or the general election next fall.

Democrats have lost support in Appalachia as the region has shed jobs in industries such as coal mining and as

union membership has declined, said Democratic strategist Dave “Mudcat” Saunders. The leftward shift of the Democratic Party during the Obama administration on social issues, including gay marriage and gun control, hasn’t helped. “In those areas, it has become culturally unacceptable for a white male to admit he’s a Democrat,” Saunders said.

On Sunday, Bill Clinton was booed at an event in Logan, West Virginia. Before he arrived, the town’s mayor sent an email to West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin’s office, saying the couple wasn’t welcome to use city fire department facilities for their political events.

Clinton’s waning popularity in the region was further hurt by a remark she made in a March interview with CNN, when she said she would “put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business.” She was responding to a question about how her policies would benefit poor white people in Southern states.

“I can’t take it back and I certainly can’t get people who for politically reasons or personal reasons, very painful reasons, are upset with me,” said Clinton, who called the comment a “misstatement.” “I’m going to do whatever I can to try to help.”

Outside her event, protesters weren’t buying.

“Hillary Clinton should be in prison,” said Dionne Collins, who backed Bill Clinton in 1992. “The only hope is Donald Trump.”

Associated Press reporter Catherine Lucey contributed to this report from Des Moines, Iowa.

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Hillary’s Appalachian Trial

She tries to mollify the coal miners she said she’d put out of work.

[Wall Street Journal](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Trump Virtually Clinches Republican Presidential Nomination

By Julie Pace And Scott Bauer

[Associated Press](#), May 3, 2016

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) – In a stunning triumph for a political outsider, Donald Trump all but clinched the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday with a resounding victory in Indiana that knocked rival Ted Cruz out of the race and cleared Trump’s path to a likely November face-off with Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

Trump still needs about 200 delegates to formally secure the nomination, but Cruz’s decision to end his campaign removed his last major obstacle.

“Ted Cruz – I don’t know if he likes me or he doesn’t like me – but he is one hell of a competitor,” Trump said of his last fierce competitor whom he had dubbed “Iyin’ Ted.” Trump, in a victory speech that was much lower-key than usual, promised victory in November, vowing anew to put “America first.”

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders eked out a victory over Clinton in Indiana, but the outcome will not slow the former secretary of state’s march to the Democratic nomination. Heading into Tuesday’s voting, Clinton had 92 percent of the delegates she needs.

“I know that the Clinton campaign thinks this campaign is over. They’re wrong,” Sanders said defiantly in an interview Tuesday night. But Clinton already has turned her attention to the general election.

She and Trump now plunge into a six-month battle for the presidency, with the future of America’s immigration laws, health care system and military posture around the world at stake. While Clinton heads into the general election with significant advantages with minority voters and women, Democrats have vowed to not underestimate Trump as his Republican rivals did for too long.

Previewing Clinton’s general election message, top adviser John Podesta said Trump was “simply too big of a risk” to be president.

For months, Republican leaders considered him a fringe candidate and banked on voters shifting toward more traditional contenders. But Trump tapped into Republicans’ deep anger with party leaders and outlasted more than a dozen experienced political rivals.

Party Chairman Reince Priebus declared the race over, saying on Twitter that Trump would be the GOP’s presumptive nominee.

“We all need to unite and focus on defeating @HillaryClinton,” he wrote.

Indeed, Trump’s first challenge will be uniting a Republican Party that has been roiled by his candidacy. While some GOP leaders have warmed to the real estate mogul, others have promised to never vote for him and see him as a threat to their party’s very existence.

Even before the Indiana results were finalized, some conservative leaders were planning a Wednesday meeting to assess the viability of launching a third party candidacy to compete with him in the fall.

One outside group trying to stop Trump suggested it would shift its attention to helping Republicans in other races. Rory Cooper, a senior adviser to the Never Trump super PAC, said the group will help protect “Republican incumbents and down-ballot candidates by distinguishing their values and

principles from that of Trump and protecting them from a wave election.”

Indiana was viewed as the last gasp for Cruz, the fiery Texas conservative. He campaigned aggressively in the state, securing the support of Indiana’s governor and announcing businesswoman Carly Fiorina as his running mate.

Cruz had clung to the hope that he could keep Trump from reaching the 1,237 delegates needed for the nomination and push the race to a rare contested convention.

“I’ve said I would continue on as long as there was a viable path to victory; tonight I’m sorry to say it appears that path has been foreclosed,” Cruz told a somber crowd in Indianapolis.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is now the only other Republican left in the race. But Kasich has won just one primary – his home state – and trails Trump by nearly 900 delegates.

Kasich pledged to stay in the race, with his campaign manager saying the governor would continue to “offer the voters a clear choice for our country.”

Only about half of Indiana’s Republican primary voters said they were excited or optimistic about any of their remaining candidates becoming president, according to exit polls. Still, most said they probably would support whoever won for the GOP.

Clinton, too, needs to win over Sanders’ enthusiastic supporters. The Vermont senator has cultivated a deeply loyal following, in particular among young people, a group Democrats count on in the general election.

Though Sanders claimed momentum, he has conceded his strategy hinges on persuading superdelegates to back him over the former secretary of state. Superdelegates are Democratic Party insiders who can support the candidate of their choice, regardless of how their states vote. And they favor Clinton by a nearly 18-1 margin.

Exit polls showed about 7 in 10 Indiana Democrats said they’d be excited or at least optimistic about either a Clinton or Sanders presidency. Most said they would support either in November.

The exit polls were conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks.

With Sanders’ narrow victory Tuesday, he picked up at least 42 of Indiana’s 83 delegates. Clinton now has 2,201 delegates to Sanders’ 1,399. That includes pledged delegates from primaries and caucuses, as well as superdelegates.

Trump now has at least 1,041 delegates. Cruz exits the race with 565, while Kasich has 152.

Pace reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Stephen Ohlemacher contributed to this report from Washington.

Follow Julie Pace and Scott Bauer on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and <http://twitter.com/sbauerAP>

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Donald Trump Looks For Knockout Blow In Indiana

By David Jackson

[USA Today](#), May 3, 2016

NEW YORK — Donald Trump looks to all but lock up the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday with a win in the Indiana primary, a brutal contest in which Trump and his main opponent, Ted Cruz, essentially described each other as unhinged liars.

“People are tired of what’s happening with these, you know, politicians,” Trump said on Fox & Friends.

Cruz, who trailed in Indiana polls but is hoping for a rally that would help him force a contested convention in July, argued that Trump is an unstable person who would drag Republicans down to defeat in November.

“Donald Trump is such a narcissist that Barack Obama looks at him and says, ‘Dude, what’s your problem?’” Cruz told reporters in Indiana.

The primary caps a remarkably angry campaign that on Tuesday included a suggestion by Trump that Cruz’s father was somehow linked to Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Protesting the senior Cruz’s criticism of him, Trump cited an (uncorroborated) report in The National Enquirer with a picture supposedly showing Rafael Cruz standing near Oswald on a street. “It’s horrible,” Trump told Fox News.

Cruz called Trump’s claims “nuts” and “kooky,” telling reporters that Trump “is utterly amoral — morality does not exist for him.” He called the GOP front-runner “a pathological liar” who “doesn’t know the difference between truth and lies.”

Responding to what he called Cruz’s “ridiculous outburst,” Trump described “Lyn’ Ted” as “a desperate candidate trying to save his failing campaign.” He said the Texas senator “does not have the temperament to be president of the United States.”

Ohio Gov. John Kasich pulled out of Indiana last week, vowing to take on Trump in future states, though he still pulled double digits in some polls. Cruz has indicated that he will stay in the Republican race even if he loses Indiana. He has already campaigned in delegate-rich California, one of five states that close the primary season June 7.

As the Indiana primary approached, the Kasich and Cruz campaigns made a deal, of sorts, as part of a combined stop-Trump effort. While Kasich moved out of Indiana, Cruz agreed not to campaign against Kasich in future contests in Oregon and New Mexico.

Trump, meanwhile, is trying to unite Republicans behind his candidacy, even as he faces continued criticism from current and past rivals as well as a variety of “Never Trump” organizations.

The businessman will follow the returns from his home base in New York and plans to speak Tuesday night from Trump Tower in Manhattan.

Sen. Ted Cruz campaigns at Wolf’s Bar-B-Q in Evansville, Ind., on May 3, 2016. (Photo: Denny Simmons, Evansville Courier & Press, via AP)

Trump is hoping to build on six straight primary wins, including his home state of New York on April 19. After winning five more northeastern states last week, Trump declared himself the “presumptive nominee.” Cruz, who last defeated Trump in Wisconsin nearly a month ago, had high hopes for Indiana, a state with many conservative voters. But his campaign has struggled in recent days. Former House speaker John Boehner, one of many GOP lawmakers who dislike him, described the Texas senator as “Lucifer in the flesh,” while critics in the basketball-crazy Hoosier State mocked Cruz for describing a hoop as a “ring.”

President Obama has stepped up his criticism of Trump, telling WMUR-TV of Manchester, N.H., that the outspoken businessman “is not somebody who, even within the Republican Party, can be considered equipped to deal with the problems of this office.”

Referring to the November general election against the Democratic nominee, Obama said that a Trump nomination “would be good news for Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders.”

Cruz and Kasich are trying to prevent Trump from securing the majority of delegates he needs to win the nomination on the first ballot at the July convention in Cleveland. That would force more ballots in which delegates would not be bound to any candidate.

Needing 1,237 delegates to secure the nomination, Trump is now close to 1,000 — more than 400 ahead of Cruz and more than 800 ahead of Kasich.

During his campaign in Indiana, Trump said neither of his opponents have a path to the nomination.

“They’re never going to get there,” Trump told backers in Carmel. “We are way over and way ahead of projection and we’ll do it on the first ballot. But if we win Indiana, it’s over.”

Trump Hopes To Land Decisive Blow In Indiana Showdown With Cruz

By Emily Flitter

[Reuters](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

After A Big Win In Indiana, Donald Trump Can Reach The 1,237 Delegate Total Needed For Nomination With A Big Night In California Next Month

By David Lightman

[McClatchy](#), May 3, 2016

Once unthinkable, Donald Trump today is the Republican Party’s presumptive nominee for president.

That became a certainty Tuesday as he crushed rival Ted Cruz in Indiana, drove the Texas senator out of the race, and set the course to clinch the needed delegates in the next few weeks.

The nomination of the brash man with no political experience sets the party and the nation on a collision course with all-but-certain Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, herself an unprecedented choice of a major party. And it will be a jarring campaign, underscored anew Tuesday as Trump lashed out at his last GOP rival even en route to defeating him, accusing his father of playing some role in the assassination of JFK.

Now assured of a first ballot nomination at the GOP convention in July, Trump has shattered the rules of how a prospective president should look, talk, behave and campaign — making the general election run, likely against Clinton, unpredictable, vicious and volatile.

There’s never, in modern times, been a candidate such as Trump. He’d never run for elective office. He largely funded his own effort. He spewed gaffes and lived — and proudly boasted about — the sort of glamorous, amorous lifestyle that for years had doomed other candidates. He unapologetically insulted and offended women, Mexican-Americans and the leaders of his own party.

Democrats were almost giddy Tuesday at the prospect of running against the billionaire businessman. “Trump spreads hate,” tweeted Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Democratic Party chairwoman, “and we will defeat him in November.”

Trump turned his attention immediately to Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, as his campaign began seriously considering vice presidential running mates.

“We’re going after Hillary Clinton, she will not be a great president, she will not be a good president, she will be a poor president,” he told supporters.

Cruz, the last best hope of Republican insiders desperate to stop Trump, was a beaten man Tuesday. He put everything he had into Indiana, picking Carly Fiorina as a

running-mate, getting rival John Kasich to stop campaigning in the state and securing the backing of Gov. Mike Pence.

Nothing worked. Network exit polls showed Trump winning among men and women, virtually all age groups, even among the born-again and evangelical voters Cruz had courted so assiduously. Just as he had in states across the nation.

"Together we left it all on the field in Indiana," Cruz told supporters Tuesday night. "We gave it everything we got. But the voters chose another path and so with a heavy heart but with boundless optimism for the long term future of our nation we are suspending our campaign."

Tonight, I'm sorry to say that path has been foreclosed Ted Cruz, explaining to supporters why he's suspending his campaign

Kasich remains in the race, but as an afterthought. Chief strategist John Weaver tweeted, "CA here we come." Kasich, though, has 153 convention delegates while Trump Trump has 1,047, or 190 short of the 1,237 needed to nominate.

"He clearly understands where the race is, but until Trump hits 1,237 he'll be part of the race," said veteran New Hampshire GOP activist Tom Rath, a Kasich backer.

The party now finds itself in an arranged marriage with Trump, who just hours before was branded by Cruz "utterly amoral," and a "pathological liar." Republican 2012 nominee Mitt Romney in March called Trump "a phony, a fraud."

Yet voters keep embracing Trump. Indiana was Trump's seventh straight primary win, and he kept gaining strength. Chances were that ball would keep rolling.

"Psychologically, people are drawn to a winner and want to be with them," said Sal Russo, a Sacramento-based Republican strategist.

Now come new challenges. The first: Can the Republican establishment rally around its nominee? There's been no candidate in modern times such as Trump, no one who has so consistently infuriated and alienated party officials, no one with virtually no ties to any Republican in Congress or past presidential administrations.

Trump had warmer words for Cruz Tuesday night, saying he was "one tough competitor" with an "amazing future."

Some insiders have been coming around. "There's a lot about Donald Trump that I don't like, but I'll vote for Trump over Hillary any day," said Ari Fleischer, a White House Press Secretary for George W. Bush, in a tweet.

Political veteran Paul Manafort has been meeting regularly with Washington insiders, trying to sell Trump as someone they can do business with.

He is a tough, smart competitor

Donald Trump talking about Ted Cruz Tuesday night

Democrats have a different dilemma. Trump's triumphs have been in every region of the county, suggesting it's hard to predict where the 2016 battlegrounds will emerge.

Hank Sheinkopf, a New York-based consultant who once worked for Clinton, cautioned Democrats from celebrating that Trump will be the Republican nominee. Trump, he said, is a "trend" and not just popular in one or two states.

"It's a long time between now and November," he said. Sheinkopf said Democrats need to figure out how to beat him in large industrial states, where he would be likely to do well, such as Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, as well as other states, such as Democratic-leaning New Jersey, that could be in play this year.

EDITORS: STORY CAN END HERE

The most crucial question: Once people get closer to actually picking a president, will Trump's freewheeling ways cost him? In a fresh reminder of his often incendiary approach, he linked Cruz's father Rafael to JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald on Tuesday as Indiana was voting. He told Fox News Cruz's father was "with Lee Harvey Oswald prior to Oswald being, you know, shot . . . and nobody even brings it up. I mean, they don't even talk about that."

Trump has 1,041 delegates to the Republican National Convention. Cruz has 565. Kasich has 153

The National Enquirer last month published what it claimed was evidence that Cruz's father had been photographed next to Oswald in 1963, passing out pro-Fidel-Castro material in New Orleans. No other major news organization has confirmed the report.

"This is nuts," Cruz said Tuesday, going on to call Trump a "pathological liar," a "serial philanderer" and "utterly amoral."

Later Tuesday, Trump, who has taken to attacking Clinton as "crooked," and on Monday had lunch in Indianapolis with Edward Klein, the author of anti-Clinton books, told the Washington Post even before Cruz dropped out that he planned to pivot to attacking Clinton:

"Her past is really the thing, rather than what she plans to do in the future," Trump told the newspaper. "Her past has a lot of problems, to put it bluntly."

"Many have stepped in front of the Trump political wrecking ball," said California-based Republican activist Mark Meckler, "and so far none have survived."

Maria Recio, Lesley Clark, William Douglas and Anita Kumar of McClatchy's Washington Bureau contributed

Trump Sees A Decisive Indiana Victory At Hand, Gears Up To Take On Clinton

By Philip Rucker, David Weigel And Sean Sullivan

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

INDIANAPOLIS — This was supposed to be the pragmatic Midwestern state that would deny Donald Trump the delegates he needs to secure the Republican presidential nomination. Yet as voting began Tuesday morning in the day's critical primary, Indiana appeared poised to help the front-runner get closer to locking it up.

Trump campaigned Monday across the Hoosier State with characteristic gusto, boasting about his polling lead and endorsements from local celebrities and relishing a fight with likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. Certain that victory was at hand, Trump predicted Tuesday's balloting would bring the demise of top rival Ted Cruz. From here he said, it is on to the general election.

"If we win Indiana, it's over," Trump declared at a boisterous Monday afternoon rally in Carmel. "They're finished. They're gone."

The Indiana primary, with 57 delegates at stake, stands in the minds of many Republicans as the last major hurdle for Trump to clear. Cruz and his allies have poured every resource and maneuver at their disposal into the state in an urgent, last-ditch effort to derail the controversial billionaire mogul.

"They not only put all their chips in the Indiana basket, but they made it very clear how desperate they've become. They have tried everything imaginable," said Pete Seat, a well-connected GOP operative here whose firm has advised the campaign of Ohio Gov. John Kasich, the third Republican left in the race. "It feels like this is slipping away from Ted Cruz pretty rapidly."

On the Democratic side, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont was closing in on front-runner Hillary Clinton in recent polls in Indiana. But with Clinton far ahead in the delegate count, a Sanders win here was widely seen as unlikely to affect on the ultimate outcome of the nomination.

On a frenetic final day of campaigning here, Cruz faced uncomfortable questions about the viability of his floundering candidacy. Although he previously held up Indiana as a must-win state, the Texas senator argued Monday that he could sustain a loss and still force a contested party convention and wrest the nomination from Trump in Cleveland.

The last two public polls here showed Trump with double-digit leads over Cruz. Kasich — who brokered a stop-Trump deal with Cruz to bow out of Indiana so long as Cruz cedes upcoming contests in Oregon and New Mexico to Kasich — is running a distant third.

Trump has been buoyed in Indiana by two main forces. First, his populist message about trade deals that hurt workers and a "rigged" and "corrupt" political system has resonated in a state whose manufacturing economy is hollowing out. All spring, Trump has hammered Carrier for shuttering its Indianapolis furnace factory and relocating to Mexico — a plant closing that has gotten considerable local news attention.

Trump also is benefitting from his newfound aura of inevitability. Nine in 10 Republicans now think Trump will be their party's nominee, according to a CNN-ORC national poll released Monday.

"You cannot underestimate the impact that Trump winning all counties last week in the 'Acela primary' had on Indiana," veteran GOP strategist Scott Reed said, referring to five Northeast primaries that Trump swept. "A month ago, Cruz was leading Trump by 20 percent in Indiana. Trump's wins, coupled with landing his plane in state, has driven voters into his column."

Cruz came face-to-face with the forces working against him outside a campaign stop in Marion, where he approached a handful of Trump supporters who had been heckling him from across the street with jeers like "Lyn' Ted" and "Hey, Cruz, do the math."

Cruz approached and engaged the demonstrators. One of them told him, "Indiana don't want you."

"Sir, America is a better country --" Cruz said, at which point the man interrupted to say: "Without you."

Cruz began the day in Osceola, where he shook every hand at the Bravo Cafe. He signed an ironic baseball cap that copied comedian John Oliver's anti-Trump slogan "Make Donald Drumpf Again," then signed a copy of "The American Patriot's Bible."

From there, he told reporters that the election in Indiana was boiling down to a choice between crudeness and decency — "a choice about our national character" that Hoosiers could get right.

"I trust the good people of Indiana to differentiate," Cruz said. "We are not a country built on hatred. We are not a country built on anger, built on pettiness. We are not a country built on bullying. We are not a country about selfishness."

Cruz campaigned alongside Gov. Mike Pence, who confused Republicans Friday by praising Trump at the same time he gave Cruz a lukewarm endorsement. Pence sought to make amends Monday, telling reporters that Cruz is "a principled conservative who has articulated and fought for the Reagan agenda that really brought me into the Republican Party."

Cruz's surrogates, including his vice-presidential running-mate, Carly Fiorina, fanned out to deliver a similar message. Yet a video that circulated online of her falling down at a rally Sunday in Lafayette threatened to overshadow her closing pitch to voters.

Trump told his fans in Carmel, "She fell off the stage the other day. Did anybody see that? And Cruz didn't do anything. Even I would've helped her, OK?"

"That's really cruel," Trump added. "She went down right in front of him and he just kept talking."

Trump has been drawing large, enthusiastic crowds at his rallies here. Steven Shine, the longtime chairman of the

Allen County Republican Party, attended events and met privately with both candidates in recent days. Shine, who has not endorsed, said there is no question Trump has an edge.

"I think Indiana is a very plain-speaking state and Trump is the consummate plain-speaker," Shine said.

The endorsement of legendary former Indiana University basketball coach Bobby Knight, he said, was instrumental. "Knight says, 'Hey, look, you like my brand of leadership on the basketball court. I became a legend because of the strength that I showed and this is what I believe Donald Trump will show.'"

Three other sports stars endorsed Trump on Monday: Fred "The Hammer" Williamson, a black actor and former NFL defensive back; Lou Holtz, a retired football player, coach and analyst; and Gene Keady, who for 25 years was head basketball coach at Purdue University in Indiana.

Trump also made an unannounced visit to Shapiro's Delicatessen in downtown Indianapolis for lunch, where he was swarmed by well-wishers. One man asked the candidate to autograph his \$50 bill; Trump obliged, black Sharpie in hand. Trump said his mind has been focused on the general election and Clinton.

Then he sat down for lunch with two aides and a guest: author Edward Klein. He has written a series of bombshell books about the Clintons spreading rumors and innuendo, much of it discredited — from Hillary's health to Bill's sexual adventures.

It was unclear what the foursome discussed over their reuben sandwiches, but a few hours later in Carmel, Trump gleefully gave his crowd a preview of the Clinton attacks to come.

"Folks, I haven't even started yet," Trump said. "Now I'm going to start focusing on Hillary. It's going to be so easy. It's going to be so great."

Donald Trump Wins Indiana In A Crushing Blow To Ted Cruz

By Jonathan Martin And Patrick Healy

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

Join us for live updates.

Donald J. Trump won Indiana's Republican primary on Tuesday, moving him closer to claiming the party's presidential nomination and delivering a devastating blow to Senator Ted Cruz and other Republicans hoping to stop him.

Mr. Cruz had pinned his hopes on Indiana, which seemed to offer one of his best chances to deny Mr. Trump the delegates needed to secure the nomination before the party convention in July.

But Mr. Trump, after obliterating his rivals in five states in the Northeast last week, held a strong polling lead in the state, which had 57 delegates up for grabs.

Mr. Trump's victory puts him in a commanding position to clinch the nomination on June 7, when the last Republican contests are held.

Cruz Drops Out After Trump Wins Big In Indiana

By Tony Cook, Stephanie Wang, And Jill Disis

[Indianapolis Star](#), May 3, 2016

Donald Trump decisively won Indiana's Republican presidential primary, cementing his status as the Republican front-runner and forcing his closest rival, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, out of the race.

The Associated Press quickly called the race for Trump shortly after 7 p.m.

The most recent election results showed Trump had 53 percent of the vote with 1,428 of 5,374 precincts reporting. Cruz trailed with 36 percent of the vote. Kasich had 8 percent.

"From the beginning I've said I would continue on as long as there was a viable path to victory," Cruz told supporters at Crown Plaza in Indianapolis. "I'm sorry to say it appears that path has been foreclosed. Together we left it all on the field in Indiana. We gave it everything we've got. But the voters chose another path. And so with a heavy heart but with boundless optimism for the long-term future of our nation we are suspending our campaign."

Cruz's exit after a do-or-die campaign in Indiana leaves Trump and Ohio Gov. John Kasich as the final two candidates in the race. And because Kasich has won only one state — his home state of Ohio — Trump's path to the nomination seems all but assured.

"I think the results are pretty decisive," Indiana Republican Party Chairman Jeff Cardwell said. "Now, Indiana will go down in history as the state that made Trump the presumptive Republican nominee."

Trump planned to speak Tuesday night from Trump Tower in Manhattan.

Tony Samuel, vice chairman of Trump's Indiana campaign, said the billionaire real estate developer and reality TV star is now closer than ever to sealing the nomination.

"That's the best thing about this win," he said. "We said all along that we needed to get 57 delegates (in Indiana) so we don't have any kind of funny business going on at the national convention. Fifty-seven delegates out of Indiana, or close to it, would really help propel him to that 1,237 number."

Trump will get at least 30 of Indiana's 57 delegates, but it was too early to tell if he would get the rest or whether Cruz might peel away some by winning the vote in some of Indiana's nine congressional districts. Three delegates are awarded to the winner in each of those districts.

Kasich, who did not campaign in Indiana, plans to continue campaigning, despite the expected loss in Indiana.

"Tonight's results are not going to alter Gov. Kasich's campaign plans. Our strategy has been and continues to be one that involves winning the nomination at an open convention," Kasich's chief strategist, John Weaver, said in a memo shortly after the race was called for Trump.

"Prior to tonight's primary, the Kasich campaign had already secured a large plurality of Indiana delegates committed to Governor Kasich at a multi-ballot convention as part of the pre-primary delegate selection process," Weaver said. "Gov. Kasich will remain in the race unless a candidate reaches 1,237 bound delegates before the Convention."

Trump galvanized Hoosier voters with his brash brand of populism, despite a do-or-die campaign effort from Cruz and millions of dollars in television advertising by groups opposing Trump.

With its large share of evangelical voters, Indiana was seen as one of the socially conservative Texas senator's best hopes for stopping Trump's momentum after a string of recent victories in New York and five other northeastern states.

But Indiana is also home to half-a-million factory workers, making it the most manufacturing-intensive state in the nation. It's the kind of blue-collar demographic that has responded well in other states to Trump's promise to "tax the hell" out of products from companies that move production out of the country.

Even before the results began coming in, aides for Ted Cruz's presidential campaign were expressing pessimism about his chances in Indiana, according to the AP.

Cruz campaign officials were bracing for immediate staffing cuts "at a minimum," according to one aide who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity to share internal discussions.

The aide said the campaign was preparing for "a very somber" address Tuesday night in Indianapolis.

Indiana was seen as a critical contest. The state has the second-largest number of delegates up for grabs between now and the Republican National Convention in Cleveland this summer. And because most of those 57 delegates are awarded on a winner-take-all basis, the stakes were high.

"If Cruz can't win in Indiana, is he really going to win, say, California? Seems unlikely," said Kyle Kondik, an election analyst at the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

A candidate needs a majority of delegates, or 1,237, to lock up the nomination and avoid a contested convention. Coming into the Indiana race, Trump had 996 delegates, according to USA Today. Cruz had 565 delegates.

The race in Indiana was full of twists as Cruz sought to defy recent polls that showed Trump ahead.

In the past two weeks, Cruz won an endorsement from Gov. Mike Pence, took the rare step of naming a running mate prior to the Republican National Convention and

essentially turned Indiana's GOP primary into a two-man race with an unusual non-compete agreement with Kasich.

Trump, meanwhile, held several massive rallies, drawing as many as 12,000 supporters at one. He also touted endorsements from Indiana University coaching legend Bobby Knight, former Purdue University coach Gene Keady and Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz.

Even as voters cast their ballots, the race took another strange turn when Trump told Fox News today that Ted Cruz's father, Rafael Cruz, had links to John F. Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. He cited unsubstantiated claims from a National Enquirer story, according to the Associated Press.

Trump's comments drew a heated response from Cruz at a campaign stop in Evansville.

"This man is utterly amoral," Cruz told reporters. "Morality doesn't exist for him."

He called Trump a "serial philanderer" and a "narcissist at a level I don't think this country has ever seen."

"It is only Indiana that can pull us back," he said.

The drama and national attention was expected to drive high turnout. Early voting was up significantly over previous presidential primaries.

Nearly in 10 Hoosier Republicans said they think their party has been divided by the fierce battle for the nomination, according to early findings from exit polls conducted for The Associated Press and television networks by Edison Research.

Indiana voters also overwhelmingly expressed concern about the state of the U.S. economy. And most said they didn't see much of a fairness issue in the GOP nomination process or much of a difference in the political tactics employed so far by different candidates in the presidential race.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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Trump Conquers

The Republican front-runner wins big in Indiana, dealing a near-fatal blow to Cruz.

By Kyle Cheney

[Politico](#), May 3, 2016

It was the night Donald Trump broke his enemies.

The mogul notched an easy win in Indiana's crucial primary on Tuesday, crushing top rival Ted Cruz and catapulting himself within reach of the Republican presidential nomination. The anti-Trump movement within the Republican Party appeared toothless in its effort to stop him, and the harder Cruz flailed to wound his rival, the stronger Trump seemed to get.

The contest was called for Trump as soon as polls closed in Indiana. With 7 percent of precincts reporting, the real estate mogul led with 54.2 percent of the vote, compared to 33.3 percent for Cruz and 9.6 percent for John Kasich.

Now, Cruz faces the prospect he dreaded most: watching mainstream Republicans rally around Trump as their likely nominee while he increasingly becomes the gadfly who wouldn't quit the race. Though he's given no public signal that he plans to drop out, the pressure on him and his team has ramped up – with the focus on Indiana as a potentially decisive factor.

Cruz seemed to validate the stakes earlier in the day, hurling every slight in the book at Trump. He spent his morning skewering the New York billionaire – “utterly amoral,” “a serial philanderer,” “a pathological liar” and even ridden with venereal disease.

But it wasn't enough and it only served to underscore the political reality: Trump was about to deliver a crushing blow to his chance to become president.

“Ted Cruz is a desperate candidate trying to save his failing campaign,” Trump said in response to Cruz's tirade. “Today's ridiculous outburst only proves what I have been saying for a long time, that Ted Cruz does not have the temperament to be President of the United States.”

Trump's campaign, meanwhile, has taken on a new swagger. He's already eyeing a general election matchup against Hillary Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee. And he's increasingly asserting himself as the presumptive Republican nominee, even though he has yet to secure the 1,237 bound delegates he needs to clinch the nomination.

Trump's win will earn him the bulk of the state's 57 allocated delegates and puts him on a trajectory to clinch the Republican nomination without the threat of a contested national convention. If he posts victories in New Jersey and California next month, he's likely to seal the nomination.

Cruz is now counting on a dramatic Trump stumble to revive his chances to block Trump from an outright nomination. Seeking to project confidence, the Cruz campaign on Tuesday announced events later in the week in Nebraska and Washington, which hold primaries later this month. Other anti-Trump forces sounded resigned, though. “If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed.....and we will deserve it” tweeted South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham.

While Hoosiers cast ballots, Trump and Cruz engaged in some of their most hostile exchanges of the entire campaign. Trump launched the first unusual strike when he cited a National Enquirer story that linked Cruz's father Rafael with John F. Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. It was the latest takedown by Trump of a Cruz family member, weeks after the mogul tweeted an unflattering picture of Cruz's wife Heidi. And it sent Cruz into a fury.

“I actually think Donald, if you hooked him up to a lie detector test, he could say one thing in the morning, one thing

at noon and one thing in the evening, all contradictory and he'd pass the lie detector test each time,” Cruz told reporters during a press conference in Evansville, Indiana. “Whatever lie he's telling, at that minute he believes it, but the man is utterly amoral.”

Trump, though, has already shown signs that he's looking past his contest with Cruz and toward the general election. He's taken more direct shots at Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee, and has repeatedly insisted the Republican primary is over – especially following six straight dominant wins in New York and across the Northeast.

The math seems to bear him out. Trump has accumulated 996 bound delegates in the first 46 primary contests. He needs another 241 delegates to clinch the nomination, and his haul from Indiana will put him on that trajectory. He expects to pick up a majority of delegates in West Virginia next week, as well as shares of delegates in Oregon and Washington later in May. But it's the June 7 contests – including California and its 172 delegates – that will likely push him over the top in his race for 1,237.

Though Trump appeared closer than ever to the nomination, flashes of his problem unifying the GOP were evident.

“[T]he GOP is going to nominate for President a guy who reads the National Enquirer and thinks it's on the level. I'm with her,” tweeted Mark Salter, a former senior adviser to John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign.

Cruz, on the other hand, is already mathematically precluded from winning the nomination outright. His only hope, along with that of Kasich, is to limit Trump's gains and force a contested convention in which most delegates are free to vote their conscience. If Cruz can't keep Trump from an outright clinch, his only remaining options will be the more desperate kind: relying on delegates at the convention to derail Trump's bid by rewriting rules or blocking Trump's supporters from being seated.

Cruz has given no indication he's pursuing those approaches, but he's been dominant so far in the state-by-state fights to elect friendly delegates to the convention. Continued victories there could give him enough leverage to control the convention.

But Cruz himself predicted a dire outcome if he doesn't win big on Tuesday. “If Indiana does not act, this country could well plunge into the abyss,” Cruz said.

Trump Wins Indiana, Clearing Path To Nomination

By Jonathan Swan

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is projected to win the Indiana primary, dealing a crushing

defeat to Ted Cruz and putting himself on a clear path to clinching the nomination.

Trump's victory will guarantee him at least 30 of the state's 57 delegates, pushing him over 1,000 as he approaches the 1,237 he needs to clinch the nomination.

The remaining 27 delegates will be allocated in winner-take-all contests at the congressional district level. Trump is likely to take a majority of these.

The results are devastating for Cruz and John Kasich — and the anti-Trump movement.

The battle between Trump and Cruz took an unusual turn the morning of the primary.

The real estate mogul linked Cruz's father to Lee Harvey Oswald — the man who shot President John F. Kennedy — citing an uncorroborated tabloid story. Cruz unloaded on Trump in response, calling him a "pathological liar" and "utterly amoral."

Cruz in particular took some big gambles in the run-up to Indiana's primary.

The Texas senator took the unusual step of announcing a running mate, adding businesswoman Carly Fiorina to his ticket. The move dominated the news cycle and gave his campaign a brief jolt of momentum, but it wasn't enough to deliver him a victory.

Meanwhile, groups opposed to Trump, like Our Principles PAC and Club for Growth, focused on Indiana as a firewall in the effort to stop the front-runner. They poured millions of dollars' worth of resources into the state, to no avail.

In addition, Cruz and Kasich entered into a last-minute alliance meant to increase the chances that Trump would miss out on delegates. Kasich stopped campaigning in Indiana, with Cruz saying he'd stay out of future contests in Oregon and New Mexico.

The alliance was shaky from the start, as neither candidate was comfortable publicly embracing the deal. Worse, it seemed to backfire, as Trump grasped onto the alliance as further evidence that the process is "rigged" and establishment Republicans were "colluding" to steal the nomination from him.

It does not appear that the Cruz-Kasich alliance will bear fruit down the road, either.

An Oregon poll released last week found Trump way ahead, with 43 percent support. Cruz, who has said he won't play in the state, comes in second at 26 percent, with Kasich in third, at 17 percent.

Trump has been steamrolling the competition ever since Cruz scored a big win in Wisconsin in early April, which at the time looked like it might send the GOP toward a contested convention.

Since then, Trump has registered resounding victories in a half-dozen states in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, taking between 54 percent and 64 percent in each.

Trump can now point to Indiana as evidence that conservatives of all stripes are rallying behind his campaign.

Donald Trump Gains Clear Path To Nomination

Ted Cruz drops out of the race after losing to Trump in Indiana's Republican presidential primary

By Reid J. Epstein And Byron Tau

[Wall Street Journal](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Yes, It's Early, But Donald Trump Would Have Uphill Battle Against Hillary Clinton

By Nate Cohn

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

A general election matchup between Donald J. Trump and Hillary Clinton became all but certain on Tuesday after Mr. Trump's decisive victory in Indiana.

He would begin that matchup at a significant disadvantage.

Yes, it's still a long way until Election Day. And Mr. Trump has already upended the conventional wisdom many times. But this is when early horse-race polls start to give a rough sense of the November election, and Mr. Trump trails Mrs. Clinton by around 10 percentage points in early general election surveys, both nationally and in key battleground states.

He even trails in some polls of several states where Mitt Romney won in 2012, like North Carolina, Arizona, Missouri and Utah.

Could Mr. Trump overtake Mrs. Clinton? Sure. Mrs. Clinton is very unpopular herself. Her polling lead is a snapshot in time, before the barrage of attack ads that are sure to come her way. There have been 10-point shifts over the general election season before, even if it's uncommon. But there isn't much of a precedent for huge swings in races with candidates as well known as Mr. Trump and Mrs. Clinton. A majority of Americans may not like her, but they say they're scared of him. To have a chance, he'll need to change that.

Mr. Trump's biggest problem is that he would be the most unpopular major party nominee in the modern era, with nearly two-thirds saying they have an unfavorable opinion of him. More than half view him "very unfavorably" or say they're "scared" of his candidacy — figures with no precedent among modern presidential nominees.

Mr. Trump's ratings are worst with the voters who made up the so-called Obama coalition of young, nonwhite and well-educated voters who propelled President Obama's re-election four years ago.

In some ways, Mrs. Clinton is not a natural fit to reunite Mr. Obama's supporters — especially the younger voters who have overwhelmingly preferred Senator Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primaries. But whatever challenges she may have among these groups dissipate against Mr. Trump. Recent surveys even show her leading among 18- to 29-year-old voters by a larger margin than Mr. Obama's when he won them four years ago.

Mrs. Clinton's strength among young, nonwhite and well-educated voters would be enough to make her a favorite. The G.O.P. path to victory without adding some of these voters is narrow. The Republicans would need to do nearly as well among white voters as Ronald Reagan did in his 18-point re-election landslide in 1984 merely to fight to a draw in today's far more diverse country. Nonwhite voters could make up nearly 30 percent of the electorate in 2016, up from 14 percent in 1984.

But what raises the possibility of a more decisive defeat for Mr. Trump is that he is struggling to reunite the voters who supported Mr. Romney — especially white women and white college-educated voters.

A recent ABC/Washington Post poll showed Mr. Trump with just a 29 percent favorability rating among white women and 23 percent among white college graduates, while 68 percent and 74 percent had an unfavorable opinion.

Mr. Trump is faring worse than Mr. Romney among white voters in all of the presidential battleground states. Polls even show Mr. Trump losing white voters in states where Mr. Romney won them, like Colorado, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. It's enough to put him at a big disadvantage in early surveys of diverse battleground states like Florida and Virginia — as well as North Carolina and Arizona, two states Mr. Romney won in 2012.

Mr. Trump has even trailed in a poll in strongly Republican Utah, which is one of the best-educated states in the country. It's unlikely that Mrs. Clinton could win Utah in the end, but it's nonetheless telling that Mr. Trump trails in a survey of a state where Democrats have not won more than 34 percent of the vote in the last 11 presidential elections.

The Trump campaign's aim to compete in industrial Democratic-leaning states like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio has not looked promising either. That's in part because of his broader challenge with well-educated whites (a recent NBC/Marist survey showed Mr. Trump trailing by 29 points in the Philadelphia suburbs), but it's also because he isn't connecting among white working-class Democrats the way the campaign had hoped.

The same NBC/Marist survey showed Mrs. Clinton leading in western Pennsylvania, where Mr. Obama lost many registered Democrats to Mr. Romney.

Part of the problem for Mr. Trump is that the anger that has driven his success in the Republican primaries isn't seen at the same levels in the general electorate.

A majority of Americans now narrowly approve of Mr. Obama's performance — a big improvement from his standing in surveys ahead of the midterm elections, when his ratings were decidedly negative. An ABC/Washington Post poll found that just 24 percent of Americans were angry at the federal government.

There also isn't much evidence that Americans are particularly dissatisfied with the state of the economy. The unemployment rate is at 5 percent, and gas prices are low. Consumer and economic confidence indicators are well within historical norms.

By all of these measures, national political and economic conditions are more favorable to the president's party than they were at this time in 2012, when Mr. Obama won re-election. These indicators might make Mrs. Clinton a slight favorite even if she were facing a more typical Republican nominee. Instead, it seems she will be facing a nominee who has both defied expectations and created enormous challenges for himself.

It's Donald Trump's Party Now

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

The Republican Party's trek into the darkness took a fateful step in Indiana on Tuesday.

The Hoosier State delivered an all-but-crowning victory to Donald Trump, who beat Ted Cruz soundly in the winner-take-all state, sweeping up 57 delegates. Shortly after the race was called, Mr. Cruz announced that he was ending his campaign, leaving Gov. John Kasich as the sole rival to Mr. Trump in the Republican contest.

That the Never-Trumpers had hoped to fall back on Mr. Cruz, perhaps the most reviled politician in his party, was a measure of their panic about the prospect now before them. With Mr. Trump's success, "I'm watching a 160-year-old political party commit suicide," said Henry Olsen, an elections analyst with the Ethics and Public Policy Center, a Republican think tank.

Republicans will all but certainly nominate Mr. Trump, who would be the most volatile and least prepared presidential candidate nominated by a major party in modern times. A man once ridiculed by many prominent Republicans will become the G.O.P. standard-bearer.

This is a moment of reckoning for the Republican Party. It's incumbent on its leadership to account for the failures and betrayals that led to this, and find a better way to address them than the demagoguery on offer.

Republicans haven't yet begun to grapple with this. Instead they're falling into line.

Republican leaders have for years failed to think about much of anything beyond winning the next election. Year after year, the party's candidates promised help for middle-class people who lost their homes, jobs and savings to recession, who lost limbs and well-being to war, and then did next to

nothing. That Mr. Trump was able to enthrall voters by promising simply to “Make America Great Again” — but offering only xenophobic, isolationist or fantastical ideas — is testimony to how thoroughly they reject the politicians who betrayed them.

Now, myopic as ever, Republican leaders are talking themselves into supporting Mr. Trump. At a party retreat in Florida last month, Mr. Trump’s adviser Paul Manafort, brought in to make the candidate seem safer to the old guard, assured them that Mr. Trump will better prepare himself for the presidency. “That was all most of these guys needed to hear,” said an operative in the room. “Maybe he’s trainable.” But within a day, Mr. Trump was back to making vile comments at his rallies. In his confused foreign policy address, he demonstrated nothing but a willful refusal to learn.

Some Republicans still seem to hope they can direct voters’ attention past the Trump candidacy. Last week in Washington, Paul Ryan, the speaker of the House, told a dismayed young Republican at Georgetown University to try not to worry so much about Mr. Trump. “I would just ask you to raise your gaze and look at the horizon that we’re trying to paint,” he said, promoting #ConfidentAmerica, his plan to create a plan. Its mission reads like this: “We do not like the direction the country is going, and we have an obligation to offer an alternative. That’s why House Republicans are developing a bold, pro-growth agenda to take to the country. By giving the people a clear choice in 2016, we can earn a mandate to do big things in 2017 and beyond.”

It is the Republicans who are making a clear choice in 2016, one that seemed unimaginable a year ago: To stamp what they still like to call the party of Lincoln with the brand of Donald Trump.

Ted Cruz Dropping Out Of The Republican Presidential Race

By Sean Sullivan And Katie Zezima
[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

INDIANAPOLIS — Ted Cruz, the insurgent Texan whose presidential campaign was fueled by disdain for Washington, prepared to announce he was leaving the race Tuesday night, removing the last major hurdle in Donald Trump’s quest to become the Republican nominee for president.

Cruz’s decision came after losing overwhelmingly to Trump in the Indiana primary, all but ensuring that real estate mogul will claim his party’s mantle at the Republican National Convention in July.

The exit comes after a series of desperate moves to keep his candidacy afloat in recent weeks, including naming former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina as his running

mate in a bizarre announcement where Cruz spoke for a half hour and Fiorina sang to his young daughters.

In his last day on the campaign trail, Cruz unloaded on Trump, calling the businessman a “pathological liar” and a “narcissist” who was proud of being a “serial philanderer.” The attacks were reminiscent of the broadsides Sen. Marco Rubio launched against Trump in the waning days of his own presidential campaign — and a far cry from the lavish praise Cruz heaped on Trump for most of 2015, declaring, “I like Donald Trump.”

Cruz’s campaign hit its zenith in February when he resoundingly won the Iowa caucuses, due in large part to months of cultivating grassroots support in the state. But it soon became a roller-coaster ride of crushing losses in states where Cruz expected to do well, including South Carolina and Georgia, followed by resounding wins in his home state of Texas and Wisconsin. Cruz’s campaign used its grasp of the delegate process to beat Trump at state conventions where delegates were chosen, but it was not enough to overcome the businessman’s tally and strength with the electorate.

The fact that Cruz remained one of the last candidates standing in a once-crowded field would have been viewed as improbable when he entered the race 14 months earlier. Cruz, the first major candidate to enter the race, is a first-term senator best known for getting under the skin of his Senate colleagues and championing controversial tactics to block the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. He was painted as a long-shot underdog who was too religious and conservative to advance past the early nominating contests.

But his campaign had a meticulous strategy it planned to roll out over the year that followed, and it started working soon after he announced.

“It is the time for truth. It is the time for liberty. It is the time to reclaim the Constitution of the United States,” Cruz said during his campaign kickoff at Liberty University, which was founded by the fundamentalist preacher Jerry Fallwell.

Cruz was immediately buoyed by impressive fundraising and the national platform that comes with announcing first. Groups backing the senator raised \$31 million during the first week of his candidacy, and the campaign raked in \$4 million.

The Texas Republican’s campaign employed a strategy of slowly introducing Cruz to a national audience while furiously working to shore up support with local activists and evangelical leaders in the first four voting states and the South, where the campaign expected Cruz to do well.

The campaign also talked about securing the support of delegates to the July convention almost as soon as it launched, envisioning Cruz in a head-to-head matchup with an establishment rival. The campaign sent emissaries to far-flung places such as Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands to try to lock down delegate support over the summer.

It was a campaign that reflected its candidate: methodical, strategic and data-driven. Cruz's campaign deployed a sophisticated data strategy that used psychographic information to appeal to the fears or hopes of potential voters.

Cruz touted his outsider status and contempt for what he called the "Washington cartel" of politicians and lobbyists in politics to get rich. He made the enmity of his Senate colleagues a point of pride, joking about needing a "food taster" in the Senate dining room. He made it clear that no other candidate would get to the right of him, particularly on the issue of immigration.

But then came Donald Trump.

Cruz made an early, conscious decision to buddy up to Trump, brushing aside the businessman's caustic comments about Mexicans and praising his toughness on immigration.

The two men met at Trump Tower in July, where Cruz invited Trump to tour the U.S.-Mexico border with him. Trump went, but Cruz could not because of Senate votes. Cruz and Trump both appeared at a rally against the Iranian nuclear deal on Capitol Hill in September.

As rivals were punching at Trump during the fall and quickly seeing their poll numbers drop as the businessman swatted back at them with insults, Cruz lavished praise on his rival for the nomination.

Cruz also tacked sharply to the right in order to compete with Trump's rhetoric. Cruz's immigration proposals grew tougher the longer Trump was in the race. He criticized Trump's plan for mass deportation of illegal immigrants, then seemed to support it. He spoke of being weary of foreign intervention, but promised to "carpet bomb" the Islamic State to see if "sand can glow in the dark" there. He introduced a bill to bar refugees from Syria and other groups.

In December — as Cruz's poll numbers were up nationally and in Iowa — he was caught on tape saying at a closed-door fundraiser that Trump may not have the judgment to be president. Cruz moved to smooth over the fracas, but Trump pounced. A few weeks later in January, Trump questioned whether Cruz, who was born in Canada, is eligible to be president.

Cruz then went on an offensive blitz against the businessman, assailing him for supporting partial-birth abortion and bankrolling Democratic candidates. It seemed to work, with Cruz beating Trump in the Iowa caucuses. But the momentum stopped in New Hampshire, where Trump won by big margins before marching to victories in South Carolina and Nevada.

Trump also upended Cruz's plan to chalk up big wins in the South, an area the campaign saw as receptive to Cruz's unyielding conservatism and his Christian faith. The campaign was hit with internal turmoil when Cruz fired his communications director, Rick Tyler, after Tyler posted on social media a video falsely purporting to show Sen. March

Rubio disparaging the Bible. Some of Cruz's most prominent backers openly questioned his campaign strategy.

Despite his other losses in the South, Cruz notched a big win in his home state that offered him a bonanza of delegates and kept his candidacy alive. A win in Wisconsin in early April infused much-needed momentum into the flagging campaign.

Cruz's team proved adept at mastering the arcane art of delegate allocation, regularly snatching delegate support from Trump at state conventions. But as the primary calendar moved to the Northeast — an area hostile to Cruz, who derided "New York values" on the campaign trail — Trump gained momentum while Cruz flagged.

Indiana, which Cruz's team had identified — along with Nebraska and California — as a state where it thought it could do well, never warmed to him. Cruz announced that he and Ohio Gov. John Kasich had an agreement where Cruz would campaign in Indiana and Kasich would not, instead focusing on Oregon and New Mexico. But the alliance turned rocky just hours after it was announced when Kasich refused to tell his supporters to vote for Cruz. The Texas Republican later said that there was no alliance, to which Kasich's chief strategist tweeted, "I can't stand liars."

Cruz laced into Trump across the state, criticizing the endorsement he received from boxer Mike Tyson, who served time in prison in Indiana on a rape conviction, and decrying Trump as an insecure bully. The Fiorina announcement, meant to revive Cruz's flagging candidacy in the state, gave it no discernable boost. The two barnstormed around the state, where Cruz faced less than enthusiastic crowds, and confronted a pro-Trump protester in Marion.

Cruz said of Trump, "This man is lying to you and he's taking advantage of you."

The man accused Cruz of lying, and said: "You'll find out tomorrow. Indiana don't want you."

Ted Cruz Was Right: GOP Voters Wanted An Anti-establishment Candidate, Just Not Him

By Lisa Mascaro

[Los Angeles Times](#), May 3, 2016

Ted Cruz was never expected to advance this far in the Republican presidential nominating contest.

The Texas senator was seen as too extreme for most Republicans, too despised by the establishment, too unknown by the rest of the country.

It turned out Cruz was right all along about what Republican voters really wanted in 2016: an anti-establishment rabble-rouser who would not apologize.

He was just wrong about the outsider.

On Tuesday, overshadowed like the other presidential aspirants by Donald Trump, Cruz suspended his campaign, saying he no longer saw a viable path forward.

"Together, we left it all on the field in Indiana. We gave it everything we've got, but the voters chose another path," Cruz said in Indianapolis, his family by his side, as supporters shouted "no" at the news. "And so, with a heavy heart, but with boundless optimism for the long-term future of our nation, we are suspending our campaign."

Cruz declined to congratulate Trump, whose path to the nomination was essentially cleared by the exit, though the businessman later praised his onetime rival as a "hell of a competitor."

"He is a smart, tough guy," Trump said at his own election night celebration at Trump Tower in New York. "And he has got an amazing future."

The defeat was one of contrast: While Trump's bombastic style and controversial ideas only enhanced his support, Cruz's preacher-like delivery often rubbed voters the wrong way.

He outlasted establishment favorites like Sen. Marco Rubio and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, just as he predicted he would. Yet with his intense unpopularity among GOP leaders, Cruz could not rally the party behind him, even as part of a last-ditch effort to block Trump.

Cruz's candidacy in this unusual election year showed the staying power still possible with a strong grass-roots organization, but also the limits of an old-school campaign based on conservative economic and social issues as the Republican Party struggles to attract a broader swath of voters.

For weeks, Cruz's only hope had been to stop Trump from securing the 1,237 delegates needed to win the nomination outright. He spent considerable time and money preparing for a floor fight among delegates at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland in July.

But after losses mounted, most recently in Indiana, that route closed. Even a last-minute alliance with rival John Kasich to divvy up remaining states backfired with voters.

By suspending his campaign, Cruz continues to control many of his delegates, making him a potential power broker at this summer's convention if Trump fails to reach 1,237.

"Ted Cruz ran the absolute best campaign he could run," said Josh Holmes, a GOP strategist, but still could not provide voters a viable alternative to Trump.

Cruz was the first Republican candidate to launch his campaign, appearing in March 2015 before students at the Liberty University, an evangelical college in Virginia. He lambasted the "Washington cartel" and made sure no other candidate could get to his right as Rubio and Bush focused on winning over the establishment.

Trump's steady rise brought discomfort to the other candidates, but not to Cruz initially. He drew the businessman closer, calling him "terrific." Rather than battle Trump, Cruz treated him as a friendly rival. The hope was Cruz would

scoop up Trump supporters once the businessman's campaign came to an end.

The strategy brought early success as Cruz easily secured backing from top tea party and evangelical Christian leaders. He built an impressive grass-roots organization and crisscrossed the country under a grueling, methodical schedule. Even detractors had begrudging admiration for his campaign operation. He won the first caucuses in Iowa.

But like the other candidates who have since receded, Cruz was no match for Trump.

Once Trump began turning his sights on "Lyn' Ted" – his preferred taunt – the senator could never quite recover. He stumbled in the conservative Southern states that should have been his to win and was wiped out by Trump in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic.

Instead, Cruz focused his attention on stopping Trump in the delegate race, an obscure aspect of the nominating process that seemed tailor-made for his army of devoted activists.

The unusual strategy showed initial promise. Cruz began building a corps of delegates in states Trump already had won, leaving the billionaire crying foul over a "rigged" system.

Trump clearly felt the heat, attacking the appearance of Cruz's wife, Heidi, and citing an unverified report in the National Enquirer that Cruz's father, Rafael, had known John F. Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

But although Cruz won some victories, both in Wisconsin's primary and in state delegate contests, Trump's team rebounded, slowing Cruz's advance in delegate math while walloping him in primary voting.

Cruz's core constituency of tea party and evangelical voters splintered and many grass-roots leaders lost interest in the first-term senator in favor of Trump.

At crucial moments, the GOP establishment only reluctantly came around to back Cruz as a last-ditch play to stop Trump. Their endorsements were usually offered late and halfheartedly.

Cruz pinned his comeback on Indiana and the pragmatic sensibilities of Hoosier State voters. But Trump's populism had already taken hold. And Cruz's awkwardness betrayed him again when he referred to a basketball hoop as a "ring."

A day before Indiana voters went to the polls, Cruz declared: "I am in for the distance. As long as we have a viable path to victory, I am in to the end."

And then he was out.

The story was updated with comments from Donald Trump.

The story was originally published at 5:42 p.m.

Ted Cruz Drops Out Of Presidential Race

By Shane Goldmacher

[Politico](#), May 3, 2016

Ted Cruz is quitting the presidential race, according to campaign manager Jeff Roe, ending one of the best-organized campaigns of 2016 after a series of stinging defeats left Donald Trump as the only candidate capable of clinching the nomination outright.

Cruz had appeared likely to go all the way to the Republican convention, but a string of massive losses in the Northeast, and his subsequent defeat in Indiana, appear to have convinced him there's no way forward.

John Kasich, however, pledged on Tuesday night to stay in the race until a candidate reaches 1,237 bound delegates.

Ted Cruz Stayed On Message Even As He Lost His Way

By Matt Flegenheimer

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

INDIANAPOLIS — Less than a month ago, Senator Ted Cruz seemed to have done it.

He had won Wisconsin. Former rivals were holding their noses to support him. He was dominating delegate elections, positioning himself for what seemed increasingly likely to be a floor fight at the Republican convention in July, as the campaign of Donald J. Trump fell into internal disarray.

"Tonight is a turning point," Mr. Cruz said on primary night in Milwaukee. "It is a rallying cry."

It was neither.

On Tuesday, Mr. Cruz's loss in Indiana all but extinguished his chances of denying Mr. Trump the nomination. He may go on, as something of a protest candidate for the "Never Trump" cause, but even some of his allies allowed that his path forward was more quixotic than reasoned, his fleeting window in the post-Wisconsin moment virtually slammed shut.

Yet to dismiss Mr. Cruz as an also-ran would diminish his unlikely feat in outlasting nearly every rival: His calls for conservative purity have been, for better or worse, the most consistent message in the field, his rage against the "Washington cartel" a signal of the nation's ever-dimming view of its leaders.

In a year when many voters flocked to the candidate they hoped could startle Washington into submission, Mr. Cruz galvanized millions of supporters drawn to his more ideological conservatism, quoting founding documents and free-market texts. He was the most right-leaning candidate to even sniff the nomination in at least a half-century.

Long before Mr. Trump careered into the race, Mr. Cruz staked perhaps the loudest claim to the boiling national anger among hard-line conservatives in the age of President Obama.

He was half-right.

"Ted Cruz's theory of the race was that conservatives were angry," said Ben Domenech, the publisher of *The Federalist*, a conservative online journal. "It turns out that everyone was angry."

For a candidate who appeared, just a few weeks ago, to have a plausible path to the nomination, the descent came quickly. The calendar did not help.

Hours after his Wisconsin victory, he charged headlong into New York City, earning Bronx jeers that foretold a hostile reception across a half-dozen Eastern states that were never a natural fit for him.

"Manhattan has spoken!" Mr. Cruz joked bitterly in Indiana. "Everyone give up and go home."

But the problems ran deeper.

Given an opening to unite the party in opposition to a man many see as an existential threat to it, Mr. Cruz was unable to consolidate support, leaving Republican leaders lurching toward a fateful bet: Live with the risk of a Trump nomination rather than elevate a figure they loathe.

His advisers insisted that he was a more versatile candidate than past Iowa caucus winners like Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum, but he failed to sufficiently expand his appeal much beyond the party's most religious and ideological voters. His surrogates in Indiana looked much the same as in Iowa, with faith-inflected testimonials from the radio host Glenn Beck and Representative Louie Gohmert of Texas.

"Conservatives are uniting," Mr. Cruz said often on the campaign trail, long after it felt true. But his efforts were undercut, in large measure, by his toxic relationships with Senate colleagues and a manifest indifference to repairing them.

Soon, the indignities mounted. He named Carly Fiorina his prospective running mate, despite trailing by several hundred delegates, briefly rousing a partly full Indianapolis pavilion.

He earned scorn in Indiana for referring to a basketball rim as a "ring." He was heckled by a young boy in La Porte and several middle-aged men in Marion.

"Sir, with all respect," Mr. Cruz pleaded, after approaching one of them for a chat on Monday, "Donald Trump is deceiving you. He is playing you for a chump."

On Tuesday morning, he at last unburdened himself in full, promising to tell reporters "what I really think of Donald Trump" for the first time.

"This man is a pathological liar," Mr. Cruz said, ticking off Mr. Trump's distortions, his infidelities, his penchant for conspiracy theories. "The man is utterly amoral."

It is possible there is nothing more Mr. Cruz could have done.

Mr. Trump has proved immune to political gravity. He has been largely impervious to attacks, once Mr. Cruz backed

away from his monthslong embrace and began hammering him.

Most critically, Mr. Trump's success in early states across the South, thought to be Mr. Cruz's firewall, forced a rewrite of the Cruz campaign playbook on the fly.

But while few politicians have better absorbed the lessons of the party's rightward tilt in recent years, Mr. Cruz has found himself outmaneuvered on issues like trade and national defense by an outsider whose political antenna had a crisper signal.

Even on immigration — where Mr. Cruz's grasp of the party's id helped vanquish a foe, Marco Rubio, who came to regret embracing a pathway to citizenship — Mr. Trump managed to go bigger and louder.

That Mr. Cruz has lasted this long anyway is a triumph of management guile and considerable hustle: No Republican campaign more effectively marshaled its finances, holding the most cash on hand for much of the race, and no candidate has worked harder, frequently dashing through six events a day in Iowa.

With a showman's itch and a singular manner of speaking — the long pauses, the controlled twang, the easy deployment of words like "élan" and "hosannas" on the stump — Mr. Cruz has registered at times like an actor playing the role of presidential candidate.

He often resorted to gimmickry, from re-enacted movie scenes to lawyerly theatrics to his grandest stunt of all: adding Mrs. Fiorina to an imagined ticket.

But these last few, flailing weeks have belied a campaign that for months followed its initial strategy to the letter.

Mr. Cruz and his advisers have often likened the election to a college basketball tournament bracket, where opponents like Scott Walker and Marco Rubio were to be muscled out one by one. (They also griped that Gov. John Kasich of Ohio failed to leave the court, despite the score.)

When Mr. Cruz entered the race, his team openly cheered its meager position, roughly 5 percent in the polls, reasoning that he could energize his core supporters first.

"You have to own a base in the Republican primary," his campaign manager, Jeff Roe, said the day Mr. Cruz announced his run at an evangelical university last year. "If you own the base, then you can grow it."

Mr. Cruz's most consequential choice might have come last year, when he defended Mr. Trump as a credible outsider and a force for good in the race as rivals began taking swings.

As late as December, he celebrated Mr. Trump as "terrific," rising quietly in the polls as Mr. Trump absorbed the slings and arrows directed to a front-runner.

Even after Mr. Trump began disparaging his Mr. Cruz's Canadian birth, Mr. Cruz still initially resisted a full-scale barrage. Eventually, his broadsides were frequent and

scattershot: Mr. Trump was too unsteady, too shift, too consumed by social media, too much like Hillary Clinton.

Recently, as Mr. Cruz's growth seemed to reach its outer bounds, he leaned increasingly on this sort of messaging potpourri.

He tried positioning himself as the party's champion of women. He cast himself as the heir to President Obama's generational promise, debuting a new slogan — "Yes, we will!" — that was quickly abandoned.

Then there was his habit of declaring as fact things he wished to be true. Mr. Cruz often described the "hard ceiling" of support that Mr. Trump would surely brush up against, estimating it to be 35 to 40 percent.

"Donald has been a minority candidate, a fringe candidate," Mr. Cruz told reporters last week.

The next day, Mr. Trump received at least 54 percent of the vote in all five primaries.

And if Mr. Trump's chosen moniker for Mr. Cruz ("Lyn' Ted") was not quite as instantly devastating as some of his others ("Low-Energy" Jeb Bush, "Little Marco" Rubio), the Cruz campaign contributed to lending it a ring of truth — not least because of his abrupt antagonism toward Mr. Trump after reams of praise.

While Mr. Cruz steadied himself, rebounding in his home state of Texas and winning several smaller contests and delegate conventions, his successes have been too few.

Even in victory, Mr. Cruz spoke often in apocalyptic terms. Facing defeat, his pleas grew pained.

"If Indiana does not act," he said hours before Tuesday's vote, "this country could well plunge into the abyss."

Ted Cruz 'Too Strategic For His Own Good'

By Rick Jervis

[USA Today](#), May 3, 2016

Less than a month ago, Ted Cruz was flush with confidence from a big win in Wisconsin and poised as the biggest threat to derail the runaway campaign of Donald Trump.

Then, an awkward alliance with GOP rival John Kasich happened.

And a more awkward naming of Carly Fiorina as his running mate, even though he trailed Trump in delegates.

And then the former speaker of the U.S. House called him "Lucifer in the flesh."

Talk about a rough week.

On Tuesday night, Cruz called it quits after Indiana Republican voters overwhelmingly chose Trump, putting the race out of reach and ending the candidate's goal of forcing a contested convention.

The concession ended 13 months of a campaign from the Texas senator that repeatedly defied naysayers and shone in its organizational prowess. But what it had in

strategy and organization it lacked in staying power and broad voter excitement for a candidate that is broadly disliked — from Republican colleagues to Democratic opponents. While Trump steadily expanded his universe of supporters, Cruz couldn't budge past his core constituents, mostly Tea Party activists who favored his prickly outsider persona and threats to disband the IRS.

"Cruz stayed in the same place while Trump was able to gradually move ahead," said Mark Jones, a Rice University political scientist who followed the Cruz campaign closely. "When push came to shove, Republican primary voters didn't go stampeding for Cruz."

Cruz's chameleon-like quality allowed him to weave and glide through one of the most crowded GOP races in history. His Princeton-sharpened debate skills made him a formidable foe on stage through one televised debate after another, bringing the persona of a principled Republican leader into millions of living rooms.

But that deft maneuvering also led to his undoing. Voters noticed when Cruz initially chummed up with Trump, then a few months later denounced him as a pathological liar. His backroom dealings to win delegates in some states gained media attention. The beginning of the end seemed to come last week when his campaign announced a baffling alliance with Kasich over Indiana votes that fizzled as quickly as it started.

Each time, Trump pounced, dispatching disparaging missives to his nearly millions of Twitter followers and using Cruz's maneuvers to bolster his narrative of a rigged system.

Cruz persisted, buoyed by the fact that he had outlasted most other rivals and a contested convention was in sight. He stayed on point and hammered Trump with a discipline seen in few other candidates. But voters weren't buying it. His standing among Republican voters plummeted from 61% who had a favorable outlook on him in January, to 39% this week, according to a Gallup poll released Tuesday.

The Republican establishment had little choice but to back Cruz, terrified at what Trump in a general election might do the party's long-term health. Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham described the choice between Trump and Cruz like "being shot or poisoned." But as the polls widened and Trump pulled ahead, that wasn't enough. Cruz's maneuvering, the perception of his win-at-all-costs style, didn't sit well with voters or chunks of the establishment needed to win.

"Republican elites are probably wondering what might have been if the person to rally around wasn't Ted Cruz but someone like Marco Rubio," Jones said.

He added: "He was too strategic for his own good."

Last SlideNext Slide

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Trump On Cruz: 'He Is One Hell Of A Competitor'

By Daniel Strauss

[Politico](#), May 3, 2016

Donald Trump praised Ted Cruz in his Indiana victory speech on Tuesday night, touting his rival moments after the Texas senator dropped out of the race.

"Just so you understand, Ted Cruz, I don't know if he likes me or if he doesn't like me, but he is one hell of a competitor," Trump said in his first mention of Cruz of the night. "And he has got an amazing future. He's got an amazing future. So I want to congratulate Ted. I know how tough it is."

Trump also praised Republican National Committee leader Reince Priebus, whom he has previously criticized, and made a broader pitch for unity.

"I want to thank and congratulate the Republican National Committee and Reince Priebus. He's doing a tremendous job," Trump said. "What Ted did is really a brave thing to do and a great thing to do because we want to bring unity to the Republican party. We have to bring unity."

Earlier in the speech Trump bashed former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and vowed to defeat her.

"She will not be a good president, she will be a poor president," Trump said.

Exiting 2016 Race, Republican Cruz Leaves Himself A Path Forward

By Ginger Gibson And Alana Wise

[Reuters](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

John Kasich Insists Donald Trump Can Still Be Stopped

By Stephen Dinan

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

Ohio Gov. John Kasich insisted Tuesday night he's still in the GOP's presidential race, even after the party's leadership declared Donald Trump the presumptive nominee.

Sen. Ted Cruz dropped out after losing Indiana's primary to Mr. Trump, but Mr. Kasich — who appeared on track to earn less than 8 percent of the vote in the contest — said he's staying in anyway.

"As long as it remains possible, Governor Kasich will fight for the higher path," Kasich strategist John Weaver said in a statement. "Ted Cruz ran a strong campaign, stood for conservative principles and exposed a lot about Donald Trump. Governor Kasich will continue to campaign and offer the voters a clear choice for our country."

Mr. Kasich has won only one contest so far — his home state of Ohio — and is fourth in the chase for delegates, trailing even Sen. Marco Rubio, who dropped out nearly two months ago.

But he said until Mr. Trump can claim to have the 1,237 delegates needed to win the nomination, the race isn't over.

GOP leaders feel otherwise.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus dubbed Mr. Trump the presumptive nominee Tuesday night, and urged Republicans to rally behind him in order to defeat likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

Trump, Sanders Lead In West Virginia

[Public Policy Polling](#), May 4, 2016

PPP's new West Virginia poll finds it's likely to just keep Donald Trump's recent streak of dominant victories right on going. Trump leads in the state with 61% to 22% for Ted Cruz and 14% for John Kasich. Trump, with a 67/24 favorability rating, is the only candidate GOP voters in the state even like. Both Kasich (32/50) and Cruz (32/53) come in with negative favorability ratings.

Adding Carly Fiorina to the ticket has done little to help Cruz. Only 12% of voters say picking her as his running mate makes them more likely to vote for Cruz, compared to 31% who say it makes them less likely to vote for Cruz and 54% who say they just don't care one way or another. Fiorina's 40/32 favorability rating with Republican primary voters does at least make her more popular than Cruz himself.

Trump is winning every subgroup of the Republican electorate, but a few things stand out. He's getting 70% among the independents planning to vote in the GOP primary, to 20% for Cruz and just 9% for Kasich. Trump also has by far and away the most committed support- 87% of his voters say they will definitely cast their ballots for him next Tuesday, compared to only 67% of Cruz's voters and 45% of Kasich's voters who say the same about their candidates. The race is tighter among 'very conservative' voters, with Trump getting 51% to Cruz's 38% but among both moderates and 'somewhat conservative' voters, Trump's advantage is up over 50 points.

On the Democratic side Bernie Sanders is leading with 45% to 37% for Hillary Clinton. The 18% of voters who are undecided is unusually high and speaks to the number of registered Democrats in West Virginia who don't really identify with the national party at this point. Among the undecideds Sanders has a 15/77 favorability rating and Clinton's even worse off at 12/84 so there may end up being a decent mass of voters who just don't vote for either of the candidates.

West Virginia's the latest of open primary states or semi open primary states where we find Clinton ahead with Democrats (43/41) but losing overall because she's getting swamped with independents (56/19). Clinton is actually

ahead 52/41 with liberals, but Sanders has the cumulative edge because he's up 55/31 with moderates and 36/19 with conservatives who in West Virginia are 22% of the primary electorate. One thing Clinton does have going for her in West Virginia is that 79% of her voters are firmly committed to her, compared to 65% of Sanders' who say the same. If she can peel off some of those weak Sanders supporters in the next week she still has a chance to take the state.

General election match ups for President in West Virginia are mostly not competitive. As bad as Trump's favorability numbers are nationally, in West Virginia he comes out narrowly on positive ground at 47/45 and he leads Clinton 57/30 and Sanders 56/35 in head to heads. Kasich leads Clinton 52/27 and Sanders 48/31 as well. The numbers for Cruz are a little bit interesting though- even in this state that's become very reliably Republican at the Presidential level, he has just a 21/64 favorability rating. There are more voters in West Virginia who like Sanders (30%) and even Clinton (23%) than there are who like Cruz. Cruz leads Clinton 44/31, but against Sanders he's ahead just 40/39. Cruz would win the state, but the numbers there still speak to how toxic he's become.

Jim Justice is the early favorite in the Governor's race, both for the Democratic primary and the general election. 37% of primary voters support Justice to 23% for Booth Goodwin and 19% for Jeff Kessler, with 21% of voters still undecided a week out from the election. Justice also leads Bill Cole 41-35 for the general election, making him the only one of the Democratic hopefuls who would start out with an advantage for the general. Goodwin trails Cole 39/33 at this point, and Kessler has a 40/30 deficit at this stage.

Poll: Trump Holds 39-point Lead In West Virginia

By Rebecca Savransky

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump has a nearly 40-point lead over his competition in West Virginia, according to a Public Policy Polling survey released Tuesday.

Trump has 61 percent support in the Mountaineer State, which holds its GOP primary on May 10, and rival Ted Cruz follows with 22 percent. John Kasich comes in last with 14 percent.

Trump also has a high favorability rating among GOP voters in the state: 67 percent, while only 24 percent view him negatively.

Cruz and Kasich both have 32 percent favorability ratings. The Ohio governor is viewed negatively by 50 percent of GOP voters, and Cruz by 53 percent of voters.

According to the survey, 12 percent of voters say Cruz adding former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina as his running mate makes them more likely to vote for the Texas

senator, and 31 percent say the addition makes them less likely to vote for Cruz. More than half say they don't care either way.

Trump is winning among independents planning to vote in the GOP primary, among moderates and "somewhat conservative" voters.

He is also leading among "very conservative" voters, though by a smaller margin.

In a general election match-up between Trump and Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, Trump leads Clinton in West Virginia 57 to 30 percent. He also leads Bernie Sanders 56 to 35 percent. Cruz and Kasich also both lead the Democratic candidates in the state.

The poll was conducted among 1,201 West Virginia voters from April 29 to May 1. The margin of error is 2.8 percentage points overall. Among the sample of 549 likely Republican primary voters, the margin of error is 4.2 percentage points.

Cruz Unleashes Fury At Trump Over Lee Harvey Oswald Comment

[Reuters](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Cruz: Trump Is An 'Utterly Amoral' Bully, Narcissist, Pathological Liar

By Ian Swanson And Jonathan Easley

[The Hill](#), May 3, 2016

Ted Cruz laid into Donald Trump with his most personal and toughest criticism since the GOP presidential campaign began, calling him a "pathological liar" on Tuesday who doesn't understand the difference between the truth and lies.

Cruz prefaced his comments by saying that for the first time, he wanted to say exactly what he thought of Trump after the front-runner suggested Cruz's father might have had something to do with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Texas senator accused Trump of being both disingenuous and self-aggrandizing, saying Trump was a "narcissist" at a level "I don't think this country has ever seen."

"Donald Trump is such a narcissist that Barack Obama looks at him and says, 'Dude, what's your problem?'" Cruz said.

"Whatever lie he's telling, in that minute he believes it, Cruz added. "But the man is utterly amoral. Morality does not exist for him."

He criticized Trump for tweeting an unflattering picture of his wife, Heidi Cruz, saying it is just one piece of evidence that Trump is scared of "strong women."

"It's why he went after Heidi directly, attacked her and smeared her," Cruz said. "Heidi isn't pretty enough for him. ... Donald is a bully. ... Bullies don't come from strength, they come from weakness. ... There's a reason Donald builds giant buildings and puts his name on them everywhere he goes."

"Donald has a real problem with women," Cruz continued.

He then noted that Trump defended boxer Mike Tyson, who was convicted in Indiana on rape charges, and told Trump's supporters they should not believe their favored candidate.

"Donald is cynically exploiting that anger, and Donald is lying to his supporters," he said. He went on to insist Trump would betray his them by not doing what he promises, including his pledge to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Cruz's all-out assault suggested his campaign might be nearing its breaking point.

Cruz raised the stakes for a one-on-one confrontation with Trump in Indiana last week, signaling he believed he could defeat the GOP businessman in the state. Polls now show that Cruz is behind Trump, who is expected to win the state on Tuesday. With a win in Indiana, Trump will be the presumptive GOP nominee and Cruz's hopes for a contested convention this summer where he could emerge as the nominee will fade.

Cruz has appeared frustrated in recent days.

On Monday, he made the unusual move of confronting a group of Trump supporters outside his campaign stop. As Cruz sought to reason with the men, he was met with derision about being born in Canada, insults about his wife's employer and doubts about his chances of being the GOP nominee.

On Tuesday, Trump's comments about Cruz's father and the Kennedy assassination appeared to set the Texan off.

"His father was with Lee Harvey Oswald prior to Oswald being shot. I mean, the whole thing is ridiculous," Trump said, calling into "Fox and Friends." "Nobody even brings it up; they don't even talk about that."

"What was he doing with Lee Harvey Oswald shortly before the death, before the shooting?" Trump asked.

Cruz said the country is facing the "abyss" with the possibility of Trump as president.

"If Indiana does not act, this country could plunge into the abyss," he said.

He dug into Trump's past as a Manhattan playboy, savaging Trump for bragging about his infidelities.

"Donald Trump is a serial philanderer and he boasts about it," Cruz said. "This is not a secret, he's proud of being a serial philander. I want everyone to think about your teenage kids. The president of the United States talks about how great it is to commit adultery. How proud he is, describes

his battle with venereal disease as his own personal Vietnam. That's a quote from the Howard Stern show.

"Do you want to spend the next five years with your kids bragging about infidelity?"

Cruz has been looking for a game-changer in Tuesday's Indiana primary. He brokered a deal with John Kasich, the other GOP candidate in the race, that led the Ohio governor to give up campaigning in the state in a move meant to help Cruz and hurt Trump.

Cruz also named Carly Fiorina as his running mate in a bid to change the race's momentum.

So far, the moves do not appear to have made much difference.

In his tirade, Cruz also singled out Rupert Murdoch and Roger Ailes, the media titans who control Fox News, accusing them of being in the tank for Trump.

"Network executives have made a decision to get behind Donald Trump," Cruz said. "Rupert Murdoch and Roger Ailes at Fox News have turned Fox News into the Donald Trump Network, 24-7."

Cruz said Murdoch has a history of "picking world leaders" abroad but said he's never before asserted that kind of influence in the U.S.

Ted Cruz Urges Indiana To Stop Donald Trump, Pull Country Back From The 'abyss'

By Seth McLaughlin

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

Sen. Ted Cruz delivered a full-throated take down of businessman Donald Trump, as part of a last-ditch effort to trip up the New York billionaire in Indiana's primary, which is shaping up to be the last stand for the "Never Trump" movement in the GOP presidential race.

Mr. Cruz told reporters that the rest of the country is counting on Indiana voters to pull the party back from the "abyss," describing Mr. Trump as a "bully," a proud "serial philanderer," a "narcissist" and a "pathological liar."

"It is only the good sense and good judgment of Indiana that can pull us back," Mr. Cruz said after a campaign stop in Evansville, Indiana. "We are staring at the abyss, and I have incredible faith in Hoosiers."

Mr. Trump was leading Mr. Cruz by double digits heading into the Indiana primary on Tuesday. Mr. Cruz is hoping to deny Mr. Trump the 1,237 delegates he needs to win the nomination on the first ballot at the Republican National Convention, and scoring a win in Indiana was a key part of that plan.

The attack against Mr. Trump came after he suggested Mr. Cruz's father was involved in the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy, a suggestion based on a recent story in the National Enquirer.

"He doesn't know the difference between truth and lies," Mr. Cruz said.

"If you hooked him up to a lie-detector test, he could say one thing in the morning, one thing at noon and one thing in the evening, all contradictory and he would pass the lie detector each time," he said. "Whatever lie he is telling at that minute, he believes it."

Mr. Cruz said Mr. Trump is lying to his supporters and will betray them on every issue including immigration.

He also slammed Mr. Trump for attacking his wife, Heidi, and said Mr. Trump has a "real problem" with strong women. He said Mr. Trump has embraced Mike Tyson, a convicted rapist; boasted about being a "serial philanderer"; and talked about how a venereal disease was his "own personal Vietnam."

"As the father of two young girls, the idea of our two daughters coming home and repeating what that man says horrifies me," Mr. Cruz said.

Barry Bennett, a senior adviser to the Trump campaign, called Mr. Cruz's comments a "truly sad display."

"I've been a part of a lot of campaigns that have come to [an] end that we didn't expect or want, but this was [a] truly sad display what just happened," Mr. Bennett said on CNN.

"I know he's tired, I feel for he and his family, but that was reprehensible. I mean, no one should do this," Mr. Bennett said. "I don't know who thought this was a great idea, but we're watching his campaign implode. We're watching his reputation just being torn to shreds."

"This is not the way you lose," he said.

Asked if Mr. Trump is going to be reaching out to Mr. Cruz to try to mend fences, Mr. Bennett said: "I think some time has to pass."

"Obviously, he's a very angry man right now, and it's best to let him heal for awhile," he said, referring to Mr. Cruz.

Ted Cruz: Media Executives 'Have Made A Decision To Get Behind Donald Trump'

By Hadas Gold

[Politico](#), May 3, 2016

Sen. Ted Cruz faces a tough battle in the Indiana polls on Tuesday, seen by many experts as the last chance to stop Donald Trump's march to the nomination.

But speaking to reporters there at a press conference, Cruz flipped the tables, criticizing the media and specifically News Corp. and 21st Century Fox chairman Rupert Murdoch and Fox News CEO Roger Ailes, accusing them of turning Fox News into the "Donald Trump network."

"There is a broader dynamic at work, which is network executives have made a decision to get behind Donald Trump. Rupert Murdoch and Roger Ailes at Fox News have turned Fox News into the Donald Trump network," Cruz told reporters on Tuesday morning. "Rupert Murdoch is used to

picking world leaders in Australia and the United Kingdom running tabloids, and we're seeing it here at home with the consequences for this nation. Media executives are trying to convince Hoosiers, trying to convince Americans, the race is decided. You have no choice. You are stuck between Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton, either one of which is a horrific choice for this country."

MSNBC and CNN aired the presser live.

Cruz has previously criticized Fox News for their coverage and has specifically tangled with host Sean Hannity over the hosts supposed preference for Trump, while Hannity has said he's been "more than fair" to Cruz. But this may be the furthest Cruz has ever lashed out at the network and its leadership.

Spokespeople for Rupert Murdoch and Fox News did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

UPDATE: In a blog post on Foxnews.com, anchor Greta Van Susteren responded to Cruz's remarks.

If Senator Ted Cruz told the whole story this is what he would have to tell you:

Almost every single day (including weekends) since at least last December when he last appeared on ON THE RECORD at 7p, the staff of ON THE RECORD at 7p has contacted the Cruz campaign offering Senator Ted Cruz live interviews, taped interviews or town halls. We even told his campaign on dozens occasions that they could pick the date and location for the town halls. He did not take us up on our offers. The staff claimed he was unavailable."

Cruz has appeared on Fox News 120 times since declaring his candidacy.

Joe Pompeo and Alex Weprin contributed.

Hadas Gold is a reporter at Politico.

Anti-Trump Republicans Confront A Dilemma: Are They Ready To Help Elect Clinton?

By Sean Sullivan And Katie Zezima

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

INDIANAPOLIS — Anti-Donald Trump Republicans are starting to consider whether their opposition to a Trump presidency is so strong that they would be prepared to fight him in the general election — even if that means helping put an avowed enemy, Hillary Clinton, in the Oval Office.

One strategy under discussion is to focus on helping down-ballot GOP candidates while sitting out the presidential race under the belief that Trump will lose to Clinton no matter what. A more drastic and difficult option: rallying support for a third-party candidate who could uphold traditional Republican positions but would almost certainly steal votes from Trump.

"You have to bet on sanity," said GOP strategist Stuart Stevens, who helped lead the campaign of 2012 nominee Mitt Romney. "If this is one of those moments in history where

for various reasons the party has to play out nominating someone who is completely unelectable . . . so be it."

The dilemma came into focus Tuesday night, when Trump scored a decisive victory in Indiana over Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas — prompting Cruz to say he was dropping out of the race — despite an all-out effort by the anti-Trump forces to turn the state into a firewall to halt the billionaire's march toward the nomination.

Trump triumphantly declared in an interview that the so-called "never Trump" movement was "dying a fast death."

Some anti-Trump Republicans believe the current strategy shouldn't be abandoned until Trump actually wins the 1,237 delegates he needs to clinch the nomination. But he has now won seven straight primaries, including the latest in a state where his foes spent millions of dollars under the belief that he was vulnerable.

"Indiana further confirmed the 'stop Trump' efforts didn't work and spending even more resources in an effort keep him from the nomination will just be expensive political therapy or theatre at this point," former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty, a former Marco Rubio backer who is now neutral, said in an email.

The difficulty of the GOP's path forward was clear in the hours before and after the voting here. Even as Trump has tried to assert himself as the presumptive GOP nominee, he allowed his already bitter rivalry with Cruz to darken further. Trump on Tuesday invoked a National Enquirer report alleging that Cruz's father had been spotted with Lee Harvey Oswald around the time of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Cruz called Trump a "pathological liar" and refuted his claim.

Cruz announced hours later that he was suspending his campaign. But the continued nastiness prompted some anti-Trump Republicans to look toward a once-unthinkable prospect — under-cutting the GOP nominee in ways that could make way for a Clinton presidency.

"The GOP is going to nominate for President a guy who reads the National Enquirer and thinks it's on the level," tweeted Mark Salter, a former aide to Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.). Then he added a Clinton campaign slogan: "I'm with her."

For some Republicans, the prospect of a President Clinton is more palatable than a President Trump — not because they like Clinton, but because they could fight her on familiar terrain, rather than watching an unpredictable Trump use the power of the White House to remake the GOP.

Conservative blogger Erick Erickson, a staunch Trump critic, said he and other activists plan to hold a conference call Wednesday to discuss strategy moving forward. Among the ideas on the table is rallying behind a third-party challenger, an admittedly difficult task because of logistical hurdles involving such things as fundraising and securing spots on state ballots.

Erickson said that a more likely option would be letting Trump run and, these opponents believe, lose on his own in November.

"There are a number of us who can't bring ourselves to vote for him, and there's more and more polling showing just how badly he would cause the Republicans to lose other races," Erickson said.

Either plan would mark a dramatic shift from the prevailing approach among anti-Trump groups to try and block him from the nomination by selectively targeting him in states where Cruz or Ohio Gov. John Kasich have the best chance of beating him.

Indiana was a state where they saw a chance to slow the mogul. Such groups as Our Principles PAC and the Club for Growth together spent \$3.2 million on anti-Trump ads in the run-up to Tuesday's primary — about half the total spending by independent organizations in the state.

But even before Tuesday, there were signs that donors are losing their appetites to finance the stop-Trump efforts. Anti-Trump super PACs spent just \$4.8 million on TV ads and mailers in April, down from \$21.7 million in March and nearly \$11 million in February, according to Federal Election Commission filings.

In all, anti-Trump groups have pummeled the Republican front-runner with more than \$43 million in TV commercials, leaflets and paid phone calls since the beginning of the campaign. But nearly all of those efforts came in January, long after Trump had been riding high in GOP polls.

One of the anti-Trump groups, #NeverTrump, released a statement late Tuesday from strategist Rory Cooper acknowledging that Trump's Indiana win "makes the road ahead more challenging."

Cooper said the group will "continue to seek opportunities to oppose his nomination," but he appeared to look ahead to the group's role in the general election.

"A strong Never Trump movement is critical to protecting Republican incumbents and down-ballot candidates, by distinguishing their values and principles from that of Trump, and protecting them from a wave election," he said.

Katie Packer, chair of the Our Principles PAC, said late Tuesday that, despite the Indiana results, a "substantial number of delegates remain up for grabs in this highly unpredictable year" and that the weeks before the June California primary allow time in which Trump can "continue to disqualify himself in the eyes of voters."

Many anti-Trump Republicans, such as Stanley Hubbard, a Minnesota media mogul and major donor who has given to Our Principles PAC, have concluded it is too late for a third-party bid to save Republicans. Hubbard wants to see the Republican race play out all the way until June 7, when the final contests are held, he said.

"Until you get the number, you're not the candidate, and close only counts in horseshoes," said Hubbard.

Cruz had vowed to keep campaigning so long as he has a path to the nomination. His only possibility is a contested convention, an outcome that looks less likely after Trump's win in Indiana.

The next primary will be in Nebraska next Tuesday, where one of the two Republican senators, Ben Sasse, is a leading critic of Trump. Sasse declined to be interviewed about his plans but signaled that he would continue trying to rally votes against Trump in the primary.

"I plan to keep doing what Nebraskans elected me to do: Tell the truth that America's greatness isn't found in a strongman's narcissism but in our Constitution's celebration of limited government, natural rights, free speech, and equal opportunity," he said.

Zeizima reported from Washington. Matea Gold and Anu Narayanswamy in Washington contributed to this report.

Turns Out Some Republicans Would Rather Disown Their Party Than Vote For Donald Trump

[Huffington Post](#), May 3, 2016

Preibus' job is to unify the party. And in urging fellow Republicans to unite behind Trump, he was essentially declaring an end to a bitter, odd, often comically acidic primary fight.

But he's gonna need more than a tweet.

Before Trump took to the mics, many of the top conservative voices in the press, some of the party's top operatives, and even elected officials were reaffirming that they simply won't support the real estate tycoon. One even burned his Republican registration card.

Certainly, there is plenty of time between now and November for feelings to change, for bruised egos to heal, for Republicans to talk themselves into supporting Trump. But step back and take stock of what took place on Tuesday. A party finally determined who its presumptive nominee would be — and a good chunk of its commentariat, many of its operatives and even some of its lawmakers collectively hurled.

Editor's note: Donald Trump regularly incites political violence and is a serial liar, rampant xenophobe, racist, misogynist and birther who has repeatedly pledged to ban all Muslims — 1.6 billion members of an entire religion — from entering the U.S.

Republican Leaders Face A Decision On Donald Trump

Front-runner had only seen a trickle of support from officials before Indiana primary victory

By Beth Reinhard

[Wall Street Journal](#), May 3, 2016

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Charles Koch Doesn't Like The GOP Race, But Don't Expect Him To Back Clinton

By Jim Tankersley

[Washington Post](#), May 3, 2016

WICHITA – Charles Koch laments the tone of this presidential campaign, particularly from likely Republican nominee Donald Trump, but he almost certainly won't be supporting Democrat Hillary Clinton in the general election.

In an interview in the Kansas offices of his company, Koch Industries, the billionaire businessman and political donor at first said he could not see a chance he would support Clinton this fall despite his concerns with Trump. He immediately amended himself: "There is a chance," he could support Clinton, Koch said, "but it's highly remote."

Last month, Koch told ABC News in an interview that he could be open to supporting Clinton, a statement that raised eyebrows on the left and right. He clarified what he meant on Tuesday.

"What I'm trying to say is that I'm not for Republicans or Democrats. I couldn't care less about what the party label – in fact I agree with George Washington's concern about parties. They become an end in themselves, rather than helping people improve their lives. So what I was trying to say is, if Hillary had policies that would more likely make people's lives better than Republicans, I'd be for Hillary. I'm for whoever will do that. I couldn't care less."

Koch and his brother, David, are two of the most influential conservative donors in the country. The network of political nonprofits that they lead aims to spend \$900 million in the run-up to the 2016 elections – money that at this point is largely expected to boost conservative congressional candidates, not the GOP presidential nominee.

Charles Koch said the decision not to back any candidate thus far was a direct reaction to the insulting tone of the campaign. He said he told candidates that to get his support, "You've got to be like Ronald Reagan, and you've got to compete on, I'm going to do a better job of making people's lives better. And then you can't get into tearing others down. And of course it started just the opposite. So we told them all, we can't. I mean, this violates what all we stand for, what you represent in these debates. So we can't support you."

"We tried" to persuade candidates to change their tone, he added. "We talked to them. We talked to some of them multiple times, but they had all the answers."

Koch found little to praise from the presidential race so far, from candidates or interest groups supporting them. He returned frequently to a frustration with the lack of good-faith

debate over ideas, particularly on questions of how to improve the economy and lift typical workers' incomes.

Asked if a Trump presidency would be dangerous for America, he said that "The good and the bad news is that politicians very rarely do what they say they're going to do when they campaign. But yeah, just his tenor and insulting of people is beyond the pale. To have these debates the way they are, to talk about their body parts and stuff, my god. It's staggering. If I hadn't seen it, I wouldn't believe it."

He criticized presidential candidates for not focusing on harnessing technology to boost opportunity for beleaguered Americans. "We have the most fabulous opportunity, with all the technologies out there, if we have permission-less innovation, to make people's lives better in every dimension. And yet we're doing all this crazy, self-defeating stuff," he said. "It's just name-calling and shouting and mischaracterizing what the other person stands for."

Koch expressed little sympathy for business leaders who have decried candidates' lack of focus on policies that corporate executives believe will energize the economy, casting many businesses as more interested in protecting their profits than promoting competition.

"No kidding" that business leaders are worried about the political climate today, he said, "they caused it."

"They blame the unions and others, but the business community's much bigger, and they're the ones pushing this" cronyism – government policies meant to give specific businesses or industries advantages over others. "Who's pushing all this occupational licensing? It's not just big business, it's little local business."

As he spoke, voters in Indiana were going to the polls, poised to vault Trump ever closer to the Republican nomination. Koch summarized the moment with a literary allusion.

"I'm reminded of Dickens' quote from *A Tale of Two Cities*: 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,' he said. "It's an era of wisdom and it's an era of great foolishness."

After Indiana, Defining Choices Loom: Our View

[USA Today](#), May 3, 2016

Trump's presumptive nomination creates a gut-check moment for GOP

Ted Cruz pulled out all the stops in his bid to win the Republican primary in Indiana: naming Carly Fiorina as his running mate, joining forces with Ohio Gov. John Kasich, securing an endorsement from Indiana Gov. Mike Pence and, on Tuesday, denouncing rival Donald Trump as "utterly amoral."

But Trump's sweeping victory left the Texan's last stand in the Hoosier State looking like Custer's at Little Bighorn.

With the win and Cruz's decision to suspend his campaign, Trump becomes the presumptive Republican presidential nominee — and leaves members of his party with a gut-check moment.

Normally, a party that controls both chambers of Congress, 34 governorships and 31 state legislatures would not be teetering on a precipice. Thanks to Trump, that is precisely where the GOP finds itself.

To say Trump is bad for the Republican Party is like saying a flood is bad for your basement. He stokes white resentment at a time when the party needs to attract minority voters. He demeans women when they, too, are vital to the party's future. His intolerance turns off Millennials. And he labors under the opinion that his deep infatuation with himself is shared by a majority of voters. His unfavorable rating stands at 65%.

The question now is what Republicans should do.

Should they rush to jump aboard the "Trump train" and attempt to paper over his many faults? That might be the expedient move. Indeed, the Republican National Committee called on party members to unite and focus on defeating Hillary Clinton. But responsible Republicans need more than expediency.

In the not-too-distant future, those seeking office will be forced to explain where they stood in 2016 when Trump clambered toward the nomination by appealing to racist, xenophobic and misogynistic sentiments.

A better approach is to live to fight another day. That would mean acknowledging Trump's likely nomination, and then giving him a very wide berth.

Cruz, Trump's main rival for much of the race, appears to be heading in that direction. On Tuesday, after Trump bizarrely tried to link Cruz's father with Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, Cruz called Trump a "narcissist," a "pathological liar" and a "serial philanderer."

In his speech announcing the suspension of his campaign, Cruz spoke glowingly of Ronald Reagan's unsuccessful effort to win the nomination in 1976, a loss that would be erased four years later when he won the presidency. Notably absent from Cruz's remarks was any mention of this year's presumptive nominee.

Clinton should embrace some of Sanders' ideas, and jettison others.

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign has been less than stellar. Going into Indiana on Tuesday, she had lost 17 states to Bernie Sanders, a 74-year-old "democratic socialist" from Vermont who was once dismissed as token opposition. Her favorable ratings have sagged.

As Clinton inches ever closer to the nomination, despite Tuesday's loss to Sanders in Indiana, job No. 1 is to patch things up within her party. To that end, she will soon highlight proposals in areas such as campaign-finance reform and college affordability that sell well among Sanders' backers.

These causes make sense, both as good policy and good politics. But there are certain other things she should, and should not, do to appeal to Sanders' voters.

She could advocate greater income equality through a fairer tax code, the elimination of the special tax rate for cossetted money managers, and a renewed push for a reasonable increase in the minimum wage.

She should continue to promote better health care access and affordability by allowing Medicare to bargain with drugmakers.

What she should steer clear of is special interest politics masquerading as progressivism.

Whatever one might say of Sanders' anti-trade agenda, it is not the least bit progressive. The protectionism that he preaches would harm those who need help most, by forcing them to pay more for their everyday goods. It also would punish companies large and small that are counting on exports to grow their payrolls.

If Clinton lurches further to the left on trade, she will expose a Democratic Party that is less about principles than about assembling self-interested voting blocs, in this case organized labor.

There is also nothing particularly progressive about the pandering of many Democrats to public sector unions. Overly generous retirement benefits for government workers are a key reason states and cities are struggling to provide needed services.

And on energy, Clinton should disavow Sanders' war against fracking, the drilling technique producing a natural gas boom that has done far more than renewable energy to displace greenhouse gas emissions from coal.

With Donald Trump as the presumptive Republican nominee, it is possible, though hardly certain, that Clinton could be swept into office along with a Democratic majority in at least one chamber of Congress.

That underscores the importance of how she patches things up with Sanders' supporters as she closes in on the nomination. The proposals she embraces now might be more than just proposals come next year.

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Trump's GOP Won't Be Party Of No: Jill Lawrence

By Jill Lawrence

[USA Today](#), May 3, 2016

Of all the Republican pillars smashed to shards by Donald Trump's wrecking ball, the most fundamental repudiation is this: The presidential nominee for the "party of no" will almost surely be the guy who wrote *The Art of the Deal*.

With a big Indiana win behind him and a 34-point lead in the latest poll of California, Trump appears to have lost nothing and perhaps has gained much by talking constantly about the need to make deals. It's possible, in fact, to view his entire campaign as one big opening bid. Making deals is his core identity and, like so many things he says and does, completely counter to the GOP line.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was unable to make Barack Obama a one-term president, but even in Obama's second term he has stuck to the strategy that failed: opposing nearly anything Obama wants. The result is mostly paralysis, even in areas where common ground is not hard to find.

There is, or once was, bipartisan support for immigration reforms, infrastructure projects, business-friendly changes to Obamacare, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, universal gun background checks, and Merrick Garland (at least before he was nominated to the Supreme Court).

But nothing happened and, as Roll Call columnist Walter Shapiro noted recently, that handed Trump an opportunity. "Nobody knows politicians better than I do. They're all talk, they're no action, nothing gets done," Trump has said. Message: I will take charge of the swollen inert blob of do-nothingism that is Washington and kick its butt into gear. In my direction. I will win. We will all win, always. But make no mistake. There will be deals.

That's far from Trump's only departure from GOP orthodoxy, of course. It starts with the insults, the attacks, the slurs and misogyny, the subtle and not-so-subtle incitements to violence. This is the exact opposite of what the GOP establishment had in mind with its urgent call for outreach to women and minorities after Mitt Romney's 2012 loss. That goes triple for Trump's in-your-face immigration rhetoric.

Some Republicans also like Trump's caution on foreign intervention — the opposite of the hawkish, neoconservative McCain-Graham wing of the GOP, and a stand that undermines the conservative argument that Obama is a wimp on the global stage. Nor do many Republican primary voters seem to care that Trump has contributed to politicians of both parties and held a variety of positions on issues that are supposedly near and dear to ... Republican primary voters.

Perhaps not by accident, the primary has evolved into a well-defined contest between Ted Cruz's purism and Trump's promise of pragmatism (despite his sometimes extreme proposals). Cruz is the most conservative, obstructionist candidate of 2016 and Trump, as questioner Mary Katharine Ham noted at a February debate, "literally wrote the book" on making deals.

Trump has repeatedly defended his approach while mocking Cruz for staging a filibuster to try to get Obama to kill his own signature health bill. "What came of it? Nothing," Trump said in March in Detroit. "You have to be able to have some flexibility, some negotiation."

Trump has looked back through rosy lenses at the agreements President Reagan reached with Democratic House Speaker Tip O'Neill. "They got along, they had relationships, and they got things, and very beautifully. Nobody is complaining about the deals that Ronald Reagan made," he said. (At least now. He had a few complaints about the 1986 tax deal back when.)

Trump has talked of hugs, kisses, grabbing people and cajoling them. "There always has to be some, you know, tug and pull and deal" on immigration "and almost anything else," he said. On trade. On Iran. On Cuba. On the height of his wall on the Mexican border. Even on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — "probably the toughest negotiation of all time. But maybe we can get a deal done."

After several presidential nominees who some Republicans view as too moderate and bipartisan, there's a craving for a die-hard conservative nominee like Cruz. Chief among them is Cruz himself: "The way we win is we provide a clear contrast, we paint in bold colors." But if Cruz can't win primaries dominated by conservatives, how could he possibly win a general election?

Given that Trump has vowed to deport 11 million undocumented immigrants and is still trying to decide whether he'd order the military to commit war crimes, one can only hope that he'll tone down his own bold colors. As he himself has said, "Sometimes you ask for more than you want and you negotiate down to the point."

Cruz cannot wrap his brain around that sales pitch. "Do you want another Washington dealmaker who will do business as usual, cut deals with the Democrats?" he asked Republicans.

Apparently, a lot of them do.

This is surprising, and not just to Cruz. Polls routinely show that unlike Democrats, most Republicans prefer politicians who stand on principle rather than negotiate compromises. Yet a quintessential dealmaker is running away with the GOP nomination. This strongly suggests that the Republican voters intent on besting Democrats and coming off as winners also want a functioning government. If Trump offers any benefit to the country or his party, it will be by forcing Republican leaders like McConnell to consider a governing philosophy that goes beyond "no."

Jill Lawrence is commentary editor of USA TODAY. Follow her on Twitter @JillDLawrence.

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Obama Says Donald Trump Is Not Qualified To Be President

By Dave Boyer

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

In his broadest dig yet at Donald Trump, President Obama said the Republican presidential frontrunner isn't qualified to be president.

"He is not somebody who, even within the Republican Party, can be considered as equipped to deal with the problems of this office," Mr. Obama told an ABC-affiliate in New Hampshire in an interview that aired Monday evening.

Tuesday's Indiana primary is one of the last hurdles for Mr. Trump to capture the Republican nomination. If Mr. Trump does become the GOP nominee, Mr. Obama said he's confident that the Democratic nominee will win in November.

"If in fact the Republicans nominate Mr. Trump, then it's going to be an interesting fall season," he told WMUR. "I'm confident that ultimately the Democrat in that circumstance will win."

The president made several jokes at Mr. Trump's expense Saturday night at the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner.

"They say Donald lacks the foreign policy experience to be president. But in fairness he has spent years meeting with leaders from around the world: Miss Sweden, Miss Argentina, Miss Azerbaijan," the president said.

Trump Dominates TV News, Draws 3 Times As Much Coverage As Cruz, 15 Times More Than Kasich

By Jennifer Harper

[Washington Times](#), May 3, 2016

Broadcasters have been very kind to Donald Trump. The Republican presidential front-runner has dominated the news on CBS, NBC and ABC according to a meticulous analysis by Rich Noyes, senior editor for Newsbusters.com, a conservative media watchdog.

"The networks awarded Donald Trump far more airtime than any of his rivals. Over the past four months, Trump received three times as much TV news coverage as his closest rival, Ted Cruz, and a whopping 15 times as much as John Kasich," Mr. Noyes said.

It is significant advantage, considering that the combined viewing audience for evening news on all three networks is about 25 million.

From January through mid-April, Mr. Trump was showcased in 62 percent of all primetime presidential coverage on the "Big Three" networks, for a total of 776 minutes. Mr. Cruz drew 20 percent, or 254 minutes, and Mr. Kasich 4 percent, or 52 minutes.

Mr. Trump's coverage was over twice that of Democratic hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders

combined — which amounted to 748 minutes between them. Neither Democrat dominated the coverage, the study found. By April, network interest in Mrs. Clinton's campaign had dropped, leaving the two rivals almost neck and neck. Mrs. Clinton drew just over half the coverage; Mr. Sanders, 47 percent.

Mr. Noyes and his research team based their conclusions on an intense review of 895 news accounts which included full reports, briefs and closely related stories. The study was released Tuesday.

"When political scientists analyze the 2016 presidential primaries, it will be impossible to ignore the huge advantage in free TV airtime that the networks awarded to the GOP front-runner — and how it contrasts with the reasonable balance they maintained in their coverage of the Democratic race," Mr. Noyes said.

TV News Touts Trump, Crushes Cruz And Gives Bernie A Shot At Hillary

[NewsBusters](#), May 3, 2016

Depending on the results, Tuesday's elections in Indiana may be one of the last major showdowns of the 2016 presidential primaries. A look at the past four months of news coverage shows that the broadcast networks covered the two parties' nomination contests very differently.

On the Republican side, the networks awarded Donald Trump far more airtime than any of his rivals. Over the past four months, Trump received three times as much TV news coverage as his closest rival, Ted Cruz, and a whopping 15 times as much as John Kasich.

But on the Democratic side, while frontrunner Hillary Clinton received more airtime than challenger Bernie Sanders, the gap was much narrower than on the GOP side, with Sanders getting more than two minutes of TV news coverage for every three minutes given to Clinton.

In other words, the Democratic race was treated as an actual contest between Clinton and Sanders, while TV news coverage of the GOP race was organized around Donald Trump, with his competitors treated as afterthoughts.

For this report, MRC analysts reviewed all 895 items about the 2016 presidential election that aired on the evening newscasts between January 1 and April 30. This includes 770 full reports, along with 50 anchor briefs and an additional 75 stories that focused on other topics but included at least some discussion of the campaign or one of the candidates.

During the past four months, Donald Trump received 776 minutes of coverage on the ABC, CBS and NBC evening newscasts, far more than any other candidate in either party. Indeed, Trump's total coverage exceeded that of both Hillary Clinton (434) and Bernie Sanders (314) combined.

GOP challenger Ted Cruz received less than one-third of the coverage given to Trump, just 254 minutes on the Big

Three evening broadcasts. Florida Senator Marco Rubio's campaign netted 109 minutes of coverage before he quit the race in mid-March, which is still twice as much as received by John Kasich through April 30 (just 52 minutes).

In each of the past four months, Trump received at least 50 percent of the total GOP coverage, with the rest split amongst his competitors. In April, when Cruz was the only realistic alternative to Trump, the frontrunner took nearly 68 percent of the GOP coverage (165 minutes), compared with slightly less than 25 percent for Cruz (60 minutes) and just under eight percent for John Kasich (18 minutes).

But on the Democratic side, with Bernie Sanders essentially eliminated from contention in April, the Vermont socialist nearly matched frontrunner Hillary Clinton in overall coverage, garnering 88 minutes of airtime (47% of the Democratic total), compared to 93 minutes (53%) for Clinton.

In fact, even though the Democratic race accounted for about 500 fewer minutes of airtime than the GOP race, Sanders's candidacy drew more coverage than that of any Republican other than Trump.

If Ted Cruz had been granted a similar proportion of TV news airtime to challenge Trump, the Texas Senator would have received an additional 300 minutes of coverage to make his case, or Trump would have seen his huge advantage in coverage reduced by about 350 minutes.

When political scientists analyze the 2016 presidential primaries, it will be impossible to ignore the huge advantage in free TV airtime that the networks awarded to the GOP frontrunner — and how it contrasts with the reasonable balance they maintained in their coverage of the Democratic race.

Why Donald Trump Might — Or Might Not — Pick Florida's Rick Scott For Ticket

By Ledyard King

[USA Today](#), May 3, 2016

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has some good reasons to pick Florida Gov. Rick Scott as his running mate. He's also got some good reasons to look elsewhere.

Scott is among a handful of possible running mates whose names have been mentioned as Trump moves closer to wrapping up the GOP nomination. Others include Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst and two of Trump's former presidential campaign rivals — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

Trump has spoken warmly of the Florida governor, and the two share a corporate business background, emphasize job creation as a priority, and got where they are today despite opposition from the GOP establishment. Scott praised Trump in a USA TODAY column in January before officially endorsing him after Trump won Florida's primary in March.

There also are personal connections: Trump and Scott have known each other for years, a relationship enhanced by Trump's many real estate holdings in the Sunshine State. Political consultant Susie Wiles from Jacksonville, co-chairwoman of Trump's campaign in Florida, managed Scott's 2010 gubernatorial campaign.

But there are lots of reasons for Trump to choose someone else as a running mate — and even some reasons that Scott, 63, should think twice about jumping aboard the Trump train.

Melissa Stone, a spokeswoman for Scott's Let's Get to Work PAC, said Monday that Scott is happy where he is.

"The governor has made it clear that he has the job he wants and he won't leave it," said Stone, Scott's former chief of staff. "Of course, he would always be willing to provide any insights from his experience in turning around Florida's economy."

The case for Trump to pick Scott:

— With 29 Electoral College votes, Florida is a critical swing state in each presidential election. Since 1964, the state has voted for every candidate that won the White House except George H. W. Bush in 1992. Trump may figure he can only improve his chances in November if he runs with someone who's twice won election as Florida governor.

"Rick Scott is not going to help him in places like Arizona, New Mexico or Colorado," said Brian Ballard, a Tallahassee lobbyist who has done work for Trump and is close to the governor. "But if you're looking for a competent, no-nonsense, tax cutter who's outside of the establishment (and) knows how to get things done, it's Rick Scott."

— Temperament is another factor. Scott doesn't crave the spotlight, so he's unlikely to steal it from Trump (not that that would be easy anyway). Analysts describe Scott as robotic and occasionally awkward on the stump. He'd likely be a loyal soldier who would complement Trump's outsize persona.

— Scott and Trump have similar backgrounds and ideologies. Both came late to politics after starting in business — Scott was chief executive of a health care company — and both identify job creation as a top priority. Both also have enjoyed political success over the objections of GOP party elders.

The case for Trump not to pick Scott:

Florida Gov. Rick Scott speaks during a luncheon at the Republican National Committee Spring Meeting in Hollywood, Fla. on April 21, 2016. (Photo: AP Photo, Wilfredo Lee, File)

— With former secretary of State Hillary Clinton marching toward the Democratic nomination, Trump may want to choose a woman such as Ernst. Polls suggest Trump, who has accused Clinton of playing "the woman card," has a lot of work to do to win over female voters. A Gallup poll last month showed 70 percent of women have

unfavorable views of Trump, a finding echoed by other surveys.

– Scott has never been well-liked in Florida, despite winning the governor's office twice. Polls consistently show him below 50% approval, and a recent Morning Consult survey of voters across 50 states ranked him the eighth least-popular governor in the nation. Trump may decide he's already popular enough in the state – Palm Beach is essentially his second home --- to win it in November without Scott on the ticket.

– If Trump wants a running mate who would be effective pushing his agenda through Congress, there are better choices than Scott, who has never served on Capitol Hill.

Even if Trump does offer Scott the chance to be his running mate, the governor has his own reasons to say no.

As a former business executive who spent tens of millions of his own fortune to win the governor's mansion, Scott would have to adjust to a role where he doesn't call the shots. And if Trump wins the nomination but loses badly in Florida in November – polls show that's a possibility – it could hurt Scott's chances of winning the 2018 race for the Senate seat held by Democrat Bill Nelson.

But a place on the GOP ticket would give Scott national prominence and vault him to the front of the line when the Republican Party begins picking its next presidential nominee in 2020.

"When somebody who is running to be president of the United States calls you up and says, 'I need you to be my vice running mate,' if you love your country and your party, you're not going to say no," said Keith Fitzgerald, a former Democratic state lawmaker who's now a political science professor at the New College of Florida. "That's a gigantic honor. It's a call of duty."

Twitter: @ledgeking

As Trump Rises, House Republicans Lose That Sense Of Security

By John Harwood

[New York Times](#), May 3, 2016

When the Republicans seized control of the House of Representatives in 2010, both parties agreed on this much: Democrats wouldn't get it back anytime soon.

Now with 247 seats, Republicans hold their largest majority since the Great Depression, and because state legislatures draw district lines to benefit incumbents, fewer than 40 seats are now considered truly competitive.

But the political force that is Donald J. Trump has called that shared assumption into question. By alienating huge blocks of general election voters in his drive for the Republican presidential nomination, Mr. Trump has created the possibility of a Democratic breakthrough.

"What Trump has done is inject unpredictability into 2016 House races," said David Wasserman, an expert on House races at the Cook Political Report newsletter.

The Republicans' 54-to-46-seat majority in the Senate has always been in jeopardy. They hold 24 of 34 Senate seats on the ballot this fall, seven of them in states that President Obama carried twice.

But the House had been considered out of reach for Democrats. Mr. Wasserman began the election season projecting the loss of between five and 15 seats for the Republicans, which would still keep them in the majority.

In the wake of Mr. Trump's rise, Mr. Wasserman has bumped up that forecast to between 10 and 20 seats. At the high end, that still falls below the 30-seat gain Democrats need to return the speaker's gavel to Nancy Pelosi.

But Mr. Wasserman says the potential for Mr. Trump, if he ultimately secures the nomination, to lose in a landslide this fall means larger gains cannot be ruled out.

In the modern era of polarized, evenly matched parties, a popular-vote margin of 10 percentage points or more is rare in general elections for president. It hasn't happened in more than three decades. But current polling suggests it's not out of the question.

In an NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey last month, Hillary Clinton led Mr. Trump 50 percent to 39 percent in a prospective general election matchup. In the four previous presidential races, only once has an eventual nominee ever led another by a margin that large in the NBC/Wall Street Journal poll.

Behind Mr. Trump's deficit lie negative evaluations of him by a series of crucial target groups. They include millennial voters (80 percent unfavorable in Washington Post/ABC News polling this spring), white women (68 percent), Hispanics (85 percent) and white college graduates (74 percent).

Given current boundaries for House members' districts, Mr. Wasserman has identified dozens of Republican-held districts with one or more of six "risk factors" that could give Democrats a chance if Mrs. Clinton routs Mr. Trump at the top of the ticket.

They include the 26 Republican-held districts that Mr. Obama carried in 2012, districts where Latinos and Asians make up at least 20 percent of the electorate and districts where at least 25 percent of adults hold a college degree.

Forty Republican incumbents have at least three of the six risk factors. Retirements by Republican incumbents have left Democrats in position to compete for an additional 10 seats this fall.

"There's a danger for Republicans," Mr. Wasserman said.

To capitalize, Democratic House candidates will attempt to tie Republican opponents to Mr. Trump as closely as possible.

Republican candidates in turn will have to choose between embracing their party's nominee, in the hopes of galvanizing core constituencies, or joining the small number of House members explicitly refusing to endorse Mr. Trump.

Democratic unity, or the lack of it, will play a critical role if Hillary Clinton, as expected, overcomes a feisty challenge from Bernie Sanders.

To have a chance at recapturing the House, Mr. Wasserman said, "Democrats need Bernie to voice strong support for Clinton, and to campaign for her actively in the fall to drive out his voters."

Even if he does, House Democrats face an uphill fight. Not since 1980, when Ronald Reagan walloped the Democratic incumbent, Jimmy Carter, has a party gained at least 30 House seats while winning a presidential election.

Mr. Reagan's popular-vote margin that year: just under 10 percentage points.

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