

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 22-cv-149

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From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 10, 2021 1:57 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:58 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hi Stephen,

I am forwarding in case the below got lost in all the emails you got while you were on leave.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

SSA [REDACTED]
*Unit Chief
Investigative Law Unit
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation*

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hello,

[REDACTED]

b5 -1,2

[Redacted]

b5 -1,2

Thank you!

[Redacted]

Special Advisor
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

From: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 10:28 AM

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted] Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]

Subject: [Redacted]

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -2,3

Thank [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Matt

Matthew A. Feinberg
Section Chief [Redacted]
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 10:22 AM

To: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted] Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]

Subject: [Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hi Matt,

[Redacted]

Thanks.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 11:26 AM

To: [Redacted]

Subject: [Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

[Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Investigative Law Unit
Room 7919 JEH

(o) [Redacted]
(c) [Redacted]

Confidentiality Statement: This message is transmitted to you by the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The message, along with any attachments, may be confidential and legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please destroy it promptly without further retention or dissemination (unless otherwise required by law). Please notify the sender of the error by a separate e-mail or by calling [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 8:55
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]

b6 -1,5
b7C -1,5
b7E -3
b5 -1

[Redacted]

Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI)

[Redacted]

C [Redacted]
Subject: [Redacted]

b5 -1,2

[Redacted]

Thanks.

[Redacted]

b6 -5
b7C -5

Drug Enforcement Administration

[Redacted]

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [redacted]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted] Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 10, 2021 2:06 PM (UTC-04:00)
Hi Stephen,

b6 -1
b7C -1
b5 -2

No worries, I hope you had a good vacation.

Thanks very much for the update. Sounds like a very frustrating situation. I'll refer the CDCAC to Matt Feinberg.

Thank you for your help on this. Welcome back!

[redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[redacted]
Counsel, Field Legal Program
Office of General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Cell: [redacted]
Desk [redacted]

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:02 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

[redacted]

Sorry not to get back to you sooner; I've been out for two weeks on vacation.

[redacted]

b5 -1,2

Stephen

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[Redacted]

b7E -3

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]
Subject: [Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hi Stephen,

I had my bi-weekly call with the CDCAC today and was again asked about any HQ update on BWC (the CDC is being consistently asked by the SAC and crim ASAC). I realize there's probably no news but I said I'd reach out again to double check.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Counsel, Field Legal Program
Office of General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Cell: [Redacted]
Desk [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]
Subject: [Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hi Stephen,

I had a call with the CDCAC this afternoon and they asked if there are any updates re: the BWC policy. I told them it's probably still very much in the process with you and main Justice but that I'd reach out to you. They also asked about a BWC survey that someone at the last Director's meeting apparently said was being sent out to the field, but I'm not familiar with that. Is there any info on either the BWC policy or survey that you have that I may relay to the CDCAC? Thanks very much for your help.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Counsel, Field Legal Program
Office of General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Cell: [Redacted]
Desk [Redacted]

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [redacted]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 10, 2021 3:06 PM (UTC-04:00)
Hi,

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Tried you, please call my cell back whenever, should be free until 3:45 then again at 4:45.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Special Counsel
Deputy Director's Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:51:49 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Re: BWC Revisions by DoJ

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

That works.

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:49:52 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Thanks. Can we try 3 today? Does not need to be a long call.

I mostly just want to get your perspective on where this sits at the executive level.

I'm also happy to wait until tomorrow if that's easier, as I'll also be in.

Stephen

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[redacted]

b7E -3

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:47 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Re: BWC Revisions by DoJ

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Good morning,

I'm actually quite flexible today as I'm off due to some [redacted] things that I'm handling. I'm available for a call in the afternoon after 3 if it works for you, or back in tomorrow.

Thanks.

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:44:36 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Fw: BWC Revisions by DoJ

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

I'm sure you swamped, but please let me know if you have a minute to discuss the revisions to the BWC policy. I'm back from two weeks of vacation and want to re-engage in as positive way as possible. I believe that Matt is out this week, but I still wanted to get your perspective on a few matters related to BWCs.

Thanks, and just let me know if you have any availability.

Stephen

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) [redacted]
Dunham, Timothy M. (TD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: McNally, Richard (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: BWC Revisions by DoJ

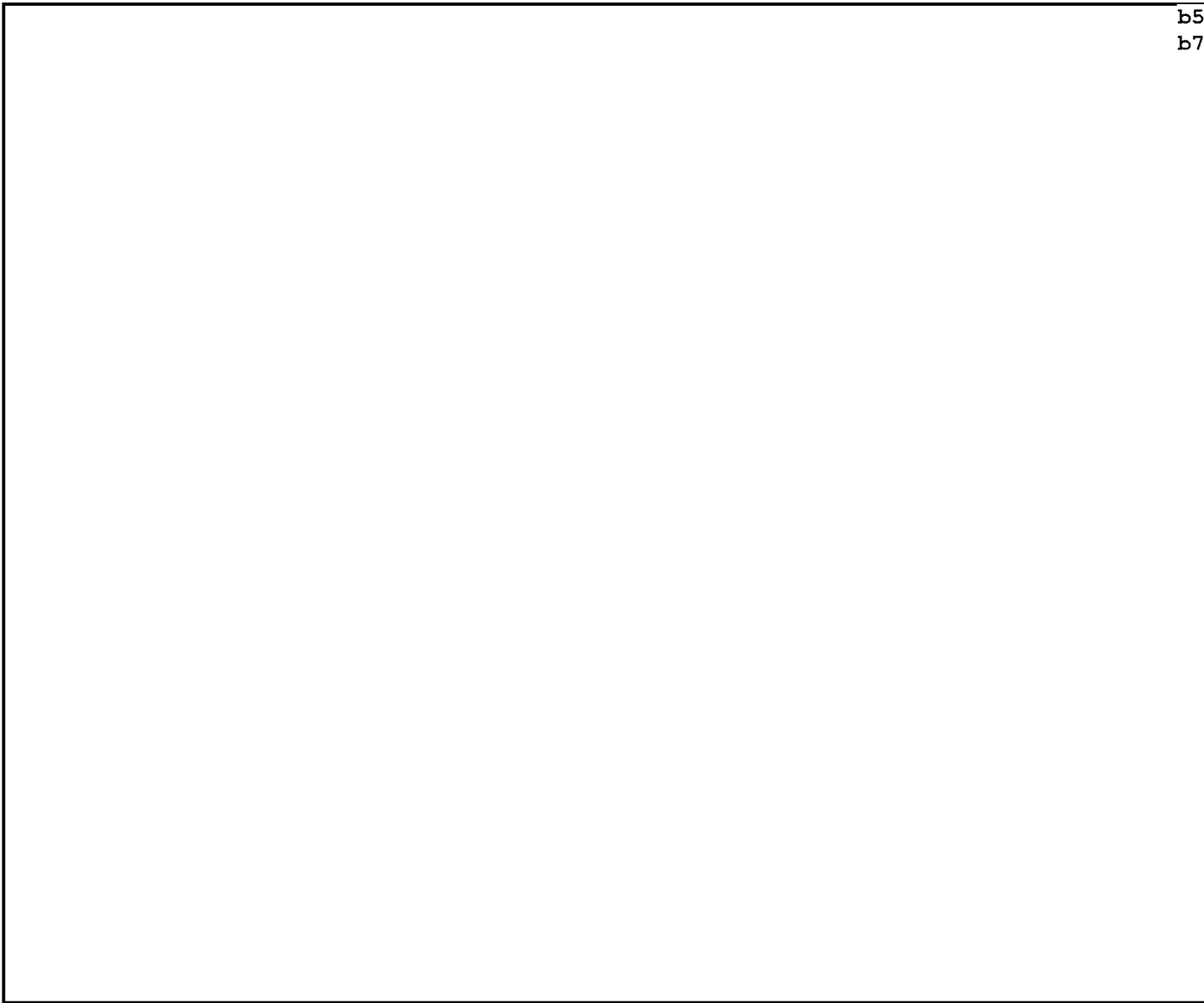
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

All:

Sorry not to get back to folks sooner, but I've been out on vacation and unexpectedly I had to take care of

[redacted]
I've had a chance to review the changes from DoJ. [redacted]
[redacted] That being said [redacted]

b5 -1,2



Here are a few examples:



b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -4,27

I have a proposed a few changes below, as I cannot figure out how to make changes to the document circulated and how to get it to everyone. [REDACTED]

Unfortunately, I will not be available later today, but feel free to connect with [REDACTED] with follow-up questions,

Thanks everyone.

Stephen

Proposed Revisions:

b5 -1,2
b7E -4,27

Stephen D. Kelly

FBI (22-cv-00149)-7189

Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation



b7E -3

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: Re: BWC Revisions by DoJ
To: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 10, 2021 3:07 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Can you call me on my cell [redacted] I can't seem to get your cell using my new phone. It only lists your office phone.

Thanks.

Stephen

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:51:49 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Re: BWC Revisions by DoJ

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

That works.

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:49:52 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Re: BWC Revisions by DoJ

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

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I mostly just want to get your perspective on where this sits at the executive level.

I'm also happy to wait until tomorrow if that's easier, as I'll also be in.

Stephen

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation



From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:47 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Re: BWC Revisions by DoJ

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Good morning,

I'm actually quite flexible today as I'm off due to some [redacted] things that I'm handling. I'm available for a call in the afternoon after 3 if it works for you, or back in tomorrow.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:44:36 AM

To: [Redacted]

Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]

Subject: Fw: BWC Revisions by DoJ

[Redacted]

I'm sure you swamped, but please let me know if you have a minute to discuss the revisions to the BWC policy. I'm back from two weeks of vacation and want to re-engage in as positive way as possible. I believe that Matt is out this week, but I still wanted to get your perspective on a few matters related to BWCs.

Thanks, and just let me know if you have any availability.

Stephen

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[Redacted]

b7E -3

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 12:04 PM

To: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Dunham, Timothy M. (TD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Cc: McNally, Richard (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Subject: BWC Revisions by DoJ

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

All:

Sorry not to get back to folks sooner, but I've been out on vacation and unexpectedly I had to take care of

[Redacted]

I've had a chance to review the changes from DoJ. [Redacted]

b5 -1,2
b7E -4,27

[Redacted] That being said [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Large Redacted Block]

b5 -1,2
b7E -4,27

Here are a few examples:

b5 -1,2
b7E -4,27

I have a proposed a few changes below, as I cannot figure out how to make changes to the document circulated and how to get it to everyone.

b5 -1,2
b7E -4,27

Unfortunately, I will not be available later today, but feel free to connect with [redacted] with follow-up questions,

Thanks everyone.

Stephen

Proposed Revisions:

b5 -1,2
b7E -4,27

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

b7E -3

From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs - Director's AM News Briefing Wednesday, August 11, 2021
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 11, 2021 5:00 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: FBI Dir Briefing 210811.doc

b7E -3

This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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b7E -3

FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR’S AM NEWS BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021 5:00 AM EDT

Cuomo Unexpectedly Announces Resignation. The announcement by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) that he is resigning in the face of numerous charges of sexual harassment was the top political story in the latest news cycle, surpassing the passage of the infrastructure bill in coverage.

The CBS Evening News (8/10, 6:31 p.m. EST, lead story, 4:45, Garrett, 3.58M) reported, “The sudden resignation” of Cuomo “came as a shock to many because for days, if not weeks, Cuomo vowed to fight allegations of sexual harassment by 11 women.” Cuomo “said he will leave office in 14 days, and as a result, New York Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul will become, very soon, the state’s first female governor.” NBC Nightly News (8/10, 6:31 p.m. EST, lead story, 3:00, Holt, 4.71M) reported that in “an address to New Yorkers, Cuomo maintained he never crossed the line with anyone but suggested the line has been redrawn.” ABC World News Tonight (8/10, 6:32 p.m. EST, lead story, 5:15, Muir, 6.15M) called the announcement a “bombshell,” and added that Cuomo offered a “denial today, but also an apology.” Cuomo said, “There is a difference between alleged improper conduct and concluding sexual harassment. Now you don’t get me wrong, this is not to say that there are not 11 women who I truly offended. There are. And for that, I deeply, deeply apologize. I take full responsibility for my actions. I have been too familiar with people. In my mind, I’ve never crossed the line with anyone. But I didn’t realize the extent to which the line has been redrawn.”

To the AP (8/10, Villeneuve), the Governor was “by turns defiant and chastened.” The resignation “was announced as momentum built in the Legislature to remove him by impeachment and after nearly the entire Democratic establishment had turned against him, with President Joe Biden joining those calling on him to resign.” The Washington Post (8/10, 10.52M) reports Cuomo said, “Wasting energy on distractions is the last thing that state government should be doing. ... Given the circumstances, the best way I can help now is to step aside and let government get back to governing.” Cuomo “announced his resignation shortly after his attorney, Rita Glavin, delivered a lengthy attack on a report commissioned by the state attorney general that was released last week.” Glavin said the report “got key facts wrong, it omitted key evidence, and it failed to include witnesses who did not support the narrative that it was clear this investigation was going to weave from day one.”

The New York Times (8/10, Glueck, 20.6M) reports that as Cuomo delivered his remarks on Tuesday, “another message became clear: The governor, ever the tactician, was seeking redemption in the eyes of New Yorkers, straining to litigate and define his legacy – sometimes in defiance of reality – and to preserve his future standing amid the worst crisis of his career.” Dana Milbank writes in the Washington Post (8/10, 10.52M) that in his resignation speech, Cuomo said, “I take full responsibility for my actions.” It was, Milbank writes, “a noble sentiment, and it would have been a graceful way to exit the political stage. But none of it was true.” Cuomo “had made his position perfectly clear before he opened his mouth” when “his private lawyer, Rita Glavin...blamed Cuomo’s troubles on his accusers, the investigators, state legislators, the media – everybody, that is, but Cuomo himself.” Milbank says Cuomo’s “forced resignation is probably the best result for New York and for the principle that public figures should be accountable. But it’s a pity he couldn’t do it with more dignity.”

In another piece, the New York Times (8/10, Ferré-Sadurní, 20.6M) says the report’s “fallout was swifter than even those closest to Mr. Cuomo expected. He quickly became isolated and grew more so by the day. His top aide, Melissa DeRosa, resigned Sunday after concluding the governor had no path to remain in office, according to a person familiar with her thinking. In the end, Mr. Cuomo followed through on the advice his top advisers and onetime allies had been offering: leave office voluntarily.”

Politico New York (8/5, Young, Bocanegra) says it is “a Shakespearean fall from grace for ‘America’s governor,’ a man who had been widely discussed as a possible attorney general, vice presidential — or even presidential — contender. He drew widespread acclaim for his fireside chat-style pandemic briefings, which earned him an Emmy, a book deal and comparisons to a previous occupant of his Albany office: President Franklin D. Roosevelt.” Bloomberg (8/10, Beckwith, 3.57M) say it was “an ignominious ending to the once-bright political career” of Cuomo. The New York Daily News (8/10, Slattery, Sommerfeldt, 2.51M) called the resignation “a stunning downfall for one of the most prominent Democrats in the country.”

Looking at the internal debates that led the Governor to resign, the New York Times (8/10, Flegenheimer, Haberman, Rashbaum, Hakim, 20.6M) reports the “spectacle on Tuesday morning...was at once stunning and unsurprising to those closest to him. It was the culmination of a frenetic, often contradictory few days during which Mr. Cuomo seemed to vacillate between defiant and defeated, predisposed to fight but eventually resigned to the fact that his formidable political army had fallen away.” Separately, the New York Times (8/10, Grynbaum, 20.6M) reports CNN anchor Chris Cuomo “has regularly spoken with

Governor Cuomo by telephone over the past week and advised his brother to resign, said two people who requested anonymity to describe sensitive private conversations.”

Reuters (8/10, Allen, Ax) reports Cuomo “had for months denied escalating accusations of sexual harassment – and renewed those denials after the investigative report was issued. But what was left of his political support crumbled after the findings [of James’ investigation] were made public. Hours later, Biden, a longtime friend, said he believed Cuomo should resign.” The Wall Street Journal (8/10, Vielkind, Paul, Ramey, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Cuomo drafted his resignation announcement on Monday as Assembly leaders met at the state Capitol to discuss impeaching him.

Biden: Cuomo Did A “Hell Of A Job” As Governor, But Respects Decision To Step Down. The CBS Evening News (8/10, 6:36 p.m. EST, story 2, 1:50, Garrett, 3.58M) reported President Biden “said today he respected Cuomo’s decision to step down as the President tried to put some distance between himself and the allegations that drove Cuomo from office.” CBS (O’Keefe) added that the President had called on Cuomo to resign, and “today reluctantly discussed the downfall of one of his closest political allies.” Asked to assess Cuomo’s time in office, the President said that as a governor, “Well, he’s done a hell of a job, done a hell of a job. That’s why it’s so sad.” ABC World News Tonight (8/10, 6:32 p.m. EST, lead story, 5:15, Muir, 6.15M) showed the President saying, “I respect the governor’s decision.”

USA Today (8/10, Campbell, Spector, 12.7M) reports that shortly after the announcement, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said, “Our view is that this is a story about these courageous women who came forward, told their stories, shared their stories.” She “added that Biden has not spoken with Cuomo nor was the White House given a heads up on the New York Democrat’s decision to resign.”

Cuomo May Still Face Charges, Suits, Impeachment. Kathy Park reported for NBC Nightly News (8/10, 6:31 p.m. EST, lead story, 3:00, Holt, 4.71M) that Cuomo “said his resignation was meant to avoid a long and expensive impeachment. But that process may still go forward. And if convicted, Cuomo could be barred from ever seeking state office again.” For ABC World News Tonight (8/10, 6:37 p.m. EST, story 2, 0:40, Muir, 6.15M), chief legal analyst Dan Abrams said that “as a legal matter, that investigation in Albany County is the biggest threat to him right now. The possibility of a misdemeanor assault charge. And nothing that happens in the political arena, resigning, et cetera, changes that investigation. There’s also the possibility of a civil lawsuit that could be filed by one or more of the women as long as it’s within the statute of limitations. So, while this may be over as a political matter, it’s not as a legal matter.”

The Albany (NY) Times Union (8/10, 315K) reports Cuomo’s “decision to resign would not impact the criminal investigation into executive assistant Brittany Comisso’s allegation Cuomo groped her at the Executive Mansion last year, Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple said Tuesday afternoon.”

In addition, Bloomberg (8/10, Clukey, 3.57M) reports Cuomo may also “still face impeachment if only to keep him from running for office again.” The state Assembly Judiciary Committee, “which has been considering whether it had enough evidence to proceed with impeachment of the three-term Democrat, is scheduled to meet on Aug. 16 to discuss ‘what, if any, role there is anymore,’ committee member David Weprin, a Democrat, said in an interview.”

Fox News (8/10, Ruiz, 23.99M) reports that “there may still be criminal consequences” for Cuomo, noting that “at least five district attorneys from around the state have asked for materials from the probe to explore whether they might open criminal investigations into the governor,” and “the Department of Justice could open one as well.” Fox News adds, “In late July, the Justice Department dropped a civil rights inquiry into Cuomo’s handling of the coronavirus death toll on nursing homes in New York, although other federal investigations remained open. Last week, the DOJ’s Civil Rights Division announced a new investigation into police – but no word on Cuomo. The outgoing governor faces separate scrutiny over his \$5 million book deal about his coronavirus leadership and questions about whether well-connected friends and relatives got inside access to early COVID-19 testing.”

The New York Post (8/10, Campanile, Golding, 7.45M) reports that “the FBI and Brooklyn US Attorney’s Office are investigating Cuomo and his administration over their handling of nursing homes during the coronavirus crisis, a probe sparked by The Post’s revelation that then-top aide Melissa DeRosa admitted to Democratic lawmakers that officials had covered up the total nursing home death toll from COVID-19.”

Hochul Says She Is “Ready To Lead.” The Hill (8/10, Schnell, 5.69M) reports Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) tweeted Tuesday, “As someone who has served at all levels of government and is next in the line of succession, I am prepared to lead as New York State’s 57th Governor” She “said she agrees with the governor’s decision, adding that it was ‘the right thing to do and in the best interest of New Yorkers.” Politico New York (8/10, French, Mahoney) reports Hochul “may not be a household name like her boss,” but “in many ways she has been the most visible elected official in New York since she assumed her current role six years ago. She is renowned for putting in grueling hours cutting ribbons, campaigning for down-ballot Democrats and cheerleading for upstate businesses.” Reuters (8/10) runs a profile piece on Hochul, as does Roll Call (8/10, Saksa, 130K).

Speculation Begins On Potential 2022 Gubernatorial Candidates. The New York Daily News (8/10, Gartland, 2.51M) looks at who might contend for governor on the Democratic side in 2022 now that Cuomo appears to be out. Atop “that list are Hochul and New York State Attorney General Letitia James.” Other Democrats “thought to be considering runs are state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Mayor de Blasio, Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-Queens), New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, and — although it’s probably a long shot — Cuomo himself.” In a similar piece, the Albany (NY) Times Union (8/10, Bragg, 315K) reports that James, “who would be a top Democratic contender if she runs, has carefully avoided discussion of a possible campaign, even as Cuomo has in recent weeks stated without proof that she has gubernatorial aspirations.” Hochul “could also be a formidable candidate.”

Former Rep. Peter King (R), in an op-ed for The Hill (8/10, 5.69M), writes that with Cuomo leaving, “the power struggle begins for the future of the Democratic Party in New York.” While King says he has “great respect” for Hochul, progressive Democrats “of the type personified by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) will attempt to use this opportunity created by Cuomo’s scandalous departure to seize control of the party.”

Todd: Democrats Locally, Nationally Relieved By Resignation. On NBC Nightly News (8/10, 6:34 p.m. EST, story 2, 0:40, Holt, 4.71M), political director Chuck Todd said that the resignation is “a big sigh of relief both for Democrats in New York and for Democrats nationally. Cuomo a national brand name. He had the ability to drag this out. It could have sullied Democrats up and down the ballot, could have cost them a couple of house seats, which could cost them control of Congress.” The move “actually helped the party and put the party before himself.”

Marcus: Resignation Shows “System Worked.” Ruth Marcus writes in the Washington Post (8/10, 10.52M) that Cuomo’s resignation shows that “the system worked. There wasn’t a precipitous rush to judgment about Cuomo, with the predicate facts still subject to reasonable dispute, as in the case of former Minnesota senator Al Franken (D).” In addition, “the ride-it-out strategy pioneered by former president Donald Trump in the wake of the ‘Access Hollywood’ tape and pursued by Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) after a blackface photo from his medical school yearbook page surfaced, did not work this time around.” Marcus says “the lesson of Cuomo’s demise is that other abusers in similar positions of power should worry about what they have done, and worry even more about whether they will be able to survive its disclosure.”

Still, in an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/10, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says given that Cuomo believes that the state Attorney General’s investigation into him was unfair, he should have stuck it out and attempted to defend himself during an impeachment investigation.

More Commentary. In an editorial, the Albany (NY) Times Union (8/10, 315K) says that in the wake of the current situation, a top priority for state government must be “fixing the broken ethical guardrails that Mr. Cuomo has exploited over and over in a host of ways. If they fail, another governor will surely exploit them again.”

In an editorial, the New York Post (8/10, 7.45M) hammers Cuomo’s record as governor, and says that “given the harm he’s done not just to these women but to the state during his 11 years in office, his resignation marks a huge win for New York.”

Gail Collins, in her column for the New York Times (8/10, 20.6M), writes, “Hard to imagine where his talents could take him now. Andrew Cuomo’s governor-father, Mario, was famous for giving speeches, way more famous, in fact, than he was for governing. But absolutely nobody would turn up for an Andrew Cuomo speech — unless, of course, he was trying to explain why all those women were accusing him of sexual harassment.”

Biden Says “Democracy Can Still Work” As Senate Approves \$1T Infrastructure Plan. The AP (8/10, Mascaro) reports the Senate “approved a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan” in a 69-to-30 vote Tuesday “as a rare coalition of Democrats and Republicans joined together to overcome skeptics and deliver a cornerstone of President Joe Biden’s agenda.” Nineteen Republicans, including Senate Minority Leader McConnell, “joined all Democrats” in voting for passage. In remarks at the White House, Biden said, “Today, we proved that democracy can still work. ... We can still come together to do big things, important things, for the American people.” The Washington Post (8/10, Romm, 10.52M) quotes Biden as saying, “America’s often had the greatest prosperity and made the most progress when we invest in America itself. ... And that’s what this infrastructure bill does, with overwhelming support from the United States Senate.”

The Hill (8/10, Samuels, 5.69M) says Biden “extolled the virtues of bipartisanship.” Biden said, “This is transformational. I know compromise is hard for both sides. But it’s important, it’s necessary for democracy to be able to function. ... So I want to thank everyone on both sides of the aisle for supporting this bill. Today, we proved democracy can still work.” Biden “said he’d reached out to many of the Republicans who voted in favor of the bill earlier in the day to express his gratitude.”

The Los Angeles Times (8/10, 3.37M) says Biden “touted the bill’s investments and the likely jobs created, framing the accomplishment as proof that he has delivered on his campaign promise to restore a measure of bipartisan comity to Washington.” In a later piece, the AP (8/11, Mascaro) reports that the President said two months ago that passage of the bill

“would send a signal ‘to ourselves and to the world that American democracy can deliver.’ The senators who led the legislation to passage Tuesday agreed.”

Nightly news broadcasts unanimously called the bill a victory for President Biden. NBC Nightly News (8/10, 6:39 p.m. EST, story 4, 1:35, Holt, 4.71M) reported the Senate is “giving President Biden a victory by passing a huge infrastructure bill.” ABC World News Tonight (8/10, 6:45 p.m. EST, story 5, 2:45, Muir, 6.15M) called passage of the bill “a major victory in Washington for President Biden.” For The CBS Evening News (8/10, 6:40 p.m. EST, story 4, 1:40, Cleave, 3.58M), Kris Van Cleave similarly called passage “a major win for President Biden.” The President was shown saying, “In this bill, we proved that we can still come together to do big things, important things.”

In a separate story, The Hill (8/10, Carney, 5.69M) calls the Senate vote “a significant win” for the President, while Politico (8/10, Everett, LeVine, 6.73M) calls the bill’s passage “an achievement both for Biden and the bipartisan gang of 10 senators who took the lead on investing \$550 billion in new spending into roads, bridges, broadband and ports.” Politico says it was “an undisputed triumph for their brands of aisle-crossing politics,” but a New York Times (8/10, Weisman, Kanno-Youngs, 20.6M) analysis says while the vote “may have been a vote of confidence for...Biden and his insistence that bipartisanship can still thrive,” there is “a far harder task ahead for his agenda: keeping Democrats in lock step.” Similarly, the CBS Evening News (8/10, 6:40 p.m. EST, story 4, 1:40, Cleave, 3.58M) reported “it is no guarantee that even the President’s own party will hold together to get this bill across the finish line in the House.” The Wall Street Journal (8/10, Duehren, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Asked on CNN (8/10, 556K) how long it will take for Americans to feel the economic impact of the infrastructure deal if the measure passes the House, Commerce Secretary Raimondo said, “We know we have many shovel-ready projects. ... So Americans will feel it within a matter of months certainly. But I will say I don’t think we can gloss over the magnitude of this accomplishment. Having by been in the thick of it on the President’s team, we have heard over and over again, ‘This is too hard. Republicans won’t vote for it. You won’t find the compromise.’ Yet the President has lead through all of that and delivered us to this point today – which is just extraordinary leadership by him and a big step forward for America.”

Bill Faces “Potentially Rocky” Path In House. The measure now heads to the House, where the New York Times (8/10, Cochrane, 20.6M) says it “faces a potentially rocky and time-consuming path.” In a separate story, the New York Times (8/10, Cochrane, 20.6M) reports that in a letter to House Speaker Pelosi, “leaders of the Congressional Progressive Caucus said a poll of their 96 members had confirmed a majority would withhold their support for the infrastructure legislation until the Senate passes a \$3.5 trillion package.” The “left-leaning members drew a line in the sand, putting them at odds with moderate Democrats who have been pushing for an immediate, stand-alone vote on the infrastructure bill.”

On its website, CNBC (8/10, Pramuk, 7.34M) reports, “It could take months for Congress to pass both measures,” and Politico (8/10, Snyder, 6.73M) says “passage of the reconciliation bill is far from assured, leaving a huge question mark on how much of the progressive agenda will survive.” In a separate story, Politico (8/10, Snyder, 6.73M) reports, “Theoretically, the House could decline to take up the bipartisan Senate bill as written and instead take it to a conference committee to be melded with a larger, more liberal surface transportation and water infrastructure bill sponsored by House Transportation Chair Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.). But White House officials have privately cautioned Democrats against going the conference route, saying they would risk delaying or blowing up the deal.”

Politico (8/10, Cadelago, Barron-Lopez, 6.73M) reports White House officials “say they plan to use public polling showing the popularity of the proposals inside the bipartisan deal to compel skeptical House Democrats to support it. White House officials will hammer home the impact of money for bridges, electric vehicle charging stations, and lead pipe replacement, said [Louisa] Terrell [director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs].” Terrell said, “That kind of momentum and energy will help us in our strategy with our House colleagues to move as quickly as they can.”

Roll Call (8/10, Wehrman, 130K) reports Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ), “a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Problem Solvers Caucus, predicted both measures would pass.” Malinowski said, “Basically, we have several planes up in the air, trying to come in for a landing in stormy weather, and we have air traffic controllers – our leadership in the House and the Senate – that are going to bring those planes down. ... I’m not sure what order, or exactly when, but I’m absolutely certain the House will pass this infrastructure bill. ... I just don’t see anybody who is committed to governing saying no to this bill at the end of the day.”

The Washington Post (8/10, 10.52M) says even if the legislation is signed into law this fall, “it could take many more years for Americans to feel its full impact.” According to the Post, “key parts” of the plan “may take the better part of a decade to come to fruition.” That “may push completion of many of its projects into the next administration, which could complicate who receives its political payoff. The White House maintains that the package will create both short-term and lasting economic benefits for the nation, and pointed to polls showing it is widely popular among voters of both parties.”

Business Groups Urge House To Pass Infrastructure Bill. [The Hill](#) (8/10, Evers-Hillstrom, 5.69M) reports the “nation’s largest business lobbying groups,” including the US Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable and the National Association of Manufacturers, “celebrated the Senate’s passage of the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill urged the House to swiftly send the bill to President Biden’s desk.”

Senate Begins “Vote-A-Rama” Process On Reconciliation Bill Amendments. [USA Today](#) (8/10, 12.7M) reports the Senate “immediately voted to start formal debate on the \$3.5 trillion budget plan that includes what the Biden administration has called ‘human infrastructure’ – massive investments in areas like the environment, housing, education and health care.” [Reuters](#) (8/10) says the Senate “began a ‘vote-a-rama,’ a process that gives senators the opportunity to propose amendments to the budget resolution. Debate can run for days unless party leaders agree to a shorter period.” McConnell “signaled that Republicans would use the vote-a-rama to erode support from moderate Democrats for what he called a ‘radical’ larger spending plan. He said the plan would create a permanent welfare state and usher in the largest peacetime tax hike in U.S. history.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/10, Cochrane, 20.6M) reports McConnell “said hundreds of amendments had been prepared, centered on national security funding, federal funding for abortions, tax increases and immigration,” and the [AP](#) (8/10, Fram) says Republicans “unleashed an avalanche of amendments aimed at making their rivals pay a price in next year’s elections.”

[Politico](#) (8/10, Emma, Scholtes, 6.73M) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), the ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, said, “Yes, sir. We’re going to have one hell of a fight. ... I don’t know how long we’re going to be here, but as long as it takes. America is worth fighting for, and America as we know it is at risk in this budget resolution.” [The Hill](#) (8/10, Carney, 5.69M) reports Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-TN), “who slow-walked the bipartisan infrastructure bill, predicted a lengthy session, saying that it would be ‘a while.’” But [Roll Call](#) (8/10, Krawzak, 130K) says “with the session already stretching farther into August than senators anticipated, neither side had much appetite to drag things out.”

In a separate piece, the [AP](#) (8/11, Fram) reports that approval of the budget resolution, “which seems assured, would mark a crucial first step by Democrats toward enacting the heart of President Joe Biden’s domestic agenda.”

In a separate story, the [New York Times](#) (8/10, Broadwater, Cochrane, 20.6M) says while “both parties have historically lamented the vote-a-rama process,” neither “wants to give it up. Typically, the party in the minority...revel in the uncomfortable votes it can force upon the majority party that typically controls the chamber, its floor time and what gets voted on.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10, Peterson, Duehren, Collins, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

House Will Interrupt Summer Recess To Consider Senate Budget Resolution. [The Hill](#) (8/10, Marcos, 5.69M) reports the House will interrupt its summer recess “to consider a budget resolution to kick off the process for Democrats’ \$3.5 trillion spending plan.” In a letter to lawmakers Tuesday, House Majority Leader Hoyer announced that the House “will return to session on Aug. 23 to consider the budget resolution, assuming Senate adoption likely later this week.”

House Democrats Want Pathway To Citizenship For “Documented Dreamers” In Reconciliation Bill. [Roll Call](#) (8/10, Monyak, 130K) reports in a Monday letter to Pelosi and Schumer, “nearly two dozen House Democrats” called for “a pathway to citizenship not only for undocumented immigrants in their budget reconciliation measure, but also for foreign citizens who grew up in the U.S. legally.” The lawmakers asked Pelosi and Schumer “to establish a path to green cards for people raised and educated in the U.S. as dependents on their parents’ work visas – but who find themselves without status of their own upon turning 21.” These so-called “documented Dreamers,” must “switch to student visas if they are in college, and then hope to find an employer to sponsor them for limited work visas. If they can’t, many have to leave their families and ‘self-deport’ to a country they may not even remember.”

WSJournal: Democrats Should Include Debt-Limit Increase In Budget Resolution. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial argues a debt-limit increase should be included in the budget resolution but Democrats intend to link it with a short-term spending bill to keep the government operating past Sept. 30. Democrats, the Journal argues, believe the possibility of a government shutdown and a debt default will cause Republicans to support an increase, thereby removing it as an issue for the midterm elections.

WPost: Debt-Limit Increase Should Be Bipartisan. The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, 10.52M) says in an editorial that both parties should “share the responsibility for increasing” the debt limit “on a bipartisan basis.” To the Post, “A default would harm all Americans regardless of party. A vote to back ‘the full faith and credit of the United States’ is a pragmatic and patriotic one, which all senators should be eager and proud to cast.”

WSJournal Decries Defeat Of Cryptocurrency Amendment. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) cites the defeat of an amendment to the infrastructure bill regarding the taxation of cryptocurrency “brokers” as an example of what happens when lawmakers move quickly to write legislation on issues they do not understand.

Texas Man Charged In Capitol Siege Probe. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/10, Blaskovich, 772K) reports, "A Fort Worth motorcycle mechanic has been charged with multiple federal offenses for allegedly assaulting police with a baton and hurling a 'tabletop' at them during the January mob siege of the Capitol building in Washington, authorities said Tuesday." Thomas John Ballard, 35, "owner of Cliff's Mobile Motorcycle Tires, was caught on video taking part in the Jan. 6 riot, the FBI said. He was arrested in Fort Worth on Tuesday, according to federal court records." The FBI "got a tip about Ballard in May from someone who ran his image from a 'wanted' poster through a public facial recognition search tool, according to a criminal complaint. The results turned up a 'motorcycle-based YouTube channel' called 'CliffCares,' belonging to a bearded man with an Infowars baseball cap who matched the suspect's appearance, the complaint said." [Insider](#) (8/10, Mitchell, 2.74M) reports, "Ballard is facing multiple federal accusations, including assaulting, resisting or impeding police, civil disorder, and weapons charges."

Two Virginia Residents Plead Guilty To Capitol Siege Probe Charges. The [AP](#) (8/10, Kunzelman) reports, "Two friends from Virginia pleaded guilty on Tuesday to charges that they joined the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6." Cindy Fitchett, 60, and Douglas Sweet, 59, "both face a maximum sentence of six months in prison after pleading guilty to misdemeanor counts of parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building." US District Judge Carl Nichols "is scheduled to sentence them on Nov. 9 during a hearing held by video conference. Fitchett and Sweet were among a group of six people who were arrested by police officers inside the Capitol during the siege." Fitchett and Sweet "traveled together from Virginia to attend former President Donald Trump's rally on Jan. 6 before heading over to the Capitol. Fitchett recorded a video of herself shouting, 'We are storming the Capitol! We have broken in!'"

South Carolina Man Charged In Capitol Siege Probe. The [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (8/10, Monk, Bohatch, 330K) reports from Columbia, South Carolina, "Another South Carolinian has been charged in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, becoming the ninth state resident to face allegations of storming the federal building." The State adds, "Anderson County's Derek Cooper Gunby, 41, was formally charged and arraigned Tuesday morning in Greenville at the downtown federal courthouse. The criminal charges against him were unsealed Tuesday, detailing charges that include violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. Gunby was released on a \$25,000 unsecured bond, an amount set by U.S. Magistrate Judge Kevin McDonald."

US Charges Tennessee Man In Capitol Siege Probe. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/10, Dorman, 379K) reports, "Federal agents on Tuesday arrested a Knoxville man on charges he illegally entered the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot and then bragged about it to others." Clifford Meteer, 66, "is accused of climbing the stone handrailing of a staircase and entering the building carrying a sign that read 'STOP THE STEAL' on one side and 'SAVE THE REPUBLIC' on the other. Witnesses identified him as a man seen on video footage walking through the building for about 30 minutes, according to the criminal complaint unsealed in U.S. District Court in D.C. Meteer left after being removed from a hallway by a police officer." The News Sentinel adds, "Like many of the hundreds of people arrested in connection to the insurrection that left several dead, Meteer openly talked about his actions on social media, federal authorities allege."

GAO Criticizes DHS Failure To Designate Election Certification As Protected Event. [Just Security](#) (8/10, Hendrix, Goodman) reports a new report from the GAO found that prior to January 6, DHS "considered the certification at the Capitol 'routine congressional business' and did not properly take into account the threat environment." As a result, DHS "did not consider special event designations that could have raised the security profile at the Capitol before the insurrection." The report is the first in what GAO calls "a body of work underway that examines the preparation, coordination, and response on January 6."

Michigan Man Sentenced For Plotting To Send Aid To ISIS. [WXMI-TV](#) Grand Rapids, MI (8/10, 105K) reports from Grand Rapids, Michigan, "The first of several Lansing men has been sentenced for plotting to send material support to ISIS, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Michigan." Chief US District Judge Robert J. Jonker sentenced Muse Muse, 22, "to 78 months in federal prison followed by 10 years of supervised release, the U.S. Attorney's Office tells us. We're told the government initially sought a nearly 15-year prison sentence but it was shortened by 52 months after the Court took Muse Muse's age, personal finance, rehab potential and lack of a criminal history into consideration. The U.S. Attorney's Office says court documents state Muse Muse communicated with someone he believed was a Somali fighter for ISIS

between December 2018 and January 2019, adding all three defendants pledged loyalty to the terrorist organization on video and sent those videos to those they believed to have been associates of ISIS.”

WILX-TV Lansing, MI (8/10, Draugelis, 61K) reports, “The FBI had been tracking Muse’s activity on the belief that he may attempt to join ISIS. Then, on Jan. 21, 2019, special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and members of its Joint Terrorism Task Force arrested Muse Muse at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, after he checked in for a flight that would eventually take him to Somalia, with the goal of joining ISIS. Shortly thereafter, his brother Mohamud Muse and cousin Mohamed Haji were arrested as co-conspirators.” WILX-TV adds, “Following his arrest Muse Muse adopted a handwritten statement prepared for him by an FBI special agent that summarized his interest in ISIS and end goal regarding his support of ISIS. In it, Muse admitted that he ‘wanted to join ISIS in Somalia so I wouldn’t have to do an attack in the United States.”

WLNS-TV Lansing, MI (8/10, Foster, 94K) reports, “Muse and the other defendants celebrated a 2017 terrorist attack in New York, as well as saying in a separate text ‘I am a terrorist’ and ‘I’m going to Somalia, God willing.”

FBI Continues To Probe 2015 New Mexico Church Bombings. The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (8/10, Garcia, 85K) reports, “The anniversary of the Las Cruces church bombings came and went with little fanfare or attention in 2021. No press releases about rewards or announcements of arrests marked the sixth anniversary of the notorious crime. A single tweet from the FBI was the sole reminder of an event that rocked Las Cruces. ‘It’s been 6 years, but the FBI doesn’t forget or stop looking,’ the tweet read. ‘We are offering a reward of up to \$50K for info that leads to the arrest/conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the bombings of 2 churches in Las Cruces NM in 2015.’” The Sun-News adds, “Six years ago, two bombs went off in two churches and a third undetonated bomb was discovered in another church. Two bombs detonated 20 minutes apart at Calvary Baptist Church and Holy Cross Catholic Church on Aug 2, 2015, shortly after services concluded.”

NSA IG Launches Probe Into Allegations Of Media Surveillance. Reuters (8/10, Lynch, Shepardson) reports that on Tuesday, the inspector general for the National Security Agency “said...it was launching an inquiry into allegations that the agency had improperly spied on a member of the U.S. news media.” According to Reuters, “The inspector general’s office did not identify which reporter or media outlet that is at the heart of its review, but the development comes a few months after Fox News conservative host Tucker Carlson claimed he had heard from a whistleblower who told him the NSA was monitoring his communications in a plot to leak them and force him off the air.” Reuters says that “in late June, the NSA took the unusual step of publicly denying those allegations.” IG Robert Storch said in a written statement that his office “is examining NSA’s compliance with applicable legal authorities and Agency policies and procedures regarding collection, analysis, reporting, and dissemination activities, including unmasking procedures, and whether any such actions were based upon improper considerations.”

The New York Times (8/10, Savage, 20.6M) reports that Carlson “made his eyebrow-raising claim during his June 28 prime-time broadcast, saying he had learned of the matter from ‘a whistle-blower within the U.S. government.’ The accusation carried echoes of conspiracy theories put forward by former President Donald J. Trump, with whom Mr. Carlson is closely aligned, about a so-called deep state out to get him.” The Times adds, “While the N.S.A. rarely comments on allegations about its activities, the accusation prompted a rare public denial from the agency, which called it ‘untrue’ and said ‘Carlson has never been an intelligence target of the agency and the N.S.A. has never had any plans to try to take his program off the air.’”

The Wall Street Journal (8/10, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that NSA Inspector General Robert Storch said the review will examine the NSA’s compliance with laws and regulations on the collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence, including procedures on the revelations of the redacted identities of US citizens or residents caught up in surveillance of foreign nationals. An NSA spokesman said the agency “remains fully committed to the rigorous and independent oversight provided by the NSA Inspector General’s office.”

CBS News (8/10, Gazis, 5.39M) reports that while Storch did not “explicitly name Carlson, [an] official familiar with the matter confirmed the host’s allegations were the focus of the review.” A Fox News spokesperson said the network is “gratified to learn the NSA’s egregious surveillance of Tucker Carlson will now be independently investigated.” A spokesperson for the agency said the NSA “remains fully committed to the rigorous and independent oversight provided by the NSA Inspector General’s office. The OIG plays a critical role in our Agency’s mission by overseeing the activities of NSA/CSS and providing recommendations that continue to promote effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability within the Agency.”

The AP (8/10, Merchant) reports the announcement “puts the NSA’s inspector general at the center of a politically volatile issue.” On Tuesday, Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT), a member of the House Intelligence Committee, “criticized the furor over Carlson’s allegations as the ‘latest right-wing attempt to damage our security services.’” He charged those promoting the outcry are “badly hurting our intelligence community with outright lies.” Meanwhile, Newsweek (8/10, Gile, 2.67M) reports Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

on Tuesday praised the review, calling it “an important step toward ensuring public confidence. It is important that this review is as transparent as possible so it doesn’t fuel further public suspicion and distrust.” He also “criticized the NSA’s statement for side-stepping the question of whether the agency had intercepted Carlson’s communications and was a target of an investigation.”

Among outlets also reporting are [The Hill](#) (8/10, Mastrangelo, 5.69M) and [Insider](#) (8/10, Sheth, 2.74M).

Politico: Rosen Told Senators Trump Asked About Legal Strategy To Overturn Election.

[Politico](#) (8/10, Swan, Wu, 6.73M) reports, “Donald Trump asked the country’s top legal official in late December about a conspiratorial draft complaint aimed at overturning the 2020 election results, according to a previously unreported account of Trump’s phone call with former acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen.” Rosen “persuaded Trump the lawsuit wasn’t a good idea, he told Senate investigators last weekend, two sources familiar with his testimony said. The previously unreported details underscore how hard DOJ lawyers worked to shoot down the increasingly harebrained legal strategies that reached the president’s desk.”

ODNI Releases Section 702 Report.

[Lawfare](#) (8/10, Klehm) reports on Wednesday, ODNI released “its 21st Joint Assessment of Section 702 Compliance, which covers June 1, 2018 to Nov. 30, 2018.” The semiannual report was produced “in compliance with the FISA Amendments Act of 2008.” According to a press release, the report found “that the agencies continued to implement the procedures in a manner that reflected a focused and concerted effort by the Intelligence Community (IC) personnel to comply with the requirements of Section 702.” Lawfare writes that this is “in spite of a significant increase in the overall compliance incident rate, which the press release” attributes to “two incidents made up almost 99% of the IC’s compliance incidents.”

Virginia Mosque Asks For Religious Tiles To Be Exempted From Iranian Sanctions. The [AP](#) (8/10, Barakat) reports a northern Virginia mosque is “asking the Biden administration to release a set of religious tiles that were confiscated at Dulles International Airport after they were deemed to violate sanctions on Iran.” A spokesperson for “Customs and Border Protection confirmed that the tiles were placed on hold June 21 and that on June 30, the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Asset Control determined that, under the sanctions imposed on Iran, the tiles could not be imported.” The spokesperson “said no final determination has been made on the tiles’ disposition.”

Federal Prosecutors Say Group Charged With Plotting Whitmer Kidnapping Also Discussed Targeting Other Governors.

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (8/10, Tobias, 1.22M) reports from Columbus, Ohio, “Federal prosecutors say that a group of men charged with planning to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer last year also considered targeting Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, according to a new court filing.” The Plain Dealer adds, “In the Monday filing, the first time DeWine was connected to the case, prosecutors said the accused plotters during a June 6, 2020 meeting ‘proposed attacking the governors of Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia.’ The filing doesn’t state where the meeting took place, but federal prosecutors previously have described a June 6, 2020 planning meeting the group held in Dublin, Ohio, a Columbus suburb. One member of the group, Barry Croft, brought an improvised explosive device to the meeting, saying he planned to use it, the filing says. A confidential informant recorded the meeting.”

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (8/10, Barrett, 828K) reports, “Members of a paramilitary group charged with conspiring to kidnap Whitmer claim they were set up by undercover FBI agents and informants, but prosecutors pushed back against those claims in documents filed Monday in federal court. Prosecutors claim the accused kidnapping plotters were already planning violence against public officials before undercover FBI agents entered the picture. The filing claims suspects Adam Fox and” Croft “attended a meeting with militia activists from multiple states in June 2020,” and prosecutors “say Cox showed off an improvised explosive device at the meeting and referred to himself as a ‘terrorist’ who was going to ‘burn mother*****g houses down, blow s*** up.”

The [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (8/10, Provance, 49K) reports, “The 22-page filing from U.S. Attorney Andrew Birge in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids was in response to a defense motion to produce evidence from confidential FBI sources. To demonstrate that the defendants in the case were already predisposed to engage in the plot prior to the involvement of investigators, Monday’s filing states.” The Blade adds, “The fact that Ohio’s Republican governor was also a potential target was revealed in October when arrests were made in the Michigan plot. At the time, Mr. DeWine told reporters that the revelations were ‘shocking’ and ‘horrible.’”

The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (8/10, Borchardt, 526K) reports, “The defendants have argued they were entrapped by the FBI and there was no plot. Prosecutors said in Monday’s 22-page filing that’s not possible because the accused ‘proposed

attacking the governors of Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia' a month before meeting with an FBI informant." Also reporting are [Deadline Detroit](#) (8/10) and [WKSU-FM Kent, OH](#) (8/10, 5K).

Police Say California Lottery Winner Was Killed By Husband In Murder-Suicide.

[Independent \(UK\)](#) (8/10, Spocchia, 1.19M) reports, "A Californian woman who won more than \$2 million (£1.4 million) in a lottery last year has reportedly been murdered by her husband in Oklahoma along with her young daughter." Tiffani Hill, 31, "was with her one-year-old daughter Leanne when her husband, 42-year-old John Donato, fired at her and Leanne on 30 July. He afterwards shot and killed himself. Calera Police, the FBI and Choctaw Tribal Police were called to the address in Calera...to find Ms Hill and Mr Donato both dead. Leanne, who was critically injured, was airlifted to a hospital in Dallas, Texas, where she remained for the weekend. The FBI told a local news outlet, News 12, that she had died three days later, on 2 August." The FBI "took on the investigation into the deaths because it involved at least one member of an Oklahoma tribe."

South Carolina Federal Inmate Sentenced In Murder-For-Hire Plot.

The [Greenwood \(SC\) Index-Journal](#) (8/10, 32K) reports, "A man incarcerated at a federal prison in Edgefield was sentenced to more than 21 years of additional prison time after trying to hire a hitman to kill a federal prosecutor and a key witness in a prior court case against him, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office." Richard Robert Gilbert, 52, "is incarcerated with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and was serving a 130-month sentence in a 2017 drug trafficking case in Kentucky. While at FCI Edgefield, he used a contraband cellphone to arrange for a hitman to kill the federal prosecutor and a witness in his Kentucky case, but the person he contacted was an undercover FBI agent, the USAO news release said." Gilbert "sent the undercover officer a \$2,000 check from his prison canteen account as a down payment for the killing, telling prison officials the money was going to an investment firm."

Attorney For Convicted Kentucky Constable Seeks New Trial.

The [Somerset \(KY\) Commonwealth Journal](#) (8/10, Slavey, 23K) reports, "The attorney for Michael 'Wally' Wallace has filed a memorandum in federal court providing more details as to why they believe the Pulaski constable should be given a new trial after being convicted by a jury in June." Attorney Robert Norfleet "filed the request for a new trial in July, after Wallace and fellow constable Gary Baldock were found guilty in a jury trial of Conspiracy against Civil Rights and Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine." The Commonwealth Journal adds, "Wallace and Norfleet claim that the trial was unfair for the defense because the U.S. government 'concealed material information' that prevented Wallace from mounting a proper defense. Norfleet's argument surrounds the FBI's Interview Report Form, commonly referred to as the '302 Report,' which summarizes an interview between an agent and a subject."

Former Suffolk County, New York DA Sentenced In Corruption Probe.

The [Chief-Leader](#) (8/10, Khavkine) reports, "Nearly four years after their indictment on Federal charges of helping the then-Suffolk Police Chief cover up the 2012 beating of a man in police custody, the county's former District Attorney, Thomas J. Spota, and his Chief of Investigations, Christopher McPartland, were each sentenced to five years in prison." The Chief-Leader adds, "The sentences for Mr. Spota, 79, and Mr. McPartland, 55, followed their December 2019 convictions on Federal charges, including conspiracy, witness-tampering, obstruction of justice and other offenses in connection with their efforts to keep under wraps the December 2012 beat-down by then-SCPD Chief James Burke of a man who had broken into his police vehicle. Handed down Aug. 10 by United States District Judge Joan M. Azrack, they culminate one of the darker chapters in the county's recent history."

The [Port Jefferson \(NY\) Patch](#) (8/10, Finn, 1.44M) reports, "Jacquelyn M. Kasulis, acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and Jacqueline Maguire, acting assistant director-in-charge for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced the sentences. The sentences stem from the defendants' December 17, 2019 convictions following a six-week federal jury trial; they were convicted on all four counts of the indictment including conspiracy to tamper with witnesses and obstruct an official proceeding; witness tampering; obstruction of justice; and being accessories after-the-fact to former Suffolk County Police Department Chief of Department James Burke's 'deprivation of a prisoner's civil rights,' the U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of New York said in a release." [WABC-TV New York](#) (8/10, 351K) also reports.

Georgia Man Pleads Guilty To PPE Fraud.

[Newsweek](#) (8/10, Hutzler, 2.67M) reports, "A Georgia man has pleaded guilty in a multi-million COVID-19 scam involving personal protective equipment (PPE)." The Department of Justice "announced Tuesday that Christopher Parris, a New York native who now lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia, faces 30 years in prison for wire fraud in connection to a presidentially-declared emergency. Prosecutors say between February and April of last year, when the U.S. was experiencing a shortage of protective equipment amid the coronavirus outbreak, Parris offered to sell non-existent supplies to various medical companies and government entities." Parris, 41, "specifically offered to sell scarce 3M-brand N95 respirator masks that he pledged to secure through his Atlanta-based company Encore Health Group."

Ignatius: Despite Increase In Cyberattacks Since Biden Took Office, US “At Least Appears To Be Fighting Back.”

David Ignatius writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/10, 10.52M) that the Biden Administration “has decided that the danger of cyberattacks from Russia, China and other nations is so serious that it is mobilizing all parts of the government, including” the NSA’s Cybersecurity Collaboration Center, “an organization once so secretive it was known as ‘No Such Agency.’” President Biden and National Security Adviser Sullivan “believed the Trump administration had adopted a ‘laissez-faire’ attitude toward what was becoming an undeclared war in cyberspace.” While “cyberattacks on U.S. targets have, if anything, escalated since Biden took office,” the US “at least appears to be fighting back. Over the past seven months, Biden has taken a series of actions, often with little fanfare, to mobilize a response across the government and private sector.”

DOJ Investigation Finds Sex Abuse At New Jersey Women’s Prison.

[Reuters](#) (8/10) reports that a DOJ investigation has “found that prisoners were subjected to sexual abuse” at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women – a women’s prison in Clinton, New Jersey. Reuters continues that while speaking at news conference “to announce settlement that calls for reforms at the facility,” Kristen Clarke, the head of DOJ’s civil rights division, “said the investigation found that” the prison “failed to protect prisoners from sexual abuse by facility staff.” Reuters adds that as part of the settlement – which still needs a judge’s approval – New Jersey “has agreed to change its training and policies and allow an independent monitor to oversee reforms at the women’s prison.”

DOJ Clashes With Federal Inmates Over Credits To Reduce Prison Time.

[Reuters](#) (8/10, Lynch) reports that the Justice Department “asked a judge on Tuesday to deny a bid by four low-level federal inmates to qualify for early release under a new criminal justice reform law that allows shortened prison terms through recidivism-reduction programs.” Reuters adds, “In the U.S. District Court in Oregon, federal prosecutors said no program or activity the inmates took part in qualify for earned time credits. The inmates’ public defender and some lawmakers have said the Bureau of Prisons’ (BOP) criteria are too strict.” According to Reuters, “The rift could increase pressure on the Justice Department, which is under fire from civil rights advocates for its inaction to prevent BOP from sending thousands of federal inmates back to prison once the pandemic emergency is lifted.”

After Skepticism, San Diego Sheriff Releases Details About Video Of Deputy’s Collapse.

The [New York Times](#) (8/10, Paz, 20.6M) reports that after medical experts expressed “skepticism about body camera footage showing” San Diego County Sheriff’s Deputy David Faiivae collapsed “while investigating a substance he believed to be fentanyl,” the Sheriff’s Department on Monday “released several reports related to the incident, including the results of a laboratory analysis that found that the substances figuring in the dramatic video included fentanyl and methamphetamine.” The Times explains that the footage “had been met with scrutiny from medical and addiction experts who said it was impossible to overdose on fentanyl simply by handling the drug.” Furthermore, “even though the newly released documents show that the substances Deputy Faiivae handled later tested positive for fentanyl, fluorofentanyl and methamphetamine, they do not say whether Deputy Faiivae was found to have overdosed.”

Apple’s Move Against Child Pornography Shifts Battle Lines For Law Enforcement, Technologists.

In the “Cybersecurity 202” blog of the [Washington Post](#) (8/10, 10.52M), Joseph Marks writes, “Apple’s latest move to fight the digital sharing of child pornography is opening up some fissures in a seven-year standoff between technologists and law enforcement over fighting the spread of criminal activity online.” The dispute “has centered primarily on FBI and Justice Department demands for special police access to encrypted communications that would otherwise be shielded from everyone, including the platform where the conversation is happening.” Marks adds, “Justice Department and FBI officials say that access – with a warrant – is vital to stop terrorists, purveyors of child pornography and other criminals from ‘going dark’ and acting with impunity online. Technologists nearly uniformly say creating such an encryption backdoor will make everyone more hackable and that the trade-offs aren’t worth it. The fight’s flared periodically since 2014 with no significant give or take from either side.”

Biden Announces Eight Nominations To US Attorney Positions.

The [New York Times](#) (8/10, Kanno-Youngs, 20.6M) reports President Biden “nominated Damian Williams as the U.S. attorney in Manhattan on Tuesday, naming the first African American to lead one of the most powerful prosecutor’s offices in the country as part of a slate of picks for top law enforcement posts.” The Times says Biden “also announced nominees to supervise two other offices that tend to investigate the Justice Department’s more prominent cases, including Breon S. Peace, a former federal prosecutor, as the U.S. attorney in Brooklyn and Jessica D. Aber as the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, where she has worked since 2009.” The Times adds Biden “tapped Carla B. Freedman, a prosecutor in the U.S. attorney’s office for the Northern District of New York, to

lead the office, setting her up to be the first Senate-confirmed woman to fill the position,” as well as William J. Ihlenfeld II “as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, Christopher R. Kavanaugh as the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia, Darcie N. McElwee as the U.S. attorney for the District of Maine, and William S. Thompson as the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia.” [Reuters](#) (8/10, Wolfe, Lynch) and the [New York Post](#) (8/10, Lungariello, 7.45M) provide similar coverage.

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b7E -3

Please direct comments and concerns to

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] (FBI); Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 12, 2021 10:08 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b5 -2

Thanks.

Who is going to tell Matt/ [REDACTED]

Stephen

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 7:11:53 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [REDACTED] (FBI); Prest, Erin M. (OGC)
Subject: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Good evening,

I spoke to the Deputy this evening.

[REDACTED]

b5 -1, 2

Please follow up with any questions.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[REDACTED]
Special Counsel
Deputy Director's Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[REDACTED]

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From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject:
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 12, 2021 3:54 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1,5
b7C -1,5
b5 -2

Stephen

[redacted]

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [redacted]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted]
Sent: August 12, 2021 4:45 PM (UTC-04:00)

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[Large redacted area]

b5 -1,2
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b7C -5

[redacted]

Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Investigative Law Unit

b6 -1
b7C -1

Room 7919 JEH

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b7E -3

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From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: Automatic reply: [redacted]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 13, 2021 9:22 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

I will be out of the office on AL on Friday, August 13. If you can wait please email me at [redacted] and I will get back to you on Monday when I return to the office.

If this is an **urgent matter** please call me at [redacted]

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: RE: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) shared "Use of Body Worn Cameras by FBI Special Agents PG Draft (08-17-21)" with you.
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) [redacted] (CID) (FBI) [redacted] (OTD) (FBI) [redacted] (RPO) (FBI); Delbagno, William J. (CCRSB) (FBI) [redacted] (CID) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted] OGC) (FBI); McNally, Richard (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 17, 2021 1:31 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b5 -2

[redacted]

- Stephen

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10:03 AM
To: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) [redacted] Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
[redacted] Delbagno, William J. (CCRSB) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]




[redacted] (DO) (FBI) shared a file with you

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

[redacted]

b5 -1,2

 This link will work for anyone in Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Open

 Microsoft

[Privacy Statement](#)

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: Re:
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]
Sent: August 17, 2021 1:35 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1

Can do

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 1:34:44 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE:

How about 2:30?

Thx.

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 1:30 PM
To: [redacted] Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]
Subject: Re:

Sure, anytime is fine. Thx.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 1:04:57 PM
To: [redacted] Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]
Subject: Re:

Any time after 1:30-4 or after bwc call

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 11:01:28 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]
Subject: Re:

Absolutely

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 11:00:45 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE:

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Thanks [redacted]

This afternoon after you get back, can you [redacted] and me connect on our 1:00 call tomorrow with NSCLB. Just want to chat for 10-15mins.

Let me know what works for both of you.

Stephen

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10:58 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Subject:

Hi Stephen

Just an FYI on my way to a Will monitor my phone

b6 -1
b7C -1

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: Fw: RE:
To: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 17, 2021 1:37 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

i will send out an invite on the ILU line

[redacted]
Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Investigative Law Unit
Room 7919 JEH

(o) [redacted]
(c) [redacted]

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From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 13:34
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE:

How about 2:30?

Thx.

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 1:30 PM
To: [redacted] Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Re:

Sure, anytime is fine. Thx.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 1:04:57 PM
To: [redacted] Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Re:

Any time after 1:30-4 or after bwc call

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 11:01:28 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Re:

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Absolutely

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 11:00:45 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE:

Thanks [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1

This afternoon after you get back, can you [redacted] and me connect on our 1:00 call tomorrow with NSCLB. Just want to chat for 10-15mins.

Let me know what works for both of you.

Stephen

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10:58 AM

To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject:

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Hi Stephen

Just an FYI on my way to [redacted] Will monitor my phone

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 17, 2021 3:21 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -5
b7C -5
b5 -2

Your meeting was forwarded

Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) has forwarded your meeting request to additional people.

Meeting

[REDACTED]

b5 -2

Meeting Time

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 4:00 PM - Tuesday, August 17, 2021 5:00 PM

Recipients

Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1

All times listed are in the following time zone: (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 18, 2021 10:32 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b5 -2

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 5:08:56 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

b5 -1,2

[Redacted]

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[Redacted]

Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Investigative Law Unit
Room 7919 JEH

(o) [Redacted]
(c) [Redacted]

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From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 16:17
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE:

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Yes, I'm on.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]
Subject:

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Are you getting on the call?

From: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG) (JMD); Jones, Darrin E. (STB) (FBI)
Cc: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 18, 2021 1:01 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: [REDACTED]

b5 -2

Adam,

[REDACTED] Please let me know if you have any questions,

Matt

Matthew A. Feinberg, Section Chief
Science and Technology Branch, Federal Bureau of Investigation

b7E -3

Jones, Darrin E. (STB) (FBI)

Subject:

b5 -2

Location:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start:

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 3:30 PM

End:

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:00 PM

Recurrence:

(none)

Meeting Status:

Accepted

Organizer:

Jones, Darrin E. (STB) (FBI)

Required Attendees:

Turner, Brian C. (CCRSB) (FBI); [redacted] HRB) (FBI);
Schlendorf, David W. (FFD) (FBI); Dimos, Nicholas (FFD)
(FBI); Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); Feinberg, Matthew A.
(CD) (FBI)

b6 -1
b7C -1

Optional Attendees:

EAD HRB Scheduler; Greenberg, Jay (CID) (FBI) [redacted]
[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Attachments:

b5 -2

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[Learn more about Teams](#)

Jones, Darrin E. (STB) (FBI)

Subject:

[Redacted]

b5 -2

Location:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start:

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 3:30 PM

End:

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:00 PM

Recurrence:

(none)

Meeting Status:

Accepted

Organizer:

Jones, Darrin E. (STB) (FBI)

Required Attendees:

Turner, Brian C. (CCRSB) (FBI) [Redacted] (HRB) (FBI);
Schlendorf, David W. (FFD) (FBI); Dimos, Nicholas (FFD)
(FBI); Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); Feinberg, Matthew A.
(CD) (FBI)

b6 -1
b7C -1

Optional Attendees:

EAD_HRB_Scheduler; Greenberg, Jay (CID) (FBI); [Redacted]
[Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Attachments:

[Redacted]

b5 -2

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[Learn more about Teams](#)

Jones, Darrin E. (STB) (FBI)

Subject: [Redacted]

b5 -2

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 3:30 PM

End: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 4:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentatively accepted

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Jones, Darrin E. (STB) (FBI)

Required Attendees: Turner, Brian C. (CCRSB) (FBI) [Redacted] (HRB) (FBI);
Schlendorf, David W. (FFD) (FBI); Dimos, Nicholas (FFD)
(FBI); Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); Feinberg, Matthew A.
(CD) (FBI)

b6 -1
b7C -1

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Learn more about Teams

From: [redacted] OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [redacted]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 18, 2021 1:53 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b5 -2

I can do 2:30. Thanks!

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 12:13 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Let me know if you're free after 2. I want to give you an update and discuss a BWC issue with you. Thanks.

Stephen

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:22:10 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hey Stephen,

[Large redacted area]

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -4,27

From: [redacted] OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [redacted]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]
Sent: August 18, 2021 11:48 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

From: Dimos, Nicholas (FFD) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 11:45:38 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

From: Schlendorf, David W. (FFD) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 11:41 PM
To: Jones, Darrin E. (STB) (FBI); Turner, Brian C. (CCRSB) (FBI); Gavin, Michael T. (ITADD) (FBI); Brown, James Robert Jr. (OTD) (FBI); Shivers, Calvin A. (CID) (FBI) [redacted] (ITADD) (FBI); Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted] HRB) (FBI); Dimos, Nicholas (FFD) (FBI); Watts, Wendell A. (FFD) (FBI) [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

[redacted]
[redacted] Delbago, William J. (CCRSB)
[redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

Darrin, Brian, Michael, Robert, Calvin [redacted] and Matt,

b5 -1,2
b7E -30

Thanks for the continued coordination and collaboration on this,

Dave

From: Brown, James Robert Jr. (OTD) (FBI) [redacted]

b7E -3

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 7:00 PM

To: Schlendorf, David W. (EED) (FBI) [redacted]; Turner, Brian C. (CCRSB) (FBI) [redacted]

Jones, Darrin E. (STB) (FBI) [redacted] (ITADD) (FBI) [redacted] Shivers, Calvin A.

FBI (22-cv-00149)-7442

[Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Cc: [Redacted] Dimos, Nicholas (FFD) (FBI) [Redacted] Watts, Wendell

[Redacted]

Subject: Re: Body Worn Camera Procurement Update - As of July 28

Sir(s)

[Redacted]

b5 -1
b7E -30

The team is meeting again tomorrow to follow up. Let me know if there are more immediate questions or I have miss interpreted your email.

Robert Brown

Assistant Director
Operational Technology Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[Redacted]

b7E -3

Robert Brown

Assistant Director
Operational Technology Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[Redacted]

b7E -3

From: [REDACTED] OGC) (FBI)
Subject: FYI -- Facing revolt from police chiefs, U.S. Marshals agree to change body camera rules
To: HQ-DIV09-CDC: Jones, Jason Allen (OGC) (FBI); Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI); Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC)
[REDACTED]
Sent: August 19, 2021 10:54 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/facing-revolt-police-chiefs-u-s-marshals-agree-change-body-n1277029>

From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs - Director's AM News Briefing Friday, August 20, 2021
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 20, 2021 5:00 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: FBI Dir Briefing 210820.doc

b7E -3

This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR’S AM NEWS BRIEFING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021 5:00 AM EDT

North Carolina Man Surrenders To Capitol Police After Bomb Threat Near Library Of Congress.

NBC Nightly News (8/19, 6:31 p.m. EST, lead story, 2:40, Holt, 5.42M) reported, “Washington held its breath for several hours today as the US Capitol complex came under threat again. This time allegedly by a North Carolina man with a list of grievances against the government, who...drove his pickup truck on to a sidewalk at the library of Congress and declared he had a bomb. Capitol Hill offices were evacuated as police tried to negotiate with the man who streamed his demands live on social media before surrendering.” NBC (Williams) added, “Nearly five hours after he parked his pickup,” Floyd Ray Roseberry “gave up and followed instructions to crawl away, ending a tense standoff.”

ABC World News Tonight (8/19, 6:41 p.m. EST, story 3, 2:00, Muir, 5.28M) reported that Roseberry was taken “into custody just before 2:30 PM investigators descending on his North Carolina home. Bomb disposal robots seen here outside. Capitol police just told us there was no functioning bomb in the truck, but they’re examining whether any bomb-making materials.”

CBS Evening News (8/19, 6:37 p.m. EST, story 3, 2:20, O'Donnell, 3.94M) reported, “Roseberry live streamed the standoff on Facebook, asking to speak to the President,” and “ranting about the end of the war in Afghanistan.” CBS (Pegues) added, “The 49-year-old from North Carolina said that he had a propane gas container in the back of a truck.” Roseberry “claimed the detonator would trigger the gas container if police, including snipers posted around the perimeter, shot him,” and “at around 2:00 PM, when they were trying to deliver a cell phone to him, he surrendered, a relief to police. There was no bomb in the truck. Possible bomb-making materials were found.”

The Washington Post (8/19, Johnson, Flynn, Olivo, Jamison, 10.52M) reports that “for the third time in eight months, Washington was brought to a standstill Thursday as the seat of the U.S. government came under the threat of violence, this time from a man who parked a truck near the Capitol, demanded to speak with President Biden about a range of grievances and threatened to destroy two blocks of the nation’s capital with an explosive device.” The Post adds, “Before he was taken into custody, Roseberry delivered a tirade over a Facebook live video in which he assailed Biden and other Democrats, called for a revolt against the federal government and claimed there were other ‘patriots’ waiting in vehicles elsewhere in D.C. ‘The revolution is on, it’s here, it’s today,’ he said in his live stream. ‘America needs a voice. I’ll give it to them.’”

The New York Times (8/19, Cochrane, Cramer, 20.6M) reports that Capitol Police Chief J. Thomas Manger “told reporters that officers had observed items on Mr. Roseberry’s truck that concerned them, including a propane gas container. He said that charges against Mr. Roseberry would be determined with the U.S. attorney’s office.” Roseberry, “a resident of Grover, N.C., was making anti-government statements, according to a law enforcement official. Chief Manger said that the police had spoken with members of Mr. Roseberry’s family.”

The AP (8/19, Tucker, Balsamo) reports that “even in a city with a long history of dramatic law enforcement encounters outside federal landmarks, this episode was notable for its timing – Washington remains on edge eight months after the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol – and for the way the suspect harnessed social media to draw attention to his actions in the hours before his arrest.” The AP adds, “As police continued negotiations, video surfaced of Roseberry on Facebook Live inside the truck, which was stuffed with coins and boxes. He threatened explosions, expressed hostility toward President Joe Biden, profanely warned of a ‘revolution’ and laid bare a series of grievances related to U.S. positions on Afghanistan, health care and the military.”

Reuters (8/19, Chavez, Lynch) reports, “Two law enforcement sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it appeared Roseberry had acted alone.” Politico (8/19, Wu, Caygle, Ferris, 6.73M) reports, “Manger said there is no indication Roseberry was acting with others and law enforcement officials do not have reason to believe there are other explosive devices in the city. The police chief’s assertions come after Roseberry said on social media earlier in the day there were ‘four’ additional explosive devices in the surrounding area without providing additional details. There was ‘nothing that serious’ in Roseberry’s criminal background, according to Manger, who said law enforcement officials were still trying to identify a motive. ‘We do know that Mr. Roseberry has had some losses in his family,’ Manger said. ‘I believe his mother recently passed away, and we spoke with members of his family, and there were other issues that he was dealing with.’” The Hill (8/19, Folley, 5.69M) reports that Manger “also noted that officers were able to determine Roseberry had a criminal history in North Carolina, but he said it was ‘nothing that serious.’”

CNN (8/19, Wild, Diaz, 89.21M) reports, “On Roseberry’s now-removed Facebook page, he frequently made pro-Trump posts and posted videos from Trump’s ‘Million MAGA March’ on November 14. In video posted Thursday, Roseberry

called himself a 'patriot.' He said he doesn't care if Trump ever becomes president again but also that he thinks 'all Democrats need to step down.'"

USA Today (8/19, Behrmann, Johnson, 12.7M) reports, "The suspect engaged in a rambling, largely anti-government narrative – at one point referring to the government's chaotic exit from Afghanistan and 'kids being raped.' The livestream also showed a large, weathered canister in the man's lap, as he suggested that whatever explosives he was carrying would detonate if officers attempted to shoot him." USA Today notes that "both chambers of Congress are currently out of session for their summer breaks. Most lawmakers are currently not in their Washington offices."

Roll Call (8/19, Cioffi, 130K) reports, "Roseberry communicated with negotiators by writing on a whiteboard but refused to use a phone delivered to him by robot. After refusing to use the phone, Roseberry 'got out of the car on his own' and was taken into custody, the news release said." The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Gurman, Corse, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that police sent snipers to the scene, as well as bomb technicians from the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The FBI's Washington field office and Washington's Metropolitan Police Department also responded.

President Denies Military Leaders Urged Him To Leave Some Troops In Afghanistan. ABC

World News Tonight (8/19, 6:39 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Muir, 5.28M) reported there are "questions tonight about whether the President's military advisers had actually urged him to leave a small number of American troops in Afghanistan." As part of Wednesday's interview, George Stephanopoulos asked the President, "Your top military advisers warned against drawing against this timeline. They wanted you to keep 2,500 troops." The President responded, "No, they didn't. That wasn't true." After showing Stephanopoulos pressing the President on the issue, Martha Raddatz added, "the President may not remember or recall, but we have been reporting for months now that senior military leaders did advise the President to leave a residual force in Afghanistan, but the President decided against it and he is, after all, the Commander in Chief, but all of this is going to be looked at."

Marc Thiessen writes in the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) that "if Biden is correct, and not one single person in his circle of advisers...pushed back on his plan to withdraw no matter the conditions on the ground, or made the case for leaving a residual force, then that is a shocking indictment of his national security team." Biden "has surrounded himself with a team of sycophants and enablers who share his worst instincts."

Biden Says He Would Have Tried To Withdraw Even If Trump Hadn't Cut Deal With Taliban. ABC's Good

Morning America (8/19, 2.79M) featured Stephanopoulos' interview (8/19, Crawford, 2.44M) with Biden conducted on Wednesday, parts of which aired on Wednesday night. Stephanopoulos saying to Biden, "Sounds like you think we should have gotten out a long time ago." Biden was shown replying: "We should have. ... Getting out would be messy no matter when it occurred." Axios (8/19, Doherty, 1.26M) notes that Biden told Stephanopoulos "that he would have tried to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan even if former President Trump had not struck a deal with the Taliban to get out of the country by May 1." Biden is quoted as saying, "I would have tried to figure out how to withdraw those troops, yes, because ... there is no good time to leave Afghanistan. ... 15 years ago would have been a problem, 15 years from now – the basic choice is, am I going to send your sons and your daughters to war in Afghanistan in perpetuity." According to Axios, Biden previously had "sought to deflect blame on to the former president for the swift Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, saying that the peace deal Trump signed with the Taliban in 2020 set the stage for the subsequent withdrawal."

Likewise, Politico (8/19, Forgey, 6.73M) says Biden's "latest statement that he would have pursued a pullout of U.S. troops regardless of Trump's negotiations with the Taliban complicates the current administration's argument for its own withdrawal order." According to the AP (8/19, Lee, Tucker), Biden "can go only so far in claiming the agreement boxed him in" because "it had an escape clause." The AP says the US "could have withdrawn from the accord if Afghan peace talks failed," which "they did, but Biden chose to stay in it, although he delayed the complete pullout from May to September."

Biden: "A Hell Of A Lot More Troops" Would Have Been Needed For US To Stay In Afghanistan. ABC's

Good Morning America (8/19, 2.79M) featured George Stephanopoulos' interview (8/19, Crawford, 2.44M) with the President. Stephanopoulos said Biden "promised for the first time that the US military would stay as long as it takes to get all Americans out," and was "also defiant, insisting we had to get out now, admitting no mistakes." Biden was shown being asked: "Back in July you said a Taliban takeover was highly unlikely. Was the intelligence wrong, or did you downplay it?" Biden replied: "There was no consensus. You go back and look at the intelligence reports. They said that it was more likely to be sometime by the end of the year. ... The idea that the Taliban would take over was premised on the notion that somehow the 300,000 troops we had trained and equipped was going to just collapse, were going to give up. I don't think anybody anticipated that." Biden added: "I hear people say, 'well, you had 2500 folks in there and nothing was happening. There wasn't any war.' But, guess what? The fact was that the reason it wasn't happening is the last President negotiated a year earlier that he'd be out by May 1 and that in return, there would be no attack on American forces. That's what was done. That's why nothing was happening. ... I

have a May 1 deadline. I have one of two choices. Do I say, 'we're staying' – and do you think we would not have to put a hell of a lot more troops? We had tens of thousands of troops there before. Tens of thousands. Do you think they would have just said, 'no problem? Don't worry about it. We're not going to attack anybody?' In the meantime, the Taliban was taking territory all throughout the country."

A "Fact Check" piece for the [Washington Post](#) (8/19, Rizzo, 10.52M) takes issue with a number of claims the President made in his interview with Stephanopoulos, particularly his claim that he had not been pressed by military leaders to keep a stabilizing force in Afghanistan.

Frank Bruni writes in the [New York Times](#) (8/19, 20.6M) that the US "is routinely overconfident. We perpetually overreach. And while Biden obviously didn't think we had the might to fix Afghanistan for good, he thought we had the muscle to flee Afghanistan without mortification. Call it a humbler strain of arrogance. It's arrogance nonetheless." Biden "seemed to have much too much faith that the extraction would be quick, clean and relatively painless, just as other American leaders over the past two decades had too much faith that they could nurture a better Afghan government and a stronger Afghan military. To be enamored with American potency is to exaggerate it." Biden "gave us false assurances because he was falsely assured – by the stubborn image of America as a country with super, even magical, powers. No matter how many times that image is contradicted, it lives on, propelling us to achievement but also setting us up for catastrophe."

Still, Thomas Friedman writes in the [New York Times](#) (8/19, 20.6M) that he would like to interview "President Lyndon Johnson, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Mohammed Zahir Shah, the last king of Afghanistan" about the events in Afghanistan and speculates on what each would say, generally portraying them as seeing Biden's withdrawal as a wise strategic move.

Classified Cable Warned In Mid-July Of Potential For Rapid Collapse Of Afghan Government. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/19, Salama, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports a classified internal State Department memo dated July 13 warned top State leaders of the potential for a rapid collapse of the Afghan government following the US withdrawal. The Journal says that the cable represents the strongest evidence yet that the Administration had been warned by its own people in the country about the immediate dangers of the withdrawal.

[CNN](#) (8/19, Atwood, 89.21M) reports the diplomats that authored the cable "decided to send the dissent memo because they felt previous warnings and recommendations they had made were being ignored and labeled alarmist, two State Department officials told CNN." The cable, "signed by more than a dozen US diplomats, urged specific steps to be taken, including starting a biometric enrollment program for the Afghans applying for Special Immigrant Visas or refugee status ahead of the evacuation, so they wouldn't waste time before what they believed would be the imminent collapse of the Afghan government as the US withdrew."

Martha Raddatz, for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/19, 6:39 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Muir, 5.28M), reported, "A source telling us tonight that US diplomats at the embassy in Kabul warned Secretary of State Tony Blinken in mid-July that the Afghan government was in danger of collapse and urged the Biden Administration to begin airlift operations immediately for those Afghans at risk. The state department would not say how the secretary responded to the classified cable, but they said he did read it and respond." This was also alluded to in the lead segment on ABC World News.

Evacuation Effort Continues As US Struggles To Accelerate Pace. The evacuation of Americans and their Afghan allies from Kabul continued to be viewed by the media as a chaotic affair struggling to accelerate, with the nightly news broadcasts particularly focusing on Administration statements indicating they don't know how many Americans there are to withdraw. Another frequent topic of the coverage continued to be the mayhem outside the airport, particularly the threat posed by the Taliban to potential Afghan evacuees.

For [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/19, 6:32 p.m. EST, lead story, 6:35, Muir, 5.28M), Ian Panell reported, "Tonight, the new urgency in Kabul, with as many as 15,000 Americans and up to 60,000 Afghans who've helped the US mission in limbo, desperate to escape. Inside the airport, the State Department late today said as many as 6,000 Americans and Afghans have been processed and cleared for evacuation from the country." However, "some planes departing with empty seats because people can't get through the checkpoints."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/19, 6:34 p.m. EST, story 2, 1:50, Holt, 5.42M) reported on the "crisis and chaos" in Afghanistan, where "thousands struggling to get past crowds and the Taliban into the Kabul airport to escape." NBC (O'Donnell) added, "Tonight US officials say another 6,000 people made it safely to the Kabul airport awaiting evacuation. Pressed repeatedly, officials at the departments of State and Defense could not say how many Americans still need to be rescued."

[CBS Evening News](#) (8/19, 6:32 p.m. EST, lead story, 3:15, O'Donnell, 3.94M) reported in its lead, "Thousands of Americans are stranded, but neither the State Department nor the Pentagon can say exactly how many are still there." CBS (Jinag) added, "Tonight, 20 more flights are expected to leave Afghanistan after the US military evacuated 2,000

people in the past 24 hours. But administration officials acknowledge that pace is far behind their goal of getting 5,000 to 9,000 people out a day.”

For NBC Nightly News (8/19, 6:36 p.m. EST, story 3, 2:10, Holt, 5.42M), Lester Holter interviewed NSA Sullivan, asking him, “Does the US have a number now in the number of Americans still in Afghanistan who have not been able to make their way to the airport?” Sullivan said, “We don’t have a precise number. And the reason is because we ask Americans to register with the US government when they arrive in country. So a number of people come. They sign up, and then they leave and never let us know they left. So we can’t know for certain exactly how many Americans are in country.” Asked if he was concerned about this becoming a hostage situation, Sullivan said, “I want to level with the American people. This is a risky operation. We right now have established contact with the Taliban to allow for the safe passage of people to the airport. And that is working at the moment, to get Americans and Afghans at risk to the airport. That being said, we can’t count on anything, and we have to worry about all kinds of contingencies.” Similarly, Norah O’Donnell interviewed Sullivan for CBS Evening News (8/19, 6:35 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:15, O’Donnell, 3.94M), where the NSA repeated the difficulty in ascertaining the actual number of Americans still in the country. However, under tough questioning by O’Donnell, Sullivan said that it is “completely feasible” to evacuate all Americans by August 31.

The AP (8/19, Baldor, Burns, Lee) says that on Thursday, the US “struggled” to increase “the pace of American and Afghan evacuations at Kabul airport, constrained by obstacles ranging from armed Taliban checkpoints to paperwork problems. With an Aug. 31 deadline looming, tens of thousands remained to be airlifted from the chaotic country.” CNN (8/19, Kaufman, Gaouette, Hansler, Atwood, 89.21M) reports the military “has increased the pace of evacuations to help Afghans and US citizens escape Afghanistan, the Pentagon said Thursday, but it is still not filling flights to capacity despite a directive from President Joe Biden that he doesn’t want to see any empty seats on planes leaving Kabul.” The Afghans “who made it into the airport were bloody, mentally distraught, having lost most of their belongings along the way, according to multiple sources familiar with the matter.”

The Washington Post (8/19, Mehrdad, Lamothe, Fahim, 10.52M) reports a “chaotic and dangerous dynamic at Kabul’s airport showed few signs of relenting Thursday as thousands of people attempting to board flights faced beatings by Taliban guards, the crush of heaving crowds and interminable spells in the dust and heat while waiting to escape Afghanistan.” The Post adds that “several people said Thursday they had received confusing signals from the United States about how exactly they were supposed to leave, citing emails from the State Department urging them to go the airport, only to find there was no one to receive them or to answer their questions on how to board flights.”

The Hill (8/19, Beitsch, 5.69M) reports “situational reports from various nongovernmental organizations obtained by The Hill describe havoc at the airport, with entry gates inconsistently opening and closing.” According to a memo from the National Endowment for Democracy, “There remain so many people at the entrances to the airport that soldiers have been told to keep the gates closed, and pretty much not let anyone in. Some checkpoints on the airport perimeter currently have no comms with the airport, thus no way of being able to verify persons requesting entry should be allowed.”

NBC Nightly News (8/19, 6:34 p.m. EST, story 2, 1:50, Holt, 5.42M) showed Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) saying, “This is all on President Biden. There is no plan to get US citizens outside of Kabul into Kabul. And once they get to Kabul, there is no plan to make the Taliban to let them through.”

The Hill (8/19, Beitsch, 5.69M) reports Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) said “the situation outside the airport is ‘getting worse by the day.’” He added, “My office has received numerous reports of American citizens and Afghan allies being harassed, beaten, and abused by Taliban thugs. These reports are in addition to the televised scenes of chaos at the airport perimeter.” He “called for President Biden to expand the security perimeter around the airport to ‘rescue Americans trapped behind enemy lines.’”

NYTimes: Administration Growing Impatient With “Sluggish” State Department Handling Of Visas. The New York Times (8/19, Jakes, Karni, Vogel, 20.6M) reports that a “sluggish” response by the State Department to the Taliban’s takeover of Kabul “has stranded thousands of Afghans who helped the United States and are now clamoring to be evacuated as they wait for their immigration visas to be approved, two U.S. officials said.” While State Department spokesman Ned Price said, “This is an operation that will continue at as fast a clip as we can possibly manage,” two other US officials “described growing impatience across the Biden administration with the State Department’s inability to process visas more quickly.” For NBC Nightly News (8/19, 6:47 p.m. EST, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 5.42M), Richard Engel recounts the experience Afghans are facing as they reach the airport and depart the country.

The Hill (8/19, Schnell, 5.69M) reports a “bipartisan group of 55 senators is calling on President Biden to ‘immediately evacuate’ Afghans who helped the U.S. during its military involvement in the country as the situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate. The group, led by Sens. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), penned a letter to Biden on Wednesday asking the administration to quickly pull Afghans who are eligible for Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) from the

country, along with their families.” In another piece, The Hill (8/19, Carney, 5.69M) reports lawmakers “say their offices are getting flooded with calls and questions from family members or individuals stuck in Afghanistan amid a chaotic U.S. exit.”

In another piece, the New York Times (8/19, Grynbaum, Hsu, Robertson, 20.6M) looks at the process by which media outlets, such as the Times, the Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal, “banded together” and got their local employees out of the country.

Meanwhile, The Times (UK) (8/20, Swinford, Brown, Subscription Publication, 141K) reports that the UK’s “last evacuation flight could leave Kabul in five days under an accelerated timetable for withdrawal from Afghanistan, The Times has been told.” However, “another government source said that the August 24 evacuation date had not been formally agreed.”

Pentagon: Continuing Evacuations Past August 31 Would Require “Conversations” With Taliban. Politico (8/19, Forgey, 6.73M) reports that Pentagon “conceded Thursday that continuing evacuations out of Kabul after Aug. 31 ‘would require additional conversations’ with the Taliban to ensure the safety of Americans and Afghan allies seeking to flee the country.”

Armed F-18s Providing “Overwatch” In Kabul. Politico (8/19, Forgey, 6.73M) reports that at a news briefing on Thursday, Army Maj. Gen. William Taylor “revealed that the U.S. military over the last 24 hours had flown a group of F-18 fighter jets from the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group over Kabul ‘to ensure enhanced security’ of the capital city.” Taylor said, “The ability to provide close air support is something that needs to be immediate if the condition on the ground ever required that. So as prudent military operations, we ensure there are always assets available so that the commander, if required, can ensure the time and space of reaction is as little as possible.” Noting that the aircraft were armed, Reuters (8/19) reports Pentagon spokesman John Kirby “told a news briefing the jets had not conducted ‘low pass’ flights over the city but had been engaged in ‘overwatch.’”

The Hill (8/19, Mitchell, 5.69M) reports this “marks the first time Defense officials have confirmed the F/A-18 flights over Kabul, where there are now 5,200 U.S. troops to oversee the evacuation from the war-torn country the Taliban took control of on Sunday.”

Remaining Afghan Security Personnel In Hiding, Hunted By Taliban. The New York Times (8/19, 20.6M) reports “tens of thousands of other Afghan grunts, commandos and spies who fought to the end, despite the talk in Washington that the Afghan forces simply gave up, have been left behind. They are now on the run, hiding and hunted by the Taliban.” The Times adds that “accounts of the Taliban searching for people they believe worked with and fought alongside U.S. and NATO forces are beginning to trickle out, offering a bloody counterpoint to the kinder and gentler face the militants have been trying to present to the world.”

The AP (8/19, Sanz, Webber) reports that Mohammad Khalid Wardak, “a high-profile Afghan national police officer who spent years working alongside the American military,” who was profiled previously by the newswire, has been rescued. He was pulled out of Afghanistan by helicopter, along with his wife and sons, after four failed attempts in a “dramatic” rescue by the US and its allies.

Republicans Divided Over Resettling Afghan Refugees. The Hill (8/19, Gangitano, Marcos, 5.69M) reports while Republicans “have tried to remain unified in their criticism of President Biden’s handling of the messy U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan,” the “plight of Afghan allies desperately trying to flee the Taliban is exposing divisions” within the party. Some Republicans are “pressing the Biden administration to help resettle those people who helped the U.S. military,” while others are “stoking nativist fears about an influx of refugees.” A Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial decries the 16 House Republicans who voted last month against a bill to allocate an additional 8,000 visas for translators.

More Commentary. Fared Zakaria writes in the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) that the NSC “met 36 times since April to discuss” the withdrawal from Afghanistan. That figure “was shared with the media to illustrate how well the administration had handled things.” With “the policy failure evident, all the bureaucracies in Washington are furiously leaking that they actually got it right.” Zakaria argues that while “Phase 1 of the Afghanistan withdrawal has been a failure,” Phase 2, “the evacuation of tens of thousands of Americans and Afghans, could yet be a success.” But, “the evidence so far is that the evacuation is still utterly chaotic, lacking urgency and effective action. The administration can still make this happen, but it needs to stop meeting and start doing.”

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and retired Gen. Jack Keane lay out a variety of steps they believe the Administration should take to contain the Taliban, including ensuring that all US citizens and our Afghan allies are withdrawn, pressing other nations not to recognize the Taliban, and starving the regime of cash.

Catherine Rampell writes in the Washington Post (8/19, , 10.52M) that among the possible explanations for why “the Biden administration didn’t get more Afghan allies and refugees out before U.S. troops withdrew, as it had been urged to do” is the

“stomach-churning possibility that Biden didn’t evacuate Afghan allies sooner because he was afraid of what Fox News might say.” It has been reported that Biden “feared the ‘optics’ of flying in refugees from Afghanistan amid an influx of migrants at the U.S. southern border.” The White House “denies that political cowardice caused its foot-dragging. But if true, this wouldn’t be the first time fear of right-wing blowhards distorted Biden’s immigration policies.” Biden “calls himself pro-immigrant.” He “speaks warmly of newcomers and their contributions to this country. But such words are meaningless if he still caves to the bigots when it matters.”

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M), adapted from his book “The Wolves of Helmand,” about his service in Afghanistan war, Marine Corps veteran Gus Biggio is a Marine Corps veteran describes his decision in 2009 not to come to the aid of Mir Wut, an Afghan boy who was shot during a battle in Helmand province. Biggio writes that as he “watched footage of helicopters evacuating the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and read about Afghan allies frantically trying to get out of the country,” he came “to the realization that – just like I did to Mir Wut a dozen years ago – the people who should be helping our friends are turning their backs on those we promised to protect. Shame on us.”

In her Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) column, Peggy Noonan criticizes President Biden for his handling of the withdrawal from Afghanistan and argues that he must now work to saving Americans and Afghans who aided the US even if it means temporarily reversing some of the decisions he has made.

Sam Rogers argues in USA Today (8/19, 12.7M) against sending more troops to Afghanistan. Doing so, he writes, “would only cause the United States to lose more money, more resources and more lives in a fight that we were never going to win.”

Texas Woman Charged In Capitol Siege Probe Reaches Plea Deal. The AP (8/19) reports from Dallas, “A Dallas-area real estate agent pleaded guilty Thursday to participating in the Jan. 6 raid on the U.S. Capitol in which five people died.” The AP adds, “Frisco realty broker Jennifer Leigh ‘Jenna’ Ryan entered her plea in a virtual hearing before a Washington, D.C., judge after agreeing to cooperate with prosecutors. In return, federal authorities agreed to drop prosecution of other counts against her.” According to the AP, “Court records showed that Ryan, 51, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of knowingly parading, demonstrating and picketing inside the Capitol during a riot supporting Donald Trump’s presidency. The count carries punishment of up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine. Ryan was arrested on Jan. 15 and charged with multiple counts after she shared photos and videos on social media, including a video in which she says, ‘We’re gonna go down and storm the Capitol,’ in front of a bathroom mirror, according to the FBI criminal complaint.” Courthouse News (8/19, Hawkins, 21K) and Insider (8/19, Panetta, Hall, 2.74M) also report.

Tennessee Deputy Charged With Assaulting Officer During Capitol Siege. The Tennessean (8/19, Friedman, 645K) reports, “A Tennessee sheriff’s deputy assaulted a fellow law enforcement officer and then attempted to use his status to gain access to the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot, according to a motion filed by the U.S. Attorney’s Office Wednesday.” Ronald Colton McAbee, “a 27-year-old Williamson County sheriff’s deputy, was arrested Aug. 17 after the FBI received a tip he was the man in officer-worn body camera footage who attempted to fight a Metropolitan Police Department officer and drag another into the mob storming the Capitol. The U.S. attorney’s office pre-trial motion argued McAbee should be held without bail because he was a “spoke in the wheel” that caused the Jan. 6 riot and was a “threat to the peaceful functioning of our community.” McAbee is part of a seven-person indictment group all charged with assaulting officers on the day of the insurrection.”

Tennessee Man Pleads Guilty To Role In Capitol Siege. The Tennessean (8/19, Alund, 645K) reports, “A Middle Tennessee man charged in connection with the deadly Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot pleaded guilty in federal court Thursday to his role in the insurrection.” Eric Chase Torrens, 28, of Gallatin, “admitted to knowingly entering restricted areas of the Capitol in a videoconference plea hearing before U.S. District Chief Judge Beryl Howell, of the District of Columbia. Torrens was arrested on Feb. 1 by FBI Agents on charges of knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority and violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds. During a hearing Thursday he pleaded guilty to one count of petty offense of parading, demonstrating or picketing in the Capitol.”

Sentencing Delayed For Maryland Man Charged In Capitol Siege After Video Surfaces. The Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) reports, “Even after Robert Reeder pleaded guilty to illegally picketing inside the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6, he remained adamant that he was innocent of the worst allegations leveled against him.” Prosecutors “argued that Reeder actively participated in chants with rioters and egged on the aggressive crowd, though they could not show that he participated in any violence. They asked a federal judge to sentence him with a fine and prison time.” Reeder, “a former FedEx driver from Maryland, told FBI agents that he was merely an ‘accidental tourist’ who got swept up in the crowd. The 55-year-old

denied engaging in or inciting violence, according to a sentencing memorandum his attorney filed earlier this month. He asked the judge for probation. But new video from Jan. 6 that surfaced just before his sentencing hearing on Wednesday upended both sides of the case.”

Federal Prosecutors Seek Nine-Year Sentence For Michigan Man In Whitmer Kidnap Plot. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (8/19, White, 2.16M) reports, “Federal prosecutors recommended a nine-year prison sentence Wednesday for a man who said he worked on a wild plan to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.” Ty Garbin, “who pleaded guilty to conspiracy just four months after being arrested, deserves credit for substantially assisting investigators, Assistant U.S. Attorney Nils Kessler said in a court filing. ‘Garbin did not wait to see what his chances were of escaping accountability. He knew what he had done, knew it was wrong, and took action,’ Kessler said.” The FBI “last October said it broke up a plot to kidnap the Democratic governor by anti-government extremists who were upset over Whitmer’s coronavirus restrictions. Garbin and five other men were charged in federal court, while others were charged in state court with aiding them.” Garbin, 25, “is the only federal defendant to plead guilty.”

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (8/19, Agar, 828K) reports that Garbin “said he and his family – and Whitmer’s, too – will likely have to fear for their safety for some time. ‘I feel my safety, and family’s safety will be compromised for a long time. I feel that the victims of this conspiracy will have to worry about their safety as well,’ he told a probation officer conducting a pre-sentence investigation.” Garbin, “an aircraft mechanic at Detroit Metro Airport with no previous criminal record, is expected to testify against five co-defendants at an Oct. 12 trial in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids. He told the investigator he regretted getting involved. ‘I feel that the choices I made were wrong. During the course of this offense, I let my emotions get in the way of any rational thinking that could have been made. My choices not only affected myself and family, but they also may have added to the already unstable political environment.”

QAnon Group To Hold Event In Las Vegas. The [AP](#) (8/19) reports from Las Vegas, “A group that espouses the fringe conspiracy theory known as QAnon plans to hold a conference at a convention center owned by one of Nevada’s largest hotel-casino companies in late October.” According to the AP, “Patriot Voice is selling tickets for a three-day event at Caesars Forum, a convention space near the Las Vegas Strip. Guests who pay from \$650 to \$3,000 will hear from former national security adviser Michael Flynn, 8kun owner Jim Watkins and former Assemblyman Jim Marchant, who is running for Nevada secretary of state after spreading claims of voter fraud and suing to overturn the 2020 election results. Judges in every Nevada case dismissed the election challenges that claimed voter fraud and Nevada’s current secretary of state, a Republican, defended the results as reliable and accurate.”

Senate Republicans Seek Update On FBI Surveillance Of Trump Administration. [Breitbart](#) (8/19, 1.26M) reports, “Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and 41 Senate Republicans sent a letter Thursday to Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding that Garland update them on the status of the investigation into the FBI’s surveillance of the Trump administration.” According to Breitbart, “Blackburn, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and 41 Republicans demanded to know more about special counsel John Durham’s inquiry. ‘Attorney General Merrick Garland must pledge to publicly release the full report and allow Special Counsel Durham to continue his investigation uninhibited past September 2021,’ Blackburn said in a statement Thursday. ‘We are over two years into the investigation of how the Obama-Biden FBI spied on an incoming president, and we still do not have answers. America’s national security apparatus was weaponized to take down President Trump, and the American people deserve to know how this occurred.”

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Schnell, 5.69M) reports that the lawmakers “penned a letter to” Garland “requesting an update on the status of Durham’s review, dubbed the Crossfire Hurricane Investigation, and for the final report to be made public once it is complete.” Durham, “who previously served as the U.S. attorney for the District of Connecticut before becoming special counsel last year, has been reviewing the FBI’s investigation into Russia’s influence in the 2016 election since 2019, when he was tasked by the Trump administration to evaluate the bureau’s probe. The investigation made headlines last week when The Wall Street Journal reported that Durham is presenting grand jury evidence and preparing his report.”

Man Arrested After Body Of Missing Indiana Toddler Is Found. The [AP](#) (8/19) reports from Plymouth, Indiana, “An 11-month-old northern Indiana girl who had been reported missing was found dead in a wooded area after a man who had agreed to babysit the toddler for a few days led authorities to her body.” Marshall County Prosecutor Nelson Chipman Jr. “said that man, Justin Miller, 37, would be formally charged Thursday with neglect of a dependent resulting in death.” Chipman “said Mercedes Lain’s body was found after 9 p.m. Wednesday in a densely wooded area of Starke County near the Marshall County line after Miller led officers to the site. Chipman said the girl’s father, Kenny Lain, left Mercedes with Miller on Friday at a

Plymouth motel to babysit for the weekend so he and the girl's mother, Tiffany Coburn, could have 'a few days break from their child.' Authorities "said the search for the girl involved FBI agents, Indiana State Police, Marshall County deputies and Plymouth police officers."

Six Maryland Police Officers Charged With Falsifying Reports To Collect Insurance Money. The [Washington Post](#) (8/18, 10.52M) reports, "Six Maryland police officers from multiple agencies have been indicted on federal conspiracy charges, accused of working together to file false reports to the Prince George's County Police Department – where three of them worked – to collect insurance money." According to the Post, "One of the accused officers, Michael Owen Jr., is in jail awaiting trial in the separate January 2020 fatal shooting of a man who sat handcuffed inside a police cruiser. Owen, a 10-year veteran officer with the Prince George's County Police Department, was charged with murder and assault in that case." Owen, 33, "and the five other officers are accused of orchestrating false thefts of their debit cards or vehicles, then reporting those concocted thefts to authorities and their banks and insurance companies. A federal grand jury indicted the officers in July and the charges were unsealed Wednesday."

Judge Rejects Nassar's Bid To Keep Prison Money, Orders It Turned Over To Victims. The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, Barrett, 10.52M) reports, "A federal judge on Thursday ordered Larry Nassar, the former USA Gymnastics doctor convicted of sexually abusing girls in his care, to turn over money in his prison account to his victims, rejecting his argument that he should be allowed to keep it because he has followed Bureau of Prisons' policy in paying less than 1 percent of the restitution he owes." According to the Post, "Prosecutors filed court papers last month to seize about \$2,000 in Nassar's Bureau of Prisons account, noting that the prison system has collected \$100 a year in restitution...over a 3½-year period in which he spent more than \$10,000 on himself." US District Judge Janet T. Neff "said while...Nassar has followed the Bureau of Prisons' rules and paid the minimum, he still owes his victims much more."

Eleven Arrested In Bust Of New Jersey Gun Trafficking Ring. [WPVI-TV](#) Philadelphia (8/19, 388K) reports from Camden County, New Jersey, "Investigators say they have broken up a gun trafficking ring that has brought illegal weapons into Camden, New Jersey. 'As prosecutors and law enforcement, we have seen how weapons of war are bloodying the streets of Camden, and we are committed to cutting off the supply lines,' said N.J. acting attorney general Andrew Bruck." WPVI-TV adds, "Officials say the operation led to 11 arrests. Authorities also confiscated 20 illegal firearms, including two assault rifles and eight ghost guns similar to those seen here. The operations were carried out with the help of state police, the ATF, and the FBI."

The [Gloucester Township \(NJ\) Patch](#) (8/19, 1.44M) reports, "What began as an investigation into stolen motorcycles and ATVs resulted in an indictment of 11 people in connection with a gun trafficking ring in Camden, authorities announced on Thursday." The Patch adds, "The 10-month investigation was led by the New Jersey State Police Motor Vehicle Crimes South Unit and the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) Specialized Crimes Bureau. Two illegal large-capacity magazines and 20 stolen motorcycles also were seized, authorities said. Several members of the criminal ring have also been charged with distributing methamphetamine and cocaine."

FBI Subpoenas Records From Florida Company In Probe Of Hurricane Relief Funds. [WMBB-TV](#) Panama City, FL (8/19) reports from Port St. Joe, Florida, "The FBI is continuing to seek answers from a local company in connection to work they did after Hurricane Michael. Apparently, the investigation has taken them to Gulf County and Port St. Joe. The FBI sent subpoenas to the two municipalities seeking documents about GAC Contractors, Inc., and Ashbritt, Inc. News 13 was the first on the scene last week when federal investigators searched GAC offices in Panama City." WMBB-TV adds, "These latest subpoenas ask for any records or documents connected to projects performed by the two companies along with FEMA reimbursements from October 10, 2018, until the present day. Hurricane Michael struck the Panhandle on October 10, 2018. The subpoenas also seek invoices from County Attorney Jeremy Novak, attorney Adam Albritton, and invoices from Constitution Title, LLC."

WPost: US "Finally Paying Proper Attention" To Cybersecurity. In an editorial, The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, 10.52M) writes that although the "cyber 9/11" foreshadowed in the 2020 cybersecurity review from the bipartisan Cyberspace Solarium Commission has not taken place, the US "has been treated to a series of smaller disasters – every one of which has made the urgency of the recommendations clearer." Following the shift to remote work, SolarWinds, and ransomware attacks, "Finally, elected officials are paying attention." The Post praises major legislation now incorporating cybersecurity, but writes they are "only pieces of a puzzle whose shape isn't fully formed," and that the Biden Administration's forthcoming national cyber

strategy is “essential,” arguing US policymakers “should view cybersecurity through the lens offered by the commission, which describes a ‘layered’ approach to defense” as well as to “shape behavior in cyberspace by banding with allies to create a clear set of norms and consequences for those who violate them.”

Police Officers On Certain Federal Task Forces Can Release Some Body Camera Video. In online coverage, [NBC News](#) (8/19, Weichselbaum, 4.91M) reports it has obtained documentation that shows the US Department of Justice (DOJ) “has agreed...to allow local” police officers who are assigned to US Marshal Service-led “fugitive task forces to release body camera video to the public after officer-involved shootings.” Local police departments that assign officers to work with other federal organizations that are “under the Justice Department — such as the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives — still won’t have the authority to release body camera video,” according to a DOJ spokesperson.

AP Analysis: Increasing Use Of AI By Law Enforcement Raises Serious Problems. In a more than 4,000-word article, the [AP](#) (8/19, Burke) profiles Michael Williams – a Chicago man who “sat behind bars for nearly a year” on murder charges based on specious evidence from ShotSpotter “before a judge dismissed the case against him last month at the request of prosecutors, who said they had insufficient evidence.” The AP discusses the perils of law enforcement’s increased reliance on artificial intelligence and automation, saying, “Williams’ experience highlights the real-world impacts of society’s growing reliance on algorithms to help make consequential decisions about many aspects of public life. Nowhere is this more apparent than in law enforcement, which has turned to technology companies like gunshot detection firm ShotSpotter to battle crime.”

FBI Urges Greater Reporting Of Hate Crimes. [WKXW-FM](#) Trenton, NJ (8/19, Matthau, 78K) reports, “The FBI in New Jersey is ramping up an effort to convince New Jersey residents to report suspected hate crimes, with messaging on billboards, bus and train stations and websites. They’re reaching out, asking members of communities for trust. But that’s easier said than done.” [WKXW-FM](#) adds, “In many minority communities there are long standing trust issues with all branches of law enforcement, and some residents are hesitant to come forward to report anything. In response, George Crouch, the special agent in charge of the FBI in New Jersey, has reached out to community and faith leaders looking to form partnerships with them and help convince skeptics the FBI is trustworthy and really does want to help them and crack down on hate crimes. Crouch said in order to be able to stop hate crimes from being committed, people have to feel safe reporting them.”

[WOBN-FM](#) Toms River, NJ (8/19, 30K) reports, “According to New Jersey State Police data there were more than 1,440 bias incidents reported last year, an increase of almost 50% compared to 2019, and in 2020 the number of anti-Semitic incidents was the second highest on record.” SAC Crouch “said in the coming weeks messaging will be displayed on billboards around the state as well as at NJ Transit bus and rail stations and social media to raise awareness about this issue. Crouch said cracking down on hate crimes is a top priority of the Bureau because ‘hate crimes have a profound impact, not only on victims and their families but on communities, people who identify with a hate crime victim live with a fear that they could be the next target.’ He said when this kind of incident takes place it affects ‘all those people who just want to live their lives, and for some reason they live in fear of being able to be their authentic self.’”

[KIRO-TV](#) Seattle (8/19, 151K) reports, “The Seattle office of the FBI has launched a campaign to build awareness of hate crimes and to encourage people to report such crimes in Washington.” [KIRO-TV](#) adds, “An awareness campaign launched on FBI Seattle’s Twitter page, and ads can be seen at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and on Seattle public transit, including buses and trains, to prompt the public to report hate crimes to the FBI.” The FBI “investigates hundreds of hate crimes every year, but officials say hate crimes are often underreported to federal and local authorities. The FBI is the lead agency that investigates criminal violations of federal civil rights laws. ‘Hate crimes, defined as a traditional offense with an added element of bias, are the highest priority of the FBI’s civil rights program because of the devastating impact they have on families and communities,’ a news release said. ‘The FBI cannot do our work without the public’s help,’ said FBI Special Agent in Charge Donald M. Voiret.”

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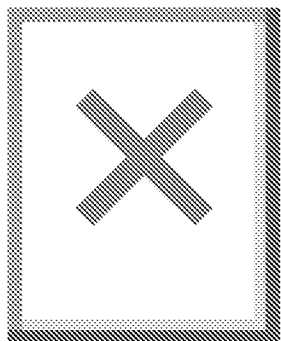
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TO : THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF
DATE : FRIDAY , AUGUST 20 , 2021 6 : 30 AM EDT

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LEADING THE NEWS

North Carolina Man Surrenders To Capitol Police After Bomb Threat Near Library Of Congress.

NBC Nightly News⁸ (8/19, 6:31 p.m. EST, lead story, 2:40, Holt, 5.42M) reported, "Washington held its breath for several hours today as the US Capitol complex came under threat again. This time allegedly by a North Carolina man with a list of grievances against the government, who...drove his pickup truck on to a sidewalk at the library of Congress and declared he had a bomb. Capitol Hill offices were evacuated as police tried to negotiate with the man who streamed his demands live on social media before surrendering." NBC (Williams) added, "Nearly five hours after he parked his pickup," Floyd Ray Roseberry "gave up and followed instructions to crawl away, ending a tense standoff."

ABC World News Tonight⁸ (8/19, 6:41 p.m. EST, story 3, 2:00, Muir, 5.28M) reported that Roseberry was taken "into custody just before 2:30 PM investigators descending on his North Carolina home. Bomb disposal robots seen here outside. Capitol police just told us there was no functioning bomb in the truck, but they're examining whether any bomb-making materials."

CBS Evening News⁸ (8/19, 6:37 p.m. EST, story 3, 2:20, O'Donnell, 3.94M) reported, "Roseberry live streamed the standoff on Facebook, asking to speak to the President," and "ranting about the end of the war in Afghanistan." CBS (Pegues) added, "The 49-year-old from North Carolina said that he had a propane gas container in the back of a truck." Roseberry "claimed the detonator would trigger the gas container if police, including snipers posted around the perimeter, shot him," and "at around 2:00 PM, when they were trying to deliver a cell phone to him, he surrendered, a relief to police. There was no bomb in the truck. Possible bomb-making materials were found."

The Washington Post (8/19, Johnson, Flynn, Olivo, Jamison, 10.52M) reports that "for the third time in eight months, Washington was brought to a standstill Thursday as the seat of the U.S. government came under the threat of violence, this time from a man who parked a truck near the Capitol, demanded to speak with President Biden about a range of grievances and threatened to destroy two blocks of the nation's capital with an explosive device." The Post adds, "Before he was taken into custody, Roseberry delivered a tirade over a Facebook live video in which he assailed Biden and other Democrats, called for a revolt against the federal government and claimed there were other 'patriots' waiting in vehicles elsewhere in D.C. 'The revolution is on, it's here, it's today,' he said in his live stream. 'America needs a voice. I'll give it to them.'"

The New York Times (8/19, Cochrane, Cramer, 20.6M) reports that Capitol Police Chief J. Thomas Manger "told reporters that officers had observed items on Mr. Roseberry's truck that concerned them, including a propane gas container. He said that charges against Mr. Roseberry would be determined with the U.S. attorney's office." Roseberry, "a resident of Grover, N.C., was making anti-government statements, according to a law enforcement official. Chief Manger said that the police had spoken with members of Mr. Roseberry's family."

The AP (8/19, Tucker, Balsamo) reports that "even in a city with a long history of dramatic law enforcement encounters outside federal landmarks, this episode was notable for its timing – Washington remains on edge eight months after the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol – and for the way the suspect harnessed social media to draw attention to his actions in the hours before his

arrest." The AP adds, "As police continued negotiations, video surfaced of Roseberry on Facebook Live inside the truck, which was stuffed with coins and boxes. He threatened explosions, expressed hostility toward President Joe Biden, profanely warned of a 'revolution' and laid bare a series of grievances related to U.S. positions on Afghanistan, health care and the military."

Reuters (8/19, Chavez, Lynch) reports, "Two law enforcement sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it appeared Roseberry had acted alone." Politico (8/19, Wu, Caygle, Ferris, 6.73M) reports, "Manger said there is no indication Roseberry was acting with others and law enforcement officials do not have reason to believe there are other explosive devices in the city. The police chief's assertions come after Roseberry said on social media earlier in the day there were 'four' additional explosive devices in the surrounding area without providing additional details. There was 'nothing that serious' in Roseberry's criminal background, according to Manger, who said law enforcement officials were still trying to identify a motive. 'We do know that Mr. Roseberry has had some losses in his family,' Manger said. 'I believe his mother recently passed away, and we spoke with members of his family, and there were other issues that he was dealing with.'" The Hill (8/19, Folley, 5.69M) reports that Manger "also noted that officers were able to determine Roseberry had a criminal history in North Carolina, but he said it was 'nothing that serious.'"

CNN (8/19, Wild, Diaz, 89.21M) reports, "On Roseberry's now-removed Facebook page, he frequently made pro-Trump posts and posted videos from Trump's 'Million MAGA March' on November 14. In video posted Thursday, Roseberry called himself a 'patriot.' He said he doesn't care if Trump ever becomes president again but also that he thinks 'all Democrats need to step down.'"

USA Today (8/19, Behrmann, Johnson, 12.7M) reports, "The suspect engaged in a rambling, largely anti-government narrative -- at one point referring to the government's chaotic exit from Afghanistan and 'kids being raped.' The livestream also showed a large, weathered canister in the man's lap, as he suggested that whatever explosives he was carrying would detonate if officers attempted to shoot him." USA Today notes that "both chambers of Congress are currently out of session for their summer breaks. Most lawmakers are currently not in their Washington offices."

Roll Call (8/19, Cioffi, 130K) reports, "Roseberry communicated with negotiators by writing on a whiteboard but refused to use a phone delivered to him by robot. After refusing to use the phone, Roseberry 'got out of the car on his own' and was taken into custody, the news release said." The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Gurman, Corse, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that police sent snipers to the scene, as well as bomb technicians from the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The FBI's Washington field office and Washington's Metropolitan Police Department also responded.

KFMB-TV San Diego (8/19, 312K) reports from Charlotte, North Carolina, "The bomb threat in Washington, D.C. that involved a Cleveland County man is raising some new concerns about national security. WCNC Charlotte spoke with Chris Swecker, a former assistant director of the FBI, for some insight on the investigative process unfolding at both at the Capitol and here in North Carolina." Swecker "said he's sure the main headquarters of the FBI and the Charlotte office are 'scrambling like crazy.' 'They're out in Cleveland County scouring, probably searching his home by now,' Swecker explained, 'looking for any clues any evidence of one explosive and anything dangerous any evidence of planned actions on his part, computer hard drives mobile devices, any type of social media, any type of electronic media, that shows his motivated that may show his motivation and intent.' Swecker says the electronic sweeps include looking at his social media accounts and connections. Part of that includes looking at who or what may have spurred him to make the threat."

The Independent (UK) (8/19, Woodward, 1.19M) reports, "Days before US Capitol Police identified an alleged 'bomb' threat at the Library of Congress in Washington DC, the US Department of Homeland Security updated its advisory system to reflect the state of conspiracy theory- and political and culture war-related violence that has proliferated online." The Independent adds, "The latest update from the National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin warns that 'domestic terrorists' as well as 'individuals and groups engaged in grievance-based violence' or 'motivated by foreign terrorists and other malign foreign influences' are 'increasingly exploiting

online forums to influence and spread violent extremist narratives and promote violent activity.” According to the Independent, “Federal law enforcement has repeatedly warned that online threats across social media continue to stem from conspiracy theories surrounding the baseless ‘stolen election’ narrative promoted Donald Trump and his allies, as well as another fraudulent conspiracy theory that he would be reinstated in the White House on 13 August.”

President Denies Military Leaders Urged Him To Leave Some Troops In Afghanistan.

ABC World News Tonight (8/19, 6:39 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Muir, 5.28M) reported there are “questions tonight about whether the President’s military advisers had actually urged him to leave a small number of American troops in Afghanistan.” As part of Wednesday’s interview, George Stephanopoulos asked the President, “Your top military advisers warned against drawing against this timeline. They wanted you to keep 2,500 troops.” The President responded, “No, they didn’t. That wasn’t true.” After showing Stephanopoulos pressing the President on the issue, Martha Raddatz added, “the President may not remember or recall, but we have been reporting for months now that senior military leaders did advise the President to leave a residual force in Afghanistan, but the President decided against it and he is, after all, the Commander in Chief, but all of this is going to be looked at.”

Marc Thiessen writes in the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) that “if Biden is correct, and not one single person in his circle of advisers...pushed back on his plan to withdraw no matter the conditions on the ground, or made the case for leaving a residual force, then that is a shocking indictment of his national security team.” Biden “has surrounded himself with a team of sycophants and enablers who share his worst instincts.”

Biden Says He Would Have Tried To Withdraw Even If Trump Hadn’t Cut Deal With Taliban. ABC’s Good Morning America (8/19, 2.79M) featured Stephanopoulos’ interview (8/19, Crawford, 2.44M) with Biden conducted on Wednesday, parts of which aired on Wednesday night. Stephanopoulos saying to Biden, “Sounds like you think we should have gotten out a long time ago.” Biden was shown replying: “We should have. ... Getting out would be messy no matter when it occurred.” Axios (8/19, Doherty, 1.26M) notes that Biden told Stephanopoulos “that he would have tried to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan even if former President Trump had not struck a deal with the Taliban to get out of the country by May 1.” Biden is quoted as saying, “I would have tried to figure out how to withdraw those troops, yes, because ... there is no good time to leave Afghanistan. ... 15 years ago would have been a problem, 15 years from now – the basic choice is, am I going to send your sons and your daughters to war in Afghanistan in perpetuity.” According to Axios, Biden previously had “sought to deflect blame on to the former president for the swift Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, saying that the peace deal Trump signed with the Taliban in 2020 set the stage for the subsequent withdrawal.”

Likewise, Politico (8/19, Forgey, 6.73M) says Biden’s “latest statement that he would have pursued a pullout of U.S. troops regardless of Trump’s negotiations with the Taliban complicates the current administration’s argument for its own withdrawal order.” According to the AP (8/19, Lee, Tucker), Biden “can go only so far in claiming the agreement boxed him in” because “it had an escape clause.” The AP says the US “could have withdrawn from the accord if Afghan peace talks failed,” which “they did, but Biden chose to stay in it, although he delayed the complete pullout from May to September.”

Biden: “A Hell Of A Lot More Troops” Would Have Been Needed For US To Stay In Afghanistan. ABC’s Good Morning America (8/19, 2.79M) featured George Stephanopoulos’ interview (8/19, Crawford, 2.44M) with the President. Stephanopoulos said Biden “promised for the first time that the US military would stay as long as it takes to get all Americans out,” and was “also defiant, insisting we had to get out now, admitting no mistakes.” Biden was shown being asked: “Back in July you said a Taliban takeover was highly unlikely. Was the intelligence wrong, or did you downplay it?” Biden replied: “There was no consensus. You go back and look at the intelligence reports. They said that it was more likely to be sometime by the end of the year. ... The idea that the Taliban would take over was premised on the notion that somehow the 300,000 troops we had trained and equipped was going to just collapse, were going to give up. I don’t think anybody anticipated that.” Biden added: “I hear people say, ‘well, you had 2500 folks in there and

nothing was happening. There wasn't any war.' But, guess what? The fact was that the reason it wasn't happening is the last President negotiated a year earlier that he'd be out by May 1 and that in return, there would be no attack on American forces. That's what was done. That's why nothing was happening. ... I have a May 1 deadline. I have one of two choices. Do I say, 'we're staying' – and do you think we would not have to put a hell of a lot more troops? We had tens of thousands of troops there before. Tens of thousands. Do you think they would have just said, 'no problem? Don't worry about it. We're not going to attack anybody?' In the meantime, the Taliban was taking territory all throughout the country."

A "Fact Check" piece for the Washington Post (8/19, Rizzo, 10.52M) takes issue with a number of claims the President made in his interview with Stephanopoulos, particularly his claim that he had not been pressed by military leaders to keep a stabilizing force in Afghanistan.

Frank Bruni writes in the New York Times (8/19, 20.6M) that the US "is routinely overconfident. We perpetually overreach. And while Biden obviously didn't think we had the might to fix Afghanistan for good, he thought we had the muscle to flee Afghanistan without mortification. Call it a humbler strain of arrogance. It's arrogance nonetheless." Biden "seemed to have much too much faith that the extraction would be quick, clean and relatively painless, just as other American leaders over the past two decades had too much faith that they could nurture a better Afghan government and a stronger Afghan military. To be enamored with American potency is to exaggerate it." Biden "gave us false assurances because he was falsely assured – by the stubborn image of America as a country with super, even magical, powers. No matter how many times that image is contradicted, it lives on, propelling us to achievement but also setting us up for catastrophe."

Still, Thomas Friedman writes in the New York Times (8/19, 20.6M) that he would like to interview "President Lyndon Johnson, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Mohammed Zahir Shah, the last king of Afghanistan" about the events in Afghanistan and speculates on what each would say, generally portraying them as seeing Biden's withdrawal as a wise strategic move.

Classified Cable Warned In Mid-July Of Potential For Rapid Collapse Of Afghan Government.

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Salama, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports a classified internal State Department memo dated July 13 warned top State leaders of the potential for a rapid collapse of the Afghan government following the US withdrawal. The Journal says that the cable represents the strongest evidence yet that the Administration had been warned by its own people in the country about the immediate dangers of the withdrawal.

CNN (8/19, Atwood, 89.21M) reports the diplomats that authored the cable "decided to send the dissent memo because they felt previous warnings and recommendations they had made were being ignored and labeled alarmist, two State Department officials told CNN." The cable, "signed by more than a dozen US diplomats, urged specific steps to be taken, including starting a biometric enrollment program for the Afghans applying for Special Immigrant Visas or refugee status ahead of the evacuation, so they wouldn't waste time before what they believed would be the imminent collapse of the Afghan government as the US withdrew."

Martha Raddatz, for ABC World News Tonight (8/19, 6:39 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Muir, 5.28M), reported, "A source telling us tonight that US diplomats at the embassy in Kabul warned Secretary of State Tony Blinken in mid-July that the Afghan government was in danger of collapse and urged the Biden Administration to begin airlift operations immediately for those Afghans at risk. The state department would not say how the secretary responded to the classified cable, but they said he did read it and respond." This was also alluded to in the lead segment on ABC World News.

Evacuation Effort Continues As US Struggles To Accelerate Pace.

The evacuation of Americans and their Afghan allies from Kabul continued to be viewed by the media as a chaotic affair struggling to accelerate, with the nightly news broadcasts particularly focusing on Administration statements indicating they don't know how many Americans there are to withdraw. Another frequent topic of the coverage continued to be the mayhem outside the

airport, particularly the threat posed by the Taliban to potential Afghan evacuees.

For ABC World News Tonight^{*} (8/19, 6:32 p.m. EST, lead story, 6:35, Muir, 5.28M), Ian Panell reported, "Tonight, the new urgency in Kabul, with as many as 15,000 Americans and up to 60,000 Afghans who've helped the US mission in limbo, desperate to escape. Inside the airport, the State Department late today said as many as 6,000 Americans and Afghans have been processed and cleared for evacuation from the country." However, "some planes departing with empty seats because people can't get through the checkpoints."

NBC Nightly News^{*} (8/19, 6:34 p.m. EST, story 2, 1:50, Holt, 5.42M) reported on the "crisis and chaos" in Afghanistan, where "thousands struggling to get past crowds and the Taliban into the Kabul airport to escape." NBC (O'Donnell) added, "Tonight US officials say another 6,000 people made it safely to the Kabul airport awaiting evacuation. Pressed repeatedly, officials at the departments of State and Defense could not say how many Americans still need to be rescued."

CBS Evening News^{*} (8/19, 6:32 p.m. EST, lead story, 3:15, O'Donnell, 3.94M) reported in its lead, "Thousands of Americans are stranded, but neither the State Department nor the Pentagon can say exactly how many are still there." CBS (Jinag) added, "Tonight, 20 more flights are expected to leave Afghanistan after the US military evacuated 2,000 people in the past 24 hours. But administration officials acknowledge that pace is far behind their goal of getting 5,000 to 9,000 people out a day."

For NBC Nightly News^{*} (8/19, 6:36 p.m. EST, story 3, 2:10, Holt, 5.42M), Lester Holter interviewed NSA Sullivan, asking him, "Does the US have a number now in the number of Americans still in Afghanistan who have not been able to make their way to the airport?" Sullivan said, "We don't have a precise number. And the reason is because we ask Americans to register with the US government when they arrive in country. So a number of people come. They sign up, and then they leave and never let us know they left. So we can't know for certain exactly how many Americans are in country." Asked if he was concerned about this becoming a hostage situation, Sullivan said, "I want to level with the American people. This is a risky operation. We right now have established contact with the Taliban to allow for the safe passage of people to the airport. And that is working at the moment, to get Americans and Afghans at risk to the airport. That being said, we can't count on anything, and we have to worry about all kinds of contingencies." Similarly, Norah O'Donnell interviewed Sullivan for CBS Evening News^{*} (8/19, 6:35 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:15, O'Donnell, 3.94M), where the NSA repeated the difficulty in ascertaining the actual number of Americans still in the country. However, under tough questioning by O'Donnell, Sullivan said that it is "completely feasible" to evacuate all Americans by August 31.

The AP (8/19, Baldor, Burns, Lee) says that on Thursday, the US "struggled" to increase "the pace of American and Afghan evacuations at Kabul airport, constrained by obstacles ranging from armed Taliban checkpoints to paperwork problems. With an Aug. 31 deadline looming, tens of thousands remained to be airlifted from the chaotic country." CNN (8/19, Kaufman, Gaouette, Hansler, Atwood, 89.21M) reports the military "has increased the pace of evacuations to help Afghans and US citizens escape Afghanistan, the Pentagon said Thursday, but it is still not filling flights to capacity despite a directive from President Joe Biden that he doesn't want to see any empty seats on planes leaving Kabul." The Afghans "who made it into the airport were bloody, mentally distraught, having lost most of their belongings along the way, according to multiple sources familiar with the matter."

The Washington Post (8/19, Mehrdad, Lamothe, Fahim, 10.52M) reports a "chaotic and dangerous dynamic at Kabul's airport showed few signs of relenting Thursday as thousands of people attempting to board flights faced beatings by Taliban guards, the crush of heaving crowds and interminable spells in the dust and heat while waiting to escape Afghanistan." The Post adds that "several people said Thursday they had received confusing signals from the United States about how exactly they were supposed to leave, citing emails from the State Department urging them to go the airport, only to find there was no one to receive them or to answer their questions on how to board flights."

The Hill (8/19, Beitsch, 5.69M) reports "situational reports from various nongovernmental organizations obtained by The Hill describe havoc at the airport, with entry gates inconsistently

opening and closing." According to a memo from the National Endowment for Democracy, "There remain so many people at the entrances to the airport that soldiers have been told to keep the gates closed, and pretty much not let anyone in. Some checkpoints on the airport perimeter currently have no comms with the airport, thus no way of being able to verify persons requesting entry should be allowed."

NBC Nightly News (8/19, 6:34 p.m. EST, story 2, 1:50, Holt, 5.42M) showed Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) saying, "This is all on President Biden. There is no plan to get US citizens outside of Kabul into Kabul. And once they get to Kabul, there is no plan to make the Taliban to let them through."

The Hill (8/19, Beitsch, 5.69M) reports Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) said "the situation outside the airport is 'getting worse by the day.'" He added, "My office has received numerous reports of American citizens and Afghan allies being harassed, beaten, and abused by Taliban thugs. These reports are in addition to the televised scenes of chaos at the airport perimeter." He "called for President Biden to expand the security perimeter around the airport to 'rescue Americans trapped behind enemy lines.'"

NYTimes: Administration Growing Impatient With "Sluggish" State Department Handling Of Visas. The New York Times (8/19, Jakes, Karni, Vogel, 20.6M) reports that a "sluggish" response by the State Department to the Taliban's takeover of Kabul "has stranded thousands of Afghans who helped the United States and are now clamoring to be evacuated as they wait for their immigration visas to be approved, two U.S. officials said." While State Department spokesman Ned Price said, "This is an operation that will continue at as fast a clip as we can possibly manage," two other US officials "described growing impatience across the Biden administration with the State Department's inability to process visas more quickly." For NBC Nightly News (8/19, 6:47 p.m. EST, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 5.42M), Richard Engel recounts the experience Afghans are facing as they reach the airport and depart the country.

The Hill (8/19, Schnell, 5.69M) reports a "bipartisan group of 55 senators is calling on President Biden to 'immediately evacuate' Afghans who helped the U.S. during its military involvement in the country as the situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate. The group, led by Sens. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), penned a letter to Biden on Wednesday asking the administration to quickly pull Afghans who are eligible for Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) from the country, along with their families." In another piece, The Hill (8/19, Carney, 5.69M) reports lawmakers "say their offices are getting flooded with calls and questions from family members or individuals stuck in Afghanistan amid a chaotic U.S. exit."

In another piece, the New York Times (8/19, Grynbaum, Hsu, Robertson, 20.6M) looks at the process by which media outlets, such as the Times, the Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal, "banded together" and got their local employees out of the country.

Meanwhile, The Times (UK) (8/20, Swinford, Brown, Subscription Publication, 141K) reports that the UK's "last evacuation flight could leave Kabul in five days under an accelerated timetable for withdrawal from Afghanistan, The Times has been told." However, "another government source said that the August 24 evacuation date had not been formally agreed."

Pentagon: Continuing Evacuations Past August 31 Would Require "Conversations" With Taliban. Politico (8/19, Forgey, 6.73M) reports that Pentagon "conceded Thursday that continuing evacuations out of Kabul after Aug. 31 'would require additional conversations' with the Taliban to ensure the safety of Americans and Afghan allies seeking to flee the country."

Armed F-18s Providing "Overwatch" In Kabul. Politico (8/19, Forgey, 6.73M) reports that at a news briefing on Thursday, Army Maj. Gen. William Taylor "revealed that the U.S. military over the last 24 hours had flown a group of F-18 fighter jets from the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group over Kabul 'to ensure enhanced security' of the capital city." Taylor said, "The ability to provide close air support is something that needs to be immediate if the condition on the ground ever required that. So as prudent military operations, we ensure there are always assets available so that the commander, if required, can ensure the time and space of reaction is as little as possible." Noting that the aircraft were armed, Reuters (8/19) reports Pentagon spokesman John Kirby "told a news briefing the jets had not conducted 'low pass' flights over the city but had been engaged in 'overwatch.'"

The Hill (8/19, Mitchell, 5.69M) reports this "marks the first time Defense officials have confirmed the F/A-18 flights over Kabul, where there are now 5,200 U.S. troops to oversee the evacuation from the war-torn country the Taliban took control of on Sunday."

Remaining Afghan Security Personnel In Hiding, Hunted By Taliban. The New York Times (8/19, 20.6M) reports "tens of thousands of other Afghan grunts, commandos and spies who fought to the end, despite the talk in Washington that the Afghan forces simply gave up, have been left behind. They are now on the run, hiding and hunted by the Taliban." The Times adds that "accounts of the Taliban searching for people they believe worked with and fought alongside U.S. and NATO forces are beginning to trickle out, offering a bloody counterpoint to the kinder and gentler face the militants have been trying to present to the world."

The AP (8/19, Sanz, Webber) reports that Mohammad Khalid Wardak, "a high-profile Afghan national police officer who spent years working alongside the American military," who was profiled previously by the newswire, has been rescued. He was pulled out of Afghanistan by helicopter, along with his wife and sons, after four failed attempts in a "dramatic" rescue by the US and its allies.

Republicans Divided Over Resettling Afghan Refugees. The Hill (8/19, Gangitano, Marcos, 5.69M) reports while Republicans "have tried to remain unified in their criticism of President Biden's handling of the messy U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan," the "plight of Afghan allies desperately trying to flee the Taliban is exposing divisions" within the party. Some Republicans are "pressing the Biden administration to help resettle those people who helped the U.S. military," while others are "stoking nativist fears about an influx of refugees." A Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial decries the 16 House Republicans who voted last month against a bill to allocate an additional 8,000 visas for translators.

More Commentary. Fareed Zakaria writes in the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) that the NSC "met 36 times since April to discuss" the withdrawal from Afghanistan. That figure "was shared with the media to illustrate how well the administration had handled things." With "the policy failure evident, all the bureaucracies in Washington are furiously leaking that they actually got it right." Zakaria argues that while "Phase 1 of the Afghanistan withdrawal has been a failure," Phase 2, "the evacuation of tens of thousands of Americans and Afghans, could yet be a success." But, "the evidence so far is that the evacuation is still utterly chaotic, lacking urgency and effective action. The administration can still make this happen, but it needs to stop meeting and start doing."

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and retired Gen. Jack Keane lay out a variety of steps they believe the Administration should take to contain the Taliban, including ensuring that all US citizens and our Afghan allies are withdrawn, pressing other nations not to recognize the Taliban, and starving the regime of cash.

Catherine Rampell writes in the Washington Post (8/19, , 10.52M) that among the possible explanations for why "the Biden administration didn't get more Afghan allies and refugees out before U.S. troops withdrew, as it had been urged to do" is the "stomach-churning possibility that Biden didn't evacuate Afghan allies sooner because he was afraid of what Fox News might say." It has been reported that Biden "feared the 'optics' of flying in refugees from Afghanistan amid an influx of migrants at the U.S. southern border." The White House "denies that political cowardice caused its foot-dragging. But if true, this wouldn't be the first time fear of right-wing blowhards distorted Biden's immigration policies." Biden "calls himself pro-immigrant." He "speaks warmly of newcomers and their contributions to this country. But such words are meaningless if he still caves to the bigots when it matters."

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M), adapted from his book "The Wolves of Helmand," about his service in Afghanistan war, Marine Corps veteran Gus Biggio is a Marine Corps veteran describes his decision in 2009 not to come to the aid of Mir Wut, an Afghan boy who was shot during a battle in Helmand province. Biggio writes that as he "watched footage of helicopters evacuating the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and read about Afghan allies frantically trying to get out of the country," he came "to the realization that - just like I did to Mir Wut a dozen years ago - the people who should be helping our friends are turning their backs on those we promised

to protect. Shame on us.”

In her [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) column, Peggy Noonan criticizes President Biden for his handling of the withdrawal from Afghanistan and argues that he must now work to saving Americans and Afghans who aided the US even if it means temporarily reversing some of the decisions he has made.

Sam Rogers argues in [USA Today](#) (8/19, 12.7M) against sending more troops to Afghanistan. Doing so, he writes, “would only cause the United States to lose more money, more resources and more lives in a fight that we were never going to win.”

CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

Texas Woman Charged In Capitol Siege Probe Reaches Plea Deal.

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports from Dallas, “A Dallas-area real estate agent pleaded guilty Thursday to participating in the Jan. 6 raid on the U.S. Capitol in which five people died.” The AP adds, “Frisco realty broker Jennifer Leigh ‘Jenna’ Ryan entered her plea in a virtual hearing before a Washington, D.C., judge after agreeing to cooperate with prosecutors. In return, federal authorities agreed to drop prosecution of other counts against her.” According to the AP, “Court records showed that Ryan, 51, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of knowingly parading, demonstrating and picketing inside the Capitol during a riot supporting Donald Trump’s presidency. The count carries punishment of up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine. Ryan was arrested on Jan. 15 and charged with multiple counts after she shared photos and videos on social media, including a video in which she says, ‘We’re gonna go down and storm the Capitol,’ in front of a bathroom mirror, according to the FBI criminal complaint.” [Courthouse News](#) (8/19, Hawkins, 21K) and [Insider](#) (8/19, Panetta, Hall, 2.74M) also report.

Tennessee Deputy Charged With Assaulting Officer During Capitol Siege.

The [Tennessean](#) (8/19, Friedman, 645K) reports, “A Tennessee sheriff’s deputy assaulted a fellow law enforcement officer and then attempted to use his status to gain access to the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot, according to a motion filed by the U.S. Attorney’s Office Wednesday.” Ronald Colton McAbee, “a 27-year-old Williamson County sheriff’s deputy, was arrested Aug. 17 after the FBI received a tip he was the man in officer-worn body camera footage who attempted to fight a Metropolitan Police Department officer and drag another into the mob storming the Capitol. The U.S. attorney’s office pre-trial motion argued McAbee should be held without bail because he was a “spoke in the wheel” that caused the Jan. 6 riot and was a ‘threat to the peaceful functioning of our community.’ McAbee is part of a seven-person indictment group all charged with assaulting officers on the day of the insurrection.”

Tennessee Man Pleads Guilty To Role In Capitol Siege.

The [Tennessean](#) (8/19, Alund, 645K) reports, “A Middle Tennessee man charged in connection with the deadly Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot pleaded guilty in federal court Thursday to his role in the insurrection.” Eric Chase Torrens, 28, of Gallatin, “admitted to knowingly entering restricted areas of the Capitol in a videoconference plea hearing before U.S. District Chief Judge Beryl Howell, of the District of Columbia. Torrens was arrested on Feb. 1 by FBI Agents on charges of knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority and violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds. During a hearing Thursday he pleaded guilty to one count of petty offense of parading, demonstrating or picketing in the Capitol.”

Sentencing Delayed For Maryland Man Charged In Capitol Siege After Video Surfaces.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, 10.52M) reports, “Even after Robert Reeder pleaded guilty to illegally picketing inside the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6, he remained adamant that he was innocent of the worst allegations leveled against him.” Prosecutors “argued that Reeder actively participated in chants with rioters and egged on the aggressive crowd, though they could not show that he participated in any violence. They asked a federal judge to sentence him with a fine and prison

time." Reeder, "a former FedEx driver from Maryland, told FBI agents that he was merely an 'accidental tourist' who got swept up in the crowd. The 55-year-old denied engaging in or inciting violence, according to a sentencing memorandum his attorney filed earlier this month. He asked the judge for probation. But new video from Jan. 6 that surfaced just before his sentencing hearing on Wednesday upended both sides of the case."

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Federal Prosecutors Seek Nine-Year Sentence For Michigan Man In Whitmer Kidnap Plot.

The Detroit Free Press (8/19, White, 2.16M) reports, "Federal prosecutors recommended a nine-year prison sentence Wednesday for a man who said he worked on a wild plan to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer." Ty Garbin, "who pleaded guilty to conspiracy just four months after being arrested, deserves credit for substantially assisting investigators, Assistant U.S. Attorney Nils Kessler said in a court filing. 'Garbin did not wait to see what his chances were of escaping accountability. He knew what he had done, knew it was wrong, and took action,' Kessler said." The FBI "last October said it broke up a plot to kidnap the Democratic governor by anti-government extremists who were upset over Whitmer's coronavirus restrictions. Garbin and five other men were charged in federal court, while others were charged in state court with aiding them." Garbin, 25, "is the only federal defendant to plead guilty."

MLive (MI) (8/19, Agar, 828K) reports that Garbin "said he and his family – and Whitmer's, too – will likely have to fear for their safety for some time. 'I feel my safety, and family's safety will be compromised for a long time. I feel that the victims of this conspiracy will have to worry about their safety as well,' he told a probation officer conducting a pre-sentence investigation." Garbin, "an aircraft mechanic at Detroit Metro Airport with no previous criminal record, is expected to testify against five co-defendants at an Oct. 12 trial in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids. He told the investigator he regretted getting involved. 'I feel that the choices I made were wrong. During the course of this offense, I let my emotions get in the way of any rational thinking that could have been made. My choices not only affected myself and family, but they also may have added to the already unstable political environment.'"

QAnon Group To Hold Event In Las Vegas.

The AP (8/19) reports from Las Vegas, "A group that espouses the fringe conspiracy theory known as QAnon plans to hold a conference at a convention center owned by one of Nevada's largest hotel-casino companies in late October." According to the AP, "Patriot Voice is selling tickets for a three-day event at Caesars Forum, a convention space near the Las Vegas Strip. Guests who pay from \$650 to \$3,000 will hear from former national security adviser Michael Flynn, 8kun owner Jim Watkins and former Assemblyman Jim Marchant, who is running for Nevada secretary of state after spreading claims of voter fraud and suing to overturn the 2020 election results. Judges in every Nevada case dismissed the election challenges that claimed voter fraud and Nevada's current secretary of state, a Republican, defended the results as reliable and accurate."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Senate Republicans Seek Update On FBI Surveillance Of Trump Administration.

Breitbart (8/19, 1.26M) reports, "Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and 41 Senate Republicans sent a letter Thursday to Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding that Garland update them on the status of the investigation into the FBI's surveillance of the Trump administration." According to Breitbart, "Blackburn, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and 41 Republicans demanded to know more about special counsel John Durham's inquiry. 'Attorney General Merrick Garland must pledge to publicly release the full report and allow Special Counsel Durham to continue his investigation uninhibited past September 2021,' Blackburn said in a statement Thursday. 'We are over two years into the investigation of how the Obama-Biden FBI spied on an

incoming president, and we still do not have answers. America's national security apparatus was weaponized to take down President Trump, and the American people deserve to know how this occurred."

The Hill (8/19, Schnell, 5.69M) reports that the lawmakers "penned a letter to" Garland "requesting an update on the status of Durham's review, dubbed the Crossfire Hurricane Investigation, and for the final report to be made public once it is complete." Durham, "who previously served as the U.S. attorney for the District of Connecticut before becoming special counsel last year, has been reviewing the FBI's investigation into Russia's influence in the 2016 election since 2019, when he was tasked by the Trump administration to evaluate the bureau's probe. The investigation made headlines last week when The Wall Street Journal reported that Durham is presenting grand jury evidence and preparing his report."

US Army Considering "Massive Expansion" Of Fort Belvoir To Include IC Campus.

The Washington Business Journal (8/19, Cordell, Subscription Publication, 897K) reports the US Army is weighing a "massive expansion of development on the north portion of Fort Belvoir, including a possible new Intelligence Community campus to be constructed near the existing National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency headquarters." Included in all three proposals "is the addition of a 116,206-square-foot, six-story Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) headquarters annex, which would include a visitors center and utility building and be paired alongside a 129,465-square foot parking structure. Both would be located on a 67-acre site adjoining the NGA." While those elements "are in all versions of the draft master plan, the maximum capacity version also includes numerous unidentified 'capacity plan' buildings and parking structures across the 67-acre site - forming, with the NGA headquarters, what the plan deems a new Intelligence Community campus."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Two Maryland Brothers Plead Guilty To Conspiring To Distribute Narcotics.

The Annapolis (MD) Capital Gazette (8/18, Price, 85K) reports Deniko Carter and his brother Purnell Carter Jr., who both live in Glen Burnie, Maryland, "pleaded guilty Wednesday to participating in a criminal organization, conspiring to distribute narcotics, and conspiring to commit second-degree assault." The Carters and 13 other individuals were "indicted on drug and firearm offenses after" the Anne Arundel County Police Department "launched a year-long investigation." The FBI participated in that investigation, according to the Capital Gazette article, which is also posted to the Baltimore Sun (8/18, 629K) website.

Man Arrested After Body Of Missing Indiana Toddler Is Found.

The AP (8/19) reports from Plymouth, Indiana, "An 11-month-old northern Indiana girl who had been reported missing was found dead in a wooded area after a man who had agreed to babysit the toddler for a few days led authorities to her body." Marshall County Prosecutor Nelson Chipman Jr. "said that man, Justin Miller, 37, would be formally charged Thursday with neglect of a dependent resulting in death." Chipman "said Mercedes Lain's body was found after 9 p.m. Wednesday in a densely wooded area of Starke County near the Marshall County line after Miller led officers to the site. Chipman said the girl's father, Kenny Lain, left Mercedes with Miller on Friday at a Plymouth motel to babysit for the weekend so he and the girl's mother, Tiffany Coburn, could have 'a few days break from their child.'" Authorities "said the search for the girl involved FBI agents, Indiana State Police, Marshall County deputies and Plymouth police officers."

Indiana Public Media (8/19, Lazzaro) reports the remains "of Mercedes Lain, the 11-month-old...baby" from Plymouth, Indiana who was "reported missing Sunday by parents Tiffany Coburn and Kenneth Lain, was found Wednesday night in a heavily wooded area in Starke County." According to court filings, "Coburn and Lain told police on Aug. 15 that they had left the baby with family friend Justin Miller for a few days so they could have a break, but Miller did not return. A silver alert was issued that night, and a search began." The time and location of the child's death

"has not been determined yet." However, Miller "is being charged with a level one felony child neglect resulting in death" and "Coburn and Lain were also arrested Monday." [InkFreeNews \(IN\)](#) (8/19), [WTTV-TV Indianapolis](#) (8/19) and [WTWO-TV Terre Haute, IN](#) (8/19) also report on the case.

Six Maryland Police Officers Charged With Falsifying Reports To Collect Insurance Money.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/18, 10.52M) reports, "Six Maryland police officers from multiple agencies have been indicted on federal conspiracy charges, accused of working together to file false reports to the Prince George's County Police Department – where three of them worked – to collect insurance money." According to the Post, "One of the accused officers, Michael Owen Jr., is in jail awaiting trial in the separate January 2020 fatal shooting of a man who sat handcuffed inside a police cruiser. Owen, a 10-year veteran officer with the Prince George's County Police Department, was charged with murder and assault in that case." Owen, 33, "and the five other officers are accused of orchestrating false thefts of their debit cards or vehicles, then reporting those concocted thefts to authorities and their banks and insurance companies. A federal grand jury indicted the officers in July and the charges were unsealed Wednesday."

Judge Rejects Nassar's Bid To Keep Prison Money, Orders It Turned Over To Victims.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, Barrett, 10.52M) reports, "A federal judge on Thursday ordered Larry Nassar, the former USA Gymnastics doctor convicted of sexually abusing girls in his care, to turn over money in his prison account to his victims, rejecting his argument that he should be allowed to keep it because he has followed Bureau of Prisons' policy in paying less than 1 percent of the restitution he owes." According to the Post, "Prosecutors filed court papers last month to seize about \$2,000 in Nassar's Bureau of Prisons account, noting that the prison system has collected \$100 a year in restitution...over a 3½-year period in which he spent more than \$10,000 on himself." US District Judge Janet T. Neff "said while...Nassar has followed the Bureau of Prisons' rules and paid the minimum, he still owes his victims much more."

Eleven Arrested In Bust Of New Jersey Gun Trafficking Ring.

[WPVI-TV Philadelphia](#) (8/19, 388K) reports from Camden County, New Jersey, "Investigators say they have broken up a gun trafficking ring that has brought illegal weapons into Camden, New Jersey. 'As prosecutors and law enforcement, we have seen how weapons of war are bloodying the streets of Camden, and we are committed to cutting off the supply lines,' said N.J. acting attorney general Andrew Bruck." WPVI-TV adds, "Officials say the operation led to 11 arrests. Authorities also confiscated 20 illegal firearms, including two assault rifles and eight ghost guns similar to those seen here. The operations were carried out with the help of state police, the ATF, and the FBI."

The [Gloucester Township \(NJ\) Patch](#) (8/19, 1.44M) reports, "What began as an investigation into stolen motorcycles and ATVs resulted in an indictment of 11 people in connection with a gun trafficking ring in Camden, authorities announced on Thursday." The Patch adds, "The 10-month investigation was led by the New Jersey State Police Motor Vehicle Crimes South Unit and the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) Specialized Crimes Bureau. Two illegal large-capacity magazines and 20 stolen motorcycles also were seized, authorities said. Several members of the criminal ring have also been charged with distributing methamphetamine and cocaine."

Iowa Woman Sentenced In Hate Crime Attacks On Two Children.

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports from Des Moines, Iowa, "A white Iowa woman who said she drove her SUV into two children in 2019 to try to kill them because of their race was sentenced Thursday to 25 years in prison on federal hate crimes charges." Nicole Poole Franklin "had already been sentenced to up to 25 years, including a mandatory minimum of 17 1/2, on state attempted murder charges in the Dec. 9, 2019, attacks in Des Moines. In a separate federal proceeding, U.S. District Judge Stephanie Rose sentenced Poole Franklin on Thursday to 304 months in prison, or 25 years and four months. Poole Franklin, 43, pleaded guilty to two federal hate crimes charges in May."

Prosecutors "asked for a 27-year sentence in a filing last week, saying Poole Franklin targeted a 12-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl because of their race and ethnicity."

KWWL-TV Cedar Rapids, IA (8/19, 14K) reports that investigators say Franklin "drove her Jeep up on a sidewalk and hit the first victim, a 12-year-old boy, believing he and the family member that was with him, who was also a minor, were of Middle Eastern or African descent. ... She later said she believed he was 'ISIS' and was going to take her out." The boy "suffered minor injuries." Franklin also "drove her car up on a sidewalk and hit another child, a 14-year-old girl, causing serious injuries," later saying "she believed the teen was Hispanic...and 'wasn't supposed to be in our country.'"

FBI Probe Leads To Iowa City, Iowa Arrest.

The Iowa City (IA) Press-Citizen (8/19, Ojeda, 30K) reports, "Following more than eight hours carrying out an investigation in Iowa City, FBI agents, with the assistance of one Iowa City Police officer, arrested an individual at around 6 p.m. at a home near Fairchild and N. Lucas streets." According to the Press-Citizen, "FBI Public Affairs Specialist Amy Adams said in a statement that the agents served an arrest warrant for a federal charge at a home on Fairchild Street. She also said to seek any additional information from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa." The Press-Citizen adds, "Iowa City Public Safety Information Officer Lee Hermiston confirmed that the FBI was working in Iowa City but said all questions should be directed to the federal agency. 'At the request of the FBI, we provided one uniformed officer in a squad car to the scene,' he said. 'They were dispatched at approximately 10 a.m.'" The Daily Iowan (IA) (8/19, McCullough, 59K) also reports.

Federal Prosecutors Seek Prison Sentence For NXIVM Co-Founder.

The Albany (NY) Times Union (8/19, Gavin, 315K) reports, "Federal prosecutors want former NXIVM president and co-founder Nancy Salzman to potentially serve more than three years in prison for targeting those who broke NXIVM orthodoxy or criticized the organization as Keith Raniere's fiercely loyal second-in-command." The Times Union adds, "A prosecution memo filed late Wednesday in Brooklyn federal court detailed the 67-year-old Halfmoon woman's unyielding devotion to Raniere's teachings, including Salzman's untroubled parroting of Raniere's claims that some little children are 'perfectly happy' having sex with adults and that women experience 'freedom' during rape. 'Many of the NXIVM teachings promulgated by Nancy Salzman disparaged or humiliated women and blamed victims of abuse,' stated the memo written by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Hajjar."

FBI Raids New York Home In Search For "Most Wanted" Fugitive.

The Lower Hudson Valley (NY) Journal News (8/19, Keane, 353K) reports, "The FBI raided a Warwick home Tuesday after receiving a tip that Eugene Palmer, a murder suspect on the agency's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list, was inside his granddaughter's home." According to the Journal News, "Agents searched the home of his granddaughter, Jamie Lynn Rose, but Palmer was not found, according to an NBC New York report. Palmer, who would be 82 now, has not been seen since September of 2012, when he ran off into Harriman State Park after allegedly killing his daughter-in-law Tammy Palmer outside her home in Stony Point in Rockland County." Palmer "was accused of shooting his daughter-in-law on Sept. 24, 2012, as the relationship between them had reportedly become difficult; Tammy Palmer had previously accused Eugene Palmer's son, John, of assault, and she had filed a restraining order, but remained living in a house owned by Eugene Palmer."

The Daily Voice (8/19, Reakes, 292K) reports that "the granddaughter of one of the FBI's most wanted men is furious after the agency raided her Hudson Valley home on a tip." The Daily Voice continues that the "raid took place on Tuesday, Aug. 17, in Orange County in Warwick at the home of Eugene Palmer's granddaughter, Jamie Lynn Rose." Amy Thoreson "said it happened after the agency 'received information early Tuesday morning regarding the possible whereabouts of Eugene Palmer, an FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitive, who is believed to be armed and dangerous.'" Palmer "is wanted for shooting his daughter-in-law Tammy Palmer three times on Sept. 24, 2012,

in the driveway after she sent her two children to school." The Daily Voice adds that Palmer's family "claims their father died in Harriman State Park that borders the family's property, but police and the FBI believe that he is still alive and living in another state under an assumed name."

US Charges Michigan Man With Traveling To Wisconsin For Sex With Teen Girl.

WWJ-TV Detroit (8/19) reports from Detroit, "Authorities say a Michigan man was indicted by a federal grand jury in Milwaukee for traveling to Wisconsin to have sex with a 15-year-old girl." Scott D. Sundberg, 42, of Ishpeming, Michigan "was charged with using a computer to attempt to persuade, induce, or entice a minor to engage in unlawful sexual activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b). According to a criminal complaint filed in the case, Sundberg exchanged instant messages with an individual he thought he was a parent of a 15-year-old girl who lived in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Sundberg allegedly expressed repeated interest in engaging in sexual activity with the 15-year-old and also sent pornographic images of children engaged in explicit sexual activity."

Texas Man Faces Federal Charges For Soliciting Explicit Photos From Minor While Posing As Teen.

The San Antonio Express-News (8/19, Pettaway, 685K) reports that Corbett Eugene Hayes "was indicted by a federal grand jury Monday and charged with the sexual exploitation of a minor." The Express-News explains that according to a DOJ press release, Hayes "is accused of posing as a teenage boy in an attempt to get an Illinois girl to send him sexually explicit photos and texts." The Express-News adds Hayes "was identified by the FBI Minneapolis field office as a suspect in a separate investigation involving the exchange of child pornography."

FBI's Child Abduction Rapid Development Team Assisting In Search For Missing Idaho boy.

KREM-TV Spokane, WA (8/19, 307K) reports that according to federal officials, FBI resources "were deployed within hours of five-year-old Michael Vaughan's disappearance from his...neighborhood" in Fruitland, Idaho. "The FBI's Child Abduction Rapid Deployment Team was deployed to help in the search. ... The CARD Team is made up of investigators who specialize in child abductions and mysterious disappearances of children."

Iowa Man Faces Child Porn Charges After FBI Raid.

The Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (8/9, Lynch, 154K) reports that according to an indictment unsealed Thursday, "Christopher Michael Wilson was formally charged in U.S. District Court with one count each of receiving child pornography and possession of child pornography." The Gazette explains that Wilson "was arrested on child pornography charges Wednesday after federal agents used a tactical vehicle to break through the side of his house" in Iowa City.

FBI Returns Property Seized In Raid On Safety Deposit Boxes.

KTTV-TV Los Angeles (8/19, 158K) reports that over "a half-dozen people whose valuables were seized by the FBI during a raid at U.S. Private Vaults in Beverly Hills have either gotten their property back or were assured that the contents of their safety deposit boxes will soon be returned, according to court documents obtained Thursday morning." KTTV explains that FBI and DEA agents "served a search warrant at the business on March 22 and seized drugs, firearms and large amounts of gold bullion and cash, as well as other valuables, from about 396 rented boxes." While US Private Vaults "is named in a criminal indictment that alleges three separate conspiracies to violate federal law," the agencies have faced a "raft of lawsuits...by box holders seeking the return of their property, alleging the government overstepped constitutional protections in efforts to uncover illegal activity." The Beverly Hills (CA) Patch (8/20, 1.44M) also reports on the return of the box holders' property.

FBI Searching For Serial Bank Robber Who Targeted Arizona Banks, Grocery Stores.

KTAR-FM Glendale, AZ (8/19, 37K) reports that the FBI "is seeking the public's assistance in identifying a man accused of committing 13 Valley bank robberies since December." KTAR explains the suspect "has been robbing from grocery stores Fry's, Safeway and Albertson's since Dec. 30, 2020, with some of the robberies taking place at the same three banks, earning him the name 'Back Again Bandit.'" Authorities "said the suspect robbed six US Bank locations and two Desert Financial Credit Union locations in Tempe, Phoenix, Chandler, Gilbert, Casa Grande and Maricopa."

Mexican Man Who Pleaded Guilty In US Drug Case Gets 170 Months In Prison.

The Daily Caller (8/19, 375K) reports an FBI operation led to a 170-month prison sentence for Jesus Ivan Resendez-Gomez, a Mexican man who "pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute" methamphetamine in the US.

Four Louisville Men Indicted On Drug And Firearms Charges.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (8/19, Kobin, 554K) reports, "A grand jury has indicted four Louisville men on firearm and drug charges" that are connected to a recent warrant operation in Kentucky. The operation was conducted by detectives "with the Louisville Metro Police Department's Major Case Investigation Unit and special agents from the FBI Safe Streets Task Force." The Courier-Journal adds, "Edward Gray, acting special agent in charge of the FBI's Louisville Field Office, said" this case "should send a loud and clear message to violent criminals that the FBI Safe Streets Task Force will deploy its collective strength to ensure the safety and security of our neighborhoods." The WAVE-TV Louisville, KY (8/19, Baker, 90K) website also covers this story.

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

FBI Subpoenas Records From Florida Company In Probe Of Hurricane Relief Funds.

WMBB-TV Panama City, FL (8/19) reports from Port St. Joe, Florida, "The FBI is continuing to seek answers from a local company in connection to work they did after Hurricane Michael. Apparently, the investigation has taken them to Gulf County and Port St. Joe. The FBI sent subpoenas to the two municipalities seeking documents about GAC Contractors, Inc., and Ashbritt, Inc. News 13 was the first on the scene last week when federal investigators searched GAC offices in Panama City." WMBB-TV adds, "These latest subpoenas ask for any records or documents connected to projects performed by the two companies along with FEMA reimbursements from October 10, 2018, until the present day. Hurricane Michael struck the Panhandle on October 10, 2018. The subpoenas also seek invoices from County Attorney Jeremy Novak, attorney Adam Albritton, and invoices from Constitution Title, LLC."

Georgia Woman Sentenced For Embezzling From Tennessee Business.

The Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (8/19, Caulder, 168K) reports, "Alice Sue Smith, a former bookkeeper and office manager at Chattanooga Coin, has been sentenced for embezzling more than \$1 million from the business and for filing false tax returns." Smith, 63, of Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia "worked as a bookkeeper at Chattanooga Coin from 2004 to 2018. From 2009 to 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice said, she forged signatures on about 1,400 checks that she then cashed. To hide her fraud, Smith fabricated check stubs in Chattanooga Coin's financial records. She also failed to report the embezzled funds and other legitimate income on her tax returns. Smith pleaded guilty to wire fraud and filing a false tax in early February. 'Smith let her greed blind her to responsibilities her company entrusted her with. For that she will be held accountable,' said Chris Hacker, special agent in charge at the FBI in Atlanta."

Ohio Man Pleads Guilty To Laundering \$300 Million Through Dark Web.

The Cleveland Heights (OH) Patch (8/19, Mosby, 1.44M) reports that on Wednesday, Larry Dean Harmon, an Akron resident, "has pleaded guilty to moving \$300 million through his cryptocurrency-based money laundering service on the dark web." The Patch explains that

Harmon "admitted he ran Helix, a Darknet-based cryptocurrenc laundering service." Court filings "said he laundered more than \$300 million through the service between 2014 and 2017." He faces "a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for money laundering, a fine of \$500,000 and a term of supervised release of not more than three years."

CYBER DIVISION

Florida Cybersecurity Agency "Crippled By Vacancies."

The [Miami Herald](#) (8/19, Mower, 647K) reports Florida's new technology office is "supposed to resolve the state's longtime tech woes and lead the state's defense against cybersecurity threats," but the Florida Digital Service is "struggling" a year in under "a wave of high-level departures." Top officials have left "without giving notice," and two chief information security officers have departed in less than a year. Half of the state's "10-member cybersecurity response team positions are vacant." The "rapid brain drain" of technology experts "has observers concerned about the state's security amid a growing number of cyberthreats."

WPost: US "Finally Paying Proper Attention" To Cybersecurity.

In an editorial, The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, 10.52M) writes that although the "cyber 9/11" foreshadowed in the 2020 cybersecurity review from the bipartisan Cyberspace Solarium Commission has not taken place, the US "has been treated to a series of smaller disasters – every one of which has made the urgency of the recommendations clearer." Following the shift to remote work, SolarWinds, and ransomware attacks, "Finally, elected officials are paying attention." The Post praises major legislation now incorporating cybersecurity, but writes they are "only pieces of a puzzle whose shape isn't fully formed," and that the Biden Administration's forthcoming national cyber strategy is "essential," arguing US policymakers "should view cybersecurity through the lens offered by the commission, which describes a 'layered' approach to defense" as well as to "shape behavior in cyberspace by banding with allies to create a clear set of norms and consequences for those who violate them."

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Police Officers On Certain Federal Task Forces Can Release Some Body Camera Video.

In online coverage, [NBC News](#) (8/19, Weichselbaum, 4.91M) reports it has obtained documentation that shows the US Department of Justice (DOJ) "has agreed...to allow local" police officers who are assigned to US Marshal Service-led "fugitive task forces to release body camera video to the public after officer-involved shootings." Local police departments that assign officers to work with other federal organizations that are "under the Justice Department — such as the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives — still won't have the authority to release body camera video," according to a DOJ spokesperson.

AP Analysis: Increasing Use Of AI By Law Enforcement Raises Serious Problems.

In a more than 4,000-word article, the [AP](#) (8/19, Burke) profiles Michael Williams – a Chicago man who "sat behind bars for nearly a year" on murder charges based on specious evidence from ShotSpotter "before a judge dismissed the case against him last month at the request of prosecutors, who said they had insufficient evidence." The AP discusses the perils of law enforcement's increased reliance on artificial intelligence and automation, saying, "Williams' experience highlights the real-world impacts of society's growing reliance on algorithms to help make consequential decisions about many aspects of public life. Nowhere is this more apparent than in law enforcement, which has turned to technology companies like gunshot detection firm ShotSpotter to battle crime."

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Colombia Extradites Two People Who Face Drug Charges In US.

Reuters (8/19) reports Columbia has extradited alleged National Liberation Army members Henry Trigós Celón and Yamit Picon Rodríguez to the US, where they face drug charges. The Houston Chronicle (8/19, Banks, 982K) reports both suspects, who were extradited to Texas on Thursday afternoon, face "charges of narco-terrorism and trafficking cocaine from South America."

OTHER FBI NEWS

FBI Urges Greater Reporting Of Hate Crimes.

WKXW-FM Trenton, NJ (8/19, Matthau, 78K) reports, "The FBI in New Jersey is ramping up an effort to convince New Jersey residents to report suspected hate crimes, with messaging on billboards, bus and train stations and websites. They're reaching out, asking members of communities for trust. But that's easier said than done." WKXW-FM adds, "In many minority communities there are long standing trust issues with all branches of law enforcement, and some residents are hesitant to come forward to report anything. In response, George Crouch, the special agent in charge of the FBI in New Jersey, has reached out to community and faith leaders looking to form partnerships with them and help convince skeptics the FBI is trustworthy and really does want to help them and crack down on hate crimes. Crouch said in order to be able to stop hate crimes from being committed, people have to feel safe reporting them."

WOBM-FM Toms River, NJ (8/19, 30K) reports, "According to New Jersey State Police data there were more than 1,440 bias incidents reported last year, an increase of almost 50% compared to 2019, and in 2020 the number of anti-Semitic incidents was the second highest on record." SAC Crouch "said in the coming weeks messaging will be displayed on billboards around the state as well as at NJ Transit bus and rail stations and social media to raise awareness about this issue. Crouch said cracking down on hate crimes is a top priority of the Bureau because 'hate crimes have a profound impact, not only on victims and their families but on communities, people who identify with a hate crime victim live with a fear that they could be the next target.' He said when this kind of incident takes place it affects 'all those people who just want to live their lives, and for some reason they live in fear of being able to be their authentic self.'"

KIRO-TV Seattle (8/19, 151K) reports, "The Seattle office of the FBI has launched a campaign to build awareness of hate crimes and to encourage people to report such crimes in Washington." KIRO-TV adds, "An awareness campaign launched on FBI Seattle's Twitter page, and ads can be seen at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and on Seattle public transit, including buses and trains, to prompt the public to report hate crimes to the FBI." The FBI "investigates hundreds of hate crimes every year, but officials say hate crimes are often underreported to federal and local authorities. The FBI is the lead agency that investigates criminal violations of federal civil rights laws. 'Hate crimes, defined as a traditional offense with an added element of bias, are the highest priority of the FBI's civil rights program because of the devastating impact they have on families and communities,' a news release said. 'The FBI cannot do our work without the public's help,' said FBI Special Agent in Charge Donald M. Voiret."

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Scientists Raise Questions About Evidence Behind Push For Third COVID Jab.

NBC Nightly News (8/19, 6:39 p.m. EST, story 4, 2:05, Holt, 5.42M) reported that with "155 million Americans set to qualify for a booster over the next eight months...some leading experts are not yet convinced a third dose is actually needed. Citing multiple studies, the White House task force laid out a case of waning protection from infection and the delta variant. But so far there has only been a slight decline in the prevention of hospitalization and serious illness."

Reuters (8/19, Beasley, Aboulenein) explains that on Thursday, "scientists said" that the Biden Administration has based its "plan to provide COVID-19 vaccine boosters" is based on "a premise that has yet to be proven." Reuters explains that the Administration's is concerned "that a

decrease in the vaccines' ability to protect against milder infections could also mean people will have less protection against severe illness." However, "based on available data on vaccine protection, it is not clear that younger, healthier people will be at risk." Reuters quotes Dr. Jesse Goodman, an infectious disease expert at Georgetown University, as saying, "We don't know if that translates into a problem with the vaccine doing what is most important, which is protect against hospitalization, death, and serious disease. On that, the jury is still out."

However, CBS Evening News⁵ (8/19, 6:43 p.m. EST, story 4, 4:00, Muir, 5.28M) reported "a new preliminary study in the UK" has found that "vaccinated people who get breakthrough cases with the delta variant have a higher viral load. We've heard this from US authorities before. This study says they are more likely to transmit the virus to others."

Amid Debate Over Third COVID Jab, CDC Delays Key Committee's Booster Review. Bloomberg (8/19, Torrence, 3.57M) reports that as debate swells about the need for a third COVID vaccine dose, the CDC "pushed back by one week a meeting" of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices – a group of "outside advisers" who will "review Covid booster shots." Bloomberg explains that the committee was "originally scheduled to meet and possibly make a recommendation about the need for boosters on Aug. 24," but will now "convene the following week."

Walensky: New Data Drove CDC's Decision To Start Administering Booster Shots. In an interview with NBC's Today⁶ (8/19, 2.75M), CDC Director Rochelle Walensky was asked why the CDC is recommending that all Americans get a Covid vaccine booster shot. Walensky said, "We have seen evidence that we have been looking at just the last week or so that demonstrated that the vaccine is starting to wane against infections. It is still holding up well against severe disease and hospitalizations, but we have seen that we need more protection against the delta virus. And we are starting to see in other countries that they're starting to see waning infection against more severe outcomes. We are planning for it so we can be ahead of this virus." In an appearance on CBS This Morning⁷ (8/19, 2.29M), Walensky said, "Just in the last, we have started to see evidence from numerous cohorts, published yesterday, several different studies in different populations that have started to show waning of vaccine effectiveness against infection, not necessarily against severe disease yet, but against infection."

In an interview with CNN⁸ (8/19, 410K), US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said: "The protection that we see from the vaccines against the worst of COVID, hospitalizations, severe disease and death, that remains strong. That is why people who are fully vaccinated today should still feel good. It's why we don't think you need to go out and get a booster today. But using our clinical judgment, our feeling is this trend in decline in protection will continue over the months ahead and may extend actually to a reduction in protection against those severe outcomes. That's what we want to be ahead of." Murthy also appeared on MSNBC's Morning Joe⁹ (8/19, 856K).

Bloomberg (8/19, Court, LaVito, 3.57M) says, "While the idea of a follow-up vaccine is well-established – the flu shot is taken yearly, for instance, and the tetanus vaccine also requires a booster – federal officials' latest move represents a major change in tone. Health agencies said as recently as July 8th that fully vaccinated Americans 'do not need a booster shot at this time.' Now, health officials recommend that those who received Pfizer Inc. or Moderna Inc. shots get a third round about eight months after their second, beginning in September."

Reuters (8/19, Heavey) says, "The booster program is being launched even as millions of Americans have yet to have their initial shots and as many around the world await vaccine supplies." According to Reuters, "U.S. health officials defended the administration's plan to offer Americans' additional protection against the virus with another vaccine dose, saying they could still donate millions of doses worldwide and continue encouraging people to get their first shot."

WHO African Director Says COVID-19 Booster Shots Are "Mockery Of Vaccine Equity." The New York Times (8/19, Dahir, 20.6M) reports the World Health Organization (WHO) African Director Dr. Matshidiso Moeti "criticized the decisions by some wealthy nations to start administering coronavirus booster shots, saying the decisions 'make a mockery of vaccine equity'" while African countries are "still struggling to get vaccine supplies." Rather than give extra doses to "already fully vaccinated citizens, she said, rich countries should give priority to poor nations." Dr.

Moeti also “urged wealthy nations to ‘rethink the idea of boosters’ because of the danger that more dangerous variants will arise as the virus spreads in unvaccinated populations.” Bloomberg (8/19, Bassompierre, 3.57M) also covers Moeti’s criticism.

The AP (8/19, Anna) adds that African health officials, “including the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had warned against booster shots in recent weeks as less than 2% of the population on the continent of 1.3 billion people is fully vaccinated against COVID-19.” The Delta variant is “dominant in most of the continent’s 54 countries.”

Biden Says He And The First Lady Will Get Boosters. Axios (8/19, Doherty, 1.26M) reports that in an interview with ABC’s George Stephanopoulos President Biden said he and First Lady Jill Biden will get Covid booster shots. Biden is quoted as saying, “It’s something that I think, you know, because we got our shots all the way back in, I think, December, so it’s past time.”

Three More Fully Vaccinated Senators Test Positive For COVID.

Bloomberg (8/19, Litvan, 3.57M) reports that three US senators “tested positive for Covid-19 despite being vaccinated, bringing to at least six the number of members of Congress to report recent infections.” The Washington Post (8/19, Sonmez, 10.52M) continues that on Thursday, Sens. Roger Wicker (R-MS), Angus King (I-ME) and John Hickenlooper (D-CO) “announced...that they have tested positive for the coronavirus, becoming the latest members of the Senate to announce breakthrough infections in recent weeks.”

Roll Call (8/19, McIntire, 130K) reports that “Wicker and King said they are fully vaccinated” and Hickenlooper “similarly said he is ‘grateful for the vaccin’ for limiting his symptoms.” Politico (8/19, Sheehey, 6.73M) says that in a statement, King “noted...that he feels under the weather, but ‘much better than I would have without the vaccine.’” Politico continues a spokesperson for Wicker “said the senator is being treated by his Tupelo, Miss., based physician and is in good health.”

The New York Times (8/19, Montague, 20.6M) adds that “several other vaccinated politicians have recently announced breakthrough cases of their own, including” Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), “who said he tested positive for the virus after attending a gathering hosted by” Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV).

Amid COVID Surge, Daily US Vaccinations Surpass 1M For First Time In Seven Weeks.

CBS Evening News (8/19, 6:41 p.m. EST, story 6, 2:20, O’Donnell, 3.94M) reported that “in hospitals across the South, it’s not unlike the pandemic’s darkest days, a battlefield. Albany, Georgia had the worst per-capita death rate in the nation early last year. Its hospitals are overrun again.” CBS continued, “But there is a bright spot. More than a million doses of the vaccine were given today. That is the highest one-day total in seven weeks.” Politico (8/19, Sheehey, 6.73M) continues that “more than one million Americans received a dose of Covid-19 vaccine on Thursday, a benchmark the nation has not met in nearly seven weeks amid a resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic. White House Covid-19 Data Director Cyrus Shahpar announced the vaccine upswing on Twitter, noting a 31 percent week-over-week increase in the daily average of those becoming fully vaccinated. He said Thursday’s numbers include 562,000 newly vaccinated people.”

The Hill (8/19, Weixel, 5.69M) adds that the numbers “show the vaccination rate is increasing across the country after weeks of stagnating at about 500,000 per day. Vaccinations had slowed down after hitting a peak in mid-April of about 3.3 million doses per day.”

White House Officials: Facebook Withheld “Meaningful Data” On COVID Misinformation.

The Washington Post (8/19, Dwoskin, Zakrzewski, Pager, 10.52M) describes “tense meetings between Facebook executives and White House officials tasked with fighting the pandemic in recent months,” during which President Biden’s team “begged the social network giant for something only Facebook possessed: its data.” The Post cites “three people involved in the discussions” who say officials “thought Facebook was hiding, filibustering and deflecting...in contrast to the White House’s conversations with YouTube and Twitter about anti-vaccine misinformation, which the officials thought were more productive.” White House adviser Andy Slavitt, who participated in the meetings, said, “It’s not that they wouldn’t provide data. ... It’s

that they wouldn't provide meaningful data, and you end up with a lot of information that doesn't necessarily have value."

Administration Warns Of Discipline For Unvaccinated Federal Employees Who Refuse COVID Testing.

The Washington Post (8/19, Yoder, 10.52M) reports that on Wednesday, "the Biden administration warned" that federal employees "who are not fully vaccinated will face discipline if they refuse to be tested for the coronavirus when reporting to work in person." The Post continues that new "guidance from an interagency task force says agencies will have discretion regarding how to administer those tests, including in-house, at another agency or through a contractor. Testing will apply only to employees who are not fully vaccinated and who are working on-site, will be done during working hours, and will be at the agency's expense." However, the Post adds that employees "won't be disciplined for stating that they are not fully vaccinated...although they will face tighter restrictions."

Federal Courts Adopt COVID Restrictions Amid Latest Surge. The AP (8/19, Lavoie) reports that federal courts, including those "where plaintiffs are demanding their freedoms from masking and COVID-19 vaccinations," are requiring "everyone to wear masks." The AP explains that "as in-person hearings and trials resumed at courthouses around the country, a surge of coronavirus cases sparked by the delta variant has prompted some federal courts to impose new restrictions and requirements for mask-wearing and vaccinations."

NYPD Officers Unvaccinated Against COVID-19 Required To Wear Masks At All Times.

The New York Times (8/19, Gold, 20.6M) reports New York City police officials "warned officers that they would discipline unvaccinated personnel who do not wear masks while on duty." Detective Annette Shelton "said that officers who did not submit proof that they were vaccinated would be required to 'wear a face covering at all times while working,' whether inside, outside or driving in police vehicles."

Reuters (8/19, Clifford, Goldberg) reports, "The order came in response to a lagging vaccination rate among NYPD officers at a time when the Delta variant has fueled a surge of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations across the country." The current NYPD vaccination rate is around 47%.

Bans On Mask Mandates In Florida, Texas Face Legal Setbacks.

The Washington Post (8/19, Strauss, 10.52M) reports, "Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) is facing a revolt from a growing number of school districts – including some of the largest in the country – that have passed tough mask mandates for the new school year despite his administration's threat to sanction them." On Wednesday, Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, and Palm Beach counties imposed mask mandates. DeSantis "has made 'parental choice' the center of his education agenda, expanding the use of public funds to allow parents to send their children to private and religious schools, and now giving them the right to make masking decisions."

Bloomberg (8/19, 3.57M) reports a judge denied DeSantis' request "to throw out a lawsuit challenging his ban on mask mandates in schools, setting up a clash next week that could see the court block his executive order." The AP (8/19, Kennedy, Licon) says, "The order by Leon County Circuit Judge John C. Cooper clears the way for a three-day hearing next week on whether to block enforcement of the governor's order."

Meanwhile, the New York Times (8/19, Depasquale, Hard, 20.6M) reports that on Thursday, the "Texas Education Agency said it would temporarily stop enforcing Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on mask mandates...and the State Supreme Court issued a ruling allowing school districts to require face-coverings." The Times says both "decisions are temporary." The Hill (8/19, Castronuovo, 5.69M) adds that the decisions come "as a handful of cities have fought back against Abbott's executive order against mask mandates, including Austin, Dallas and San Antonio."

Delta Wave Ensnarers Children, Stoking Fears Ahead Of School Openings. On NBC Nightly News (8/19, 6:41 p.m. EST, story 5, 2:00, Holt, 5.42M), Dr. Charlotte Hobbs, Mississippi Children's Hospital pediatric infectious disease specialist, said, "We're seeing kids who are more ill

frequently with severe COVID, even children who have not had previous underlying illnesses." The AP (8/19, Tanner) continues that "with the highly contagious delta variant spreading across the U.S., children are filling hospital intensive care beds instead of classrooms in record numbers, more even than at the height of the pandemic." The AP says many "are too young to get the vaccine, which is available only to those 12 and over." The AP adds that the surge in infections is "spreading anxiety and causing turmoil and infighting among parents, administrators and politicians around the U.S., especially in states like Florida and Texas, where Republican governors have barred schools from making youngsters wear masks."

Gerson: Abbot, DeSantis Have Betrayed Public Trust. Michael Gerson writes in the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M), "As covid's third wave seemed to be fading in the spring, and the promise of normality was in the air, Republican governors Ron DeSantis of Florida and Greg Abbott of Texas came out strong...against masks and vaccine mandates. The issue had a growing symbolic power among right-wing populists," and "DeSantis and Abbott took full political advantage. ... If they had defied the populist base of the Republican Party, their careers (and presidential prospects) would have been as good as over. Now these governors have a problem, as does their party." Gerson argues that "public health is not the same as other issues." The Governors' actions "will lead, directly and predictably, to deaths in their states. This constitutes a betrayal of public trust so grave...that I am not sure there is a word for it."

Paul Krugman writes in the New York Times (8/19, 20.6M) that "the reason we are...still living in fear" is "that not enough people have been vaccinated and not enough people are wearing masks." While it is "possible to have sympathy for some of the unvaccinated, especially workers who find it hard to take time off to get a shot and are worried about losing a day to aftereffects," there is "much less excuse for those who refuse to get their shots or wear masks for cultural or ideological reasons – and no excuse at all for MAGA governors...who have been actively impeding efforts to contain the latest outbreak." Krugman says it is "time to stop being diffident and call out destructive behavior for what it is. Doing so may make some people feel that they're being looked down on. But you know what? Your feelings don't give you the right to ruin other people's lives."

WSJournal: Biden's Unnecessary Mask Fight Exposes President's Misplaced Priorities. The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorializes that President Biden's involvement in fights over local mask mandates is a gratuitous effort to distract from the president's declining poll numbers. The Journal says there is little evidence about the efficacy of masks in preventing the transmission of COVID in schools and, while GOP governors are wrong to frame the question as a civil-rights issue, the president should be focused on Afghanistan.

Mississippi Surpasses Previous Average New-Case Highs.

The Washington Post (8/19, Bella, 10.52M) reports that on Wednesday, Mississippi State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs "concluded...that the state with the nation's second-lowest vaccination rate is now suffering through 'the worst part of the pandemic,' in a week in which more than 20,000 students have been quarantined for exposure to coronavirus." The Post says Dobbs "acknowledged the severity of the state's health crisis, which has seen a surge in cases among the unvaccinated population overwhelm hospitals, leaving only a handful of intensive care unit beds still available for dozens of patients who need them." According to the Post, Mississippi "recorded more than 4,000 new cases Wednesday, bringing its seven-day average for new infections to 3,526," which is "higher than at any point of the pandemic." The Post reports that "about 36 percent of Mississippi is fully vaccinated, the second-worst vaccination rate in the country, above only Alabama."

"Redneck Riviera" Has Become COVID-19 Hot Spot.

The AP (8/19, Reeves) reports that "on maps that show virus 'hot spots' in red," the "Redneck Riviera," a "stretch of towns along the northern Gulf Coast," is "glowing like a bad sunburn." Furthermore, "a summer of booming tourism that followed the lockdowns and travel restrictions of 2020 is making the turn toward fall with only a few signs of slowing down." Health authorities "believe the spike is due to a combination of some of the nation's lowest vaccination rates, unabated tourism, a disregard for basic health precautions and the region's carefree lifestyle, all combining at a time when the mutated virus is more contagious than ever and conservative states

are balking at new health restrictions.”

NYTimes Analysis: Politics Colors American Perceptions On Pandemic.

The New York Times (8/19, Astor, 20.6M) writes that the global pandemic “is a humanitarian catastrophe,” but “many Americans see it through a political lens.” The Times points out the southern US “has some of the nation’s lowest vaccination rates, driven partly by Republican reluctance” and some GOP governors have blocked local officials from imposing “mask requirements.” The Times says that divisions also “extend beyond policies to general attitudes about the pandemic: While nearly 60 percent of Americans overall said in a recent Quinnipiac poll that they were concerned about the Delta variant, more than 60 percent of Republicans said they weren’t.” The Times says that while studies have shown that less-polarized Americans are less likely to politicize health precautions, “in the face of such a contagious variant, it takes only a small minority of Americans to derail epidemiological progress – and the most partisan Republicans are taking their cues from leaders who have no political incentive to give different ones.”

US Officials Reviewing Possibility Link Between Moderna Vaccine, Uncommon Side Effect May Be Stronger Than Previously Believed.

The Washington Post (8/19, Paige, McGinley, 10.52M) reports that US health officials “are investigating emerging reports that the Moderna coronavirus vaccine may be associated with a higher risk of a heart condition called myocarditis in younger adults than previously believed.” The Post explains that the “investigation, which involves the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is focusing on Canadian data that suggests the Moderna vaccine may carry a higher risk for young people than the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, especially for males below the age of 30 or so.” The Post says that “authorities also are scrutinizing data from the United States to try to determine whether there is evidence of an increased risk from Moderna in the U.S. population.”

Manchin, Sinema Strategizing With House Moderates Demanding Vote On Infrastructure Bill.

Axios (8/19, Nichols, 1.26M) reports Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) are “privately advising the nine House centrist lawmakers trying to force Speaker Nancy Pelosi to hold a quick vote on the Senate-passed bipartisan infrastructure deal.” Manchin and Sinema, “who’ve stirred the biggest frustrations and held the most sway in their party over the infrastructure negotiations are helping allies in the House to stake out – and defend – their centrist position. They’re offering encouragement and advice on how to negotiate with the White House and congressional leadership.”

New Jobless Claims Fell To Pandemic Low Last Week.

Bloomberg (8/19, Rockeman, 3.57M) reports that according to data released by the Department of Labor on Thursday, first-time claims for jobless benefits fell 29,000 to 348,000 last week, a “pandemic low.” CNBC (8/19, Cox, 7.34M) reports this was “below the Dow Jones estimate for 365,000.” Continuing claims “also fell, dropping to 2.82 million on a 79,000 decline from the week before. That data runs a week behind the headline claims number and also represented a new low since the pandemic struck.” Still, there are “some 6 million fewer Americans considered employed now than prior to the pandemic.”

Reuters (8/19, Mutikani) reports the four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, “dropped 19,000 to 377,750, also a 17-month low.” The decrease last week was “led by Texas. There were also notable declines in Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan. But applications increased in Virginia, California and New Mexico.”

The AP (8/19, Wiseman) calls the data “the latest sign that America’s job market is rebounding from the pandemic recession as employers boost hiring to meet a surge in consumer demand.” The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Mena, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says that the numbers show the labor market continues to heal despite the surge of the Delta variant.

FTC Files "Bolstered" Antitrust Case Against Facebook.

The Washington Post (8/19, A1, 10.52M) reports the FTC has "refiled a bolstered version of its antitrust case against Facebook." In a complaint filed Thursday, "the agency argues that Facebook holds monopoly power in personal social networking, with no other competitor coming close." The FTC said in the complaint, "No other personal social networking provider in the United States remotely approaches Facebook's scale."

The New York Times (8/19, Kang, 20.6M) calls the new complaint "an attempt to overcome the skepticism of a federal judge who threw out the agency's original case two months ago." The new suit "contains the same overall arguments as the original, saying that Facebook's acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp were made to create a 'moat' around its monopoly in social networking and arguing that the social network should be broken up," but it is "nearly twice as long and includes more facts and analysis that the agency says better support the government's allegations." Politico (8/19, Nysten, 6.73M) says the suit "seeks to force Facebook to sell off Instagram and WhatsApp, in what would be the United States' first court-ordered breakup of a company on antitrust grounds since AT&T in the early 1980s." Reuters (8/19, Bartz, Bose) provides similar coverage.

Education Department Erases \$5.8B In Debt Accrued By Disabled Students.

The AP (8/19, Binkley) reports in a move the Education Department says "will wipe out more than \$5.8 billion in debt," the Biden Administration "announced Thursday it will automatically erase student loan debt for more than 300,000 Americans with severe disabilities that leave them unable to earn significant incomes." The announcement "marks the start of a broader overhaul of a program that has been criticized for having overly burdensome rules." Education Secretary Cardona said in a statement, "We've heard loud and clear from borrowers with disabilities and advocates about the need for this change and we are excited to follow through on it."

The Washington Post (8/19, Douglas-Gabriel, 10.52M) says "anyone who is declared by a physician, the Social Security Administration or Department of Veterans Affairs to be totally and permanently disabled" is legally "eligible to have their federal student loans discharged," but, "the benefit has never been widely publicized, so few have taken advantage. And when they do, many are met with tedious paperwork and requirements." Consumer groups "had urged the Biden administration to automatically discharge the federal student loans of eligible borrowers, rather than require them to submit an application for debt forgiveness," and "many were disappointed when the Education Department announced the income waiver in March without automating the process. Advocates praised the administration Thursday for stepping up."

Landlords Left With Tens Of Thousands In Lost Rent.

The AP (8/19, D'Innocenzio, Casey) reports evictions for unpaid rent have been largely "halted since the early days of the pandemic and there are now more than 15 million people living in households that owe as much as \$20 billion in back rent, according to the Aspen Institute." Many landlords "are saddled with tens of thousands of dollars in lost rent - money that was meant for retirement, a college fund or for their investors, who themselves had sought a safe investment." Some "are leaving apartments vacant for months at a time, either because they lack the money to renovate or fear being stuck with nonpaying tenants. Some aren't buying any new properties as long as the moratorium is in place; others will only buy in wealthier neighborhoods." Others "are bolstering their screening process and giving extra scrutiny to someone who was unemployed for long stretches during the pandemic or saddled their previous landlord with months of back rent."

Dry, Windy Weather Hinders Efforts To Contain California Wildfires.

The AP (8/19, Swope, Antczak) reports firefighters' efforts "to contain destructive fires" in "drought-stricken Northern California" were hampered by "dry and windy weather" Thursday. Some "11,000 firefighters were on the lines of more than a dozen large wildfires that have destroyed hundreds of homes and other buildings, forced thousands of people to flee communities and filled skies with smoke."

USA Today (8/19, 12.7M) sways the Caldor Fire "was more than 20 times bigger on Thursday than it was on Tuesday and has forced over 10,000 people to flee their homes, according to fire officials." The "massive Dixie Fire – the nation's largest at more than 1,000 square miles, which is about two-thirds the size of Rhode Island – also continued to burn Thursday." It has "destroyed 1,217 structures, including 649 homes, according to Cal Fire."

Tropical Storm Henry Could Hit New England As A Hurricane.

The Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) reports there is "a growing chance" that Tropical Storm Henri could hit New England, which "hasn't seen a direct strike from a hurricane since Category 2 Bob visited in 1991," late Sunday or Monday. The odds of Henri "riding parallel to the East Coast and directly affecting the Northeast are increasing. Computer models have become increasingly bullish on the potential of a close shave or direct hit. ... Mild waters off the coast could maintain Henri as a strong tropical storm or marginal hurricane." On Thursday, the National Hurricane Center wrote "that storm surge, wind and rain impacts in the Northeast" are "a distinct possibility."

Texas State House Establishes Quorum, Sets To Work On Elections Bill.

The Austin (TX) American Statesman (8/19, Mekelburg, Subscription Publication, 261K) reports three more Democrats "returned to the Texas House late Thursday afternoon, giving the chamber just enough members to establish a quorum and begin work on an ambitious agenda chock full of conservative priorities. At the top of the list: a GOP bill that would rewrite Texas election laws."

The Dallas Morning News (8/19, Garrett, 772K) reports the presence of state Reps. Garnet Coleman, Armando Walle and Ana Hernandez, all from Houston, "shocked many in their own party, who just hours earlier were still convinced they could upend Gov. Greg Abbott's second special session by continuing their boycott." The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Findell, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the three said in a statement, "We are proud of the heroic work and commitment we and our fellow Democratic caucus members have shown in breaking quorum in May and again this summer. Now, we continue the fight on the House floor."

The Washington Post (8/19, Moravec, Viebeck, 10.52M) reports the "majority-Republican chamber quickly referred the voting-restrictions bill to committee, bringing the measure one step closer to passage. Abbott listed elections policy among the 17 issues to be addressed during the second special session, which can last up to 30 days."

Republicans, Democrats Gearing Up For Court Battles Over Redistricting.

The AP (8/19, Riccardi) reports as the "fight over redrawing political maps" gets underway "in state legislatures and nonpartisan commissions around the country," Republicans and Democrats "already are planning for major showdowns in the courts." Both parties have for months "been laying the groundwork for a complex, 50-state legal battle over the once-a-decade process of redistricting." They are "preparing for a changed legal climate – where federal courts are newly hostile to claims of unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering and state courts could create a patchwork of rulings. And it will all play out in a tightened timeframe, thanks to pandemic-related delays."

WPost Decries "Partisan Skirmishing" On Virginia Redistricting Commission. A Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) editorial says Virginia voters elected to establish a bipartisan redistricting commission "to embrace a fairer method of drafting the state's political maps" that would end "the brazen incumbent-protection racket that had prevailed for decades." But the commission "is engulfed in tribal partisan skirmishing, precisely the opposite of the compromise and consensus it was designed to encourage." the Post says the commission "was given a mission by Virginia voters to strengthen and improve democracy. It is a charge the commissioners should start taking more seriously."

Prosecutors, Trump Organization Argue Over Subpoenaed Documents In Secret Court Proceeding.

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Ramey, Ballhaus, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) cites people familiar with the matter who say Manhattan prosecutors and Trump Organization attorneys

appeared last week at a secret court proceeding with New York State Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan last week in a dispute over documents subpoenaed by the Manhattan district attorney.

Judge Signs Off On Boy Scouts Sex Abuse Settlement.

Reuters (8/19) reports US Bankruptcy Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein of Delaware, who is "overseeing the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy on Thursday approved the youth organization's request to sign off on an \$850 million settlement to resolve tens of thousands of sex abuse claims." Silverstein's ruling "will enable the Boy Scouts to move ahead with a proposed reorganization plan that would allow the group to exit bankruptcy by the end of the year."

Judge Blocks Biden Administration's Limits On Immigration Arrests, Deportations.

Reuters (8/19, Wiessner) reports a federal judge on Thursday "blocked President Joe Biden's administration from enforcing its guidance limiting who can be arrested and deported by US immigration agents, siding with two Republican-led states – Texas and Louisiana – that had challenged it." US District Judge Drew Tipton "ruled that the February guidance from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency violated a federal law requiring that the government 'shall detain' people who commit certain crimes or are otherwise deemed eligible for deportation." The guidelines issued in February "instruct agents to focus on immigrants deemed national security and public safety threats and those who entered the United States" after November 1, 2020. Under the guidelines, "agents must seek pre-approval from a senior manager if they want to arrest someone who does not fall into one of those categories." The judge's ruling has "blocked ICE from enforcing the guidance pending the outcome of the lawsuit."

OTHER AFGHANISTAN NEWS

WPost: President's Focus On Keeping US Fatalities Low During Withdrawal Triggered Other Problems.

The Washington Post (8/19, Jaffe, Lamothe, 10.52M) reports that "from the moment" the President decided to end the war in Afghanistan, "he made it clear to the Pentagon that his top priority was to keep U.S. fatalities to a minimum, a decision that necessitated a speedy withdrawal, said senior U.S. officials. On those terms, the mission has so far been a success." However, "the focus on the safety of U.S. service members made other war goals, such as the long-term survival of the Afghan forces and the evacuation of Afghan interpreters, lower priorities and helped precipitate some of the current problems the United States faces in Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times (8/19, Wilkinson, 3.37M) runs a lengthy analysis of how the Afghan government fell, briefly reviewing US missteps going back to the start of the conflict.

The Hill: Democrats Growing Concerned About Political Impact Of Withdrawal "Fiasco."

The Hill (8/19, Stange, 5.69M) reports in its "The Memo" feature that the President is "enduring the worst week of his presidency, unable to tame the chaos in Afghanistan and facing frustration even from his Democratic allies." Republicans, "predictably, think the episode could fundamentally reshape the political standing of a president who has enjoyed solid public approval thus far," but "even some Democrats express trepidation about how voters will judge the Afghanistan fiasco and whether it will have spillover effects in terms of the electorate's general view of Biden."

David Ignatius writes in the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M), "The Afghanistan disaster has rocked the Biden administration's foreign policy team, which may need months to regain its sense of balance and momentum." The situation is "confounding for a Biden national security team that has rarely known personal failure." Ignatius says, "Failure can shatter the trust and consensus of any team, and that's a danger now for the Biden White House." The "first cracks in fortress Biden" are visible as "liberal Democrats, especially activists for women's rights, are genuinely angry that Biden didn't do more to protect Afghan women and human rights. Those fissures will widen."

Kimberley A. Strassel writes in the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) that Democrats own the situation in Afghanistan and they are worried about the political impact.

Strassel questions whether Republicans will seize the opportunity Democrats have given them to reestablish their advocacy for strong US foreign policy in the wake of former President Donald Trump's populist stance.

USA Today: Afghan Failure May Have Repercussions In Domestic Policy Fights Ahead. In an editorial, USA Today (8/19, 12.7M) says that the President's "mismanagement" of the withdrawal has "left him politically damaged. And that's bad news for the nation." Noting the budget fights forthcoming, USA Today says that "after what has happened in Afghanistan, being a loyal 'Biden Democrat' may be tougher for moderates in the Senate and the House who must answer to constituents in swing districts and states."

WPost Analysis: Former Trump Officials Distance Themselves From His Deal With Taliban. The Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) reports in an analysis that the situation in Afghanistan has "played into long-standing GOP arguments that President Biden isn't up to the job. But as Republicans continue to prosecute that case," former Trump Administration officials are "seeking not just to bash Biden, but to distance themselves from the Trump administration's own actions on this front." The Post cites a number of examples and says "lots of people who served in high-ranking foreign policy roles in the Trump administration seem to recognize the rise of the Taliban isn't going to make" Trump's deal with the Taliban "look like a great idea. And it's striking to see so many of them, including those who didn't speak out at the time, trying to put the deal at arm's length today."

Max Boot writes in the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) that "a sense of decency and consistency has not prevented former president Donald Trump and his minions from adding their voices to the chorus of criticism" of the Biden Administration's "precipitous and ill-planned exit from Afghanistan," even though "they themselves designed this exit strategy and lauded it until the last moment. We are now being treated to the contemptible spectacle of people who sent the airplane into a nosedive complaining about the resulting crash." Boot says it is "maddening" that "the disingenuous Trump media strategy could work. The bungled exit from Afghanistan does serve to discredit Biden and seemingly confirms Trump's criticisms...that the president is weak and ineffectual. ... The irony that Biden could be punished for implementing Trump's strategy will be utterly lost on Trump supporters."

Historian Michael Kazin writes in an op-ed for the New York Times (8/19, 20.6M) that "the last time a war blew up in the face of a Democratic president, it derailed his domestic agenda and stalled the most ambitious social reforms of a generation." President Lyndon Johnson's "decision early in 1965 to send thousands of troops to combat the Vietcong soon halted the momentum of his Great Society agenda and put Democrats on the defensive." Kazin cites "two lessons from Johnson's downfall. ... First, tell the truth, even if it makes you look bad, temporarily." Biden "made a decent start at such truth-telling during his speech this week. But he should give a fuller explanation of why his administration failed to prepare for a Taliban victory." Kazin adds, "Second, keep the coalition that elected you united in its response to the crisis." If congressional Democrats "follow through on their vows to carry out extensive hearings into the collapse of the Afghan government, "they could spark an "intraparty battle."

Protests Break Out In Several Cities, Dispersed Violently By Taliban.

The New York Times (8/19, Santora, Blue, 20.6M) reports that "protesters took to the streets to rally against Taliban rule for the second day on Thursday, this time marching in Kabul, including near the presidential palace. At one demonstration in the city, about 200 people had gathered before the Taliban broke it up violently." The Times adds that the Taliban "announced a curfew in the southeastern city of Khost, also on Thursday, after protests there. ... And several people were killed in the eastern city of Asadabad when Taliban fighters fired on people waving the national flag at a rally there on Thursday, Afghanistan's annual Independence Day." The Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) reports the protests "raised the specter of wider popular opposition" to the Taliban.

The AP (8/19, Seir, Falez, Gannon, Gambrell) reports that "on Thursday, a procession of cars and people near Kabul's airport carried long black, red and green banners in honor of the Afghan flag – a banner that is becoming a symbol of defiance." The AP adds that "video from another protest in Nangarhar province showed a bleeding demonstrator with a gunshot wound. Onlookers

tried to carry him away." According to the AP, "The demonstrations...were a remarkable show of defiance after Taliban fighters violently dispersed a protest Wednesday." The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Shah, Amiri, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the Taliban faced new resistance on Thursday from the protesters, and responded by dispersing them with violence.

Reuters (8/19) says, "Some demonstrations were small, but combined with the desperate scramble of thousands of people seeking to flee the country they underline the challenge the Taliban face in governing." According to Reuters, the Taliban "urged unity ahead of Friday prayers, and called on all imams to persuade people not to leave the country."

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M), Masih Alinejad, an Iranian journalist, author and women's rights campaigner, casts doubt on Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid's efforts "to reassure the international community of the group's benign intentions." Alinejad argues that "it should be entirely clear what the Taliban has planned. During its previous stint in power, it stunned the world with the harshness of its regime. Floggings, public executions and repression of women were its hallmarks." The Taliban "has indeed changed: It has become more sophisticated at using Western media to advance its agenda."

NYTimes Analysis: With US Exit, Russia Now Dominant In Central Asia.

The New York Times (8/19, Kramer, Troianovski, 20.6M) reports that "as the Afghan government collapsed" this week, "hundreds of Russian armored vehicles and artillery pieces were clearly visible hundreds of miles away, on the border with Tajikistan. They were part of a high-profile military exercise taking place just 12 miles from a Taliban position, and they were there, a Russian general said, to make a point." According to the Times, "It will now be Russia, not the United States, the exercises signaled, that will be shielding Central Asia from potential violence next door." The Times adds, "In the long post-Soviet jostling for power and influence in Central Asia sometimes called the new Great Game, a dominant player has emerged from the chaos and confusion of Afghanistan: Russia, at least in security affairs."

The AP (8/19, Isachenkov) reports that "when the Taliban swept over Afghanistan, Russia was ready for the rapid developments after working methodically for years to lay the groundwork for relations with the group that it still officially considers a terrorist organization." The AP says Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov "emphasized this week that Moscow was 'in no rush' to recognize the Taliban as the new rulers of Afghanistan, but he added there were 'encouraging signals' of their readiness to let other political forces join the government and allow girls into schools." The AP also reports that "unlike many other countries, Russia said it wouldn't evacuate its embassy in Kabul, and its ambassador quickly met with the Taliban for what he described as 'constructive' talks after they took over the capital."

In Summit With Biden, Putin Opposed Role For US Forces In Central Asia. The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that during a June 16 summit with President Biden, Russian President Vladimir Putin opposed any role for US troops in Central Asia. The Journal says the exchange limited US options for placing counterterrorism forces in countries on Afghanistan's border.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), Seth G. Jones, senior vice president and director of the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former senior civilian in US Special Operations Command in Afghanistan, writes that the Biden Administration has failed to develop a strategy to target terrorists in Afghanistan. Such a strategy is needed, he argues to undermine terrorists' ability to hide in Afghanistan and threaten the US homeland.

In an editorial entitled, "So Much For Easy Counterterror Ops," the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says that, so far, the President has been shut out in his attempts to secure nearby bases from which to conduct over-the-horizon anti-terrorism operations in Afghanistan. Now, the Journal says, President Biden needs to find another counterterror plan.

Concerns Grow Over Vast Array Of Arms Seized By Taliban.

Reuters (8/19, Ali, Zengerle, Landay) reports on the massive haul of military gear seized by the Taliban in their conquest and says that "current and former U.S. officials say there is concern those

weapons could be used to kill civilians, be seized by other militant groups such as Islamic State to attack U.S.-interests in the region, or even potentially be handed over to adversaries including China and Russia." Reuters says that the Administration is "so concerned" that it is considering a number of options, including launching airstrikes against larger equipment such as helicopters.

More broadly, Politico (8/19, McLeary, Hudson, 6.73M) reports that it is "unclear to U.S. officials how much equipment the Taliban has seized and how much sits unattended on bases and small combat outposts across the country. That uncertainty over the status of a massive arsenal is sparking fears of a regional arms bazaar that could be a boon to terrorist groups and insurgents."

AP Poll: Almost Two Thirds Of Americans Don't Think Afghan War Was Worth Fighting.

The AP (8/19, Boak, Fingerhut) reports an AP-NORC poll of 1,729 adults taken August 12-16 shows about two-thirds of Americans do not believe the war in Afghanistan was worth fighting. The Poll also showed that 47% approved of President Biden's handling of international affairs, while 52% approved of his performance on national security. Axios (8/19, Saric, 1.26M) also reports on the survey.

Collapsing Afghan Economy Presents "Dilemma" For Administration.

The Washington Post (8/19, Stein, Hudson, 10.52M) reports the "dangerous economic climate" in Afghanistan "poses a major dilemma for the Biden administration as it tries to maintain leverage over the Taliban without exacerbating the severe economic conditions that threaten to immiserate millions of Afghan citizens." While Administration officials are "monitoring the situation closely and have said they will resume the flow of humanitarian aid," they "have not signaled how they plan to proceed." The US "is not expected to want to lift financial restrictions on the Afghan government until the White House sees how the Taliban governs, posing a further logistical hurdle."

Suit Accuses Major International Banks Of Helping Taliban Finance Operations.

Andrea Mitchell reported for NBC Nightly News (8/19, 6:49 p.m. EST, story 8, 2:30, Holt, 5.42M) reported on "new allegations about how the Taliban could have financed their bombing campaign in Afghanistan and paid off local Afghan leaders, paving the way for their lightning March on Kabul. According to a lawsuit filed by 500 victims, including gold star families and injured soldiers, accusing some of the world's largest banks of knowingly laundering more than \$100 million to the terrorists." Mitchell says the suit accuses "big banks, including Deutsche Bank and Standard Charter of violating US anti-terrorism laws, by helping the Taliban finance their operation. The banks refuse to comment."

Taliban Spokesman Welcomes Chinese Development Aid.

Reuters (8/19) reports Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen "said on Thursday China could contribute to the development of Afghanistan in the future, Chinese state media reported. Suhail Shaheen made the remark in an interview with China's state CGTN television, it said."

Meanwhile, in a separate piece, Reuters (8/19) reports that Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in a call on Thursday that the world should work to support Afghanistan. Wang, according to his ministry, said, "The international community should encourage and guide it in a positive direction instead of exerting more pressure."

G7 Leaders Call For Unified Response To Afghan Crisis.

Reuters (8/19) reports G7 foreign ministers "urged the international community on Thursday to unite in its response to the crisis in Afghanistan to prevent it from escalating, British foreign minister Dominic Raab said in a statement." Karen Pierce, UK ambassador to the US, "said Britain wanted to use a meeting of G7 leaders next week to work out 'how to preserve the gains we've made and how to stop it becoming a breeding ground for terror.'"

In an editorial entitled, "How Biden Broke NATO," the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says that the President's handling of the withdrawal from Afghanistan has left European leaders "apoplectic," and that he will never be trusted by our allies the same way again.

Facebook Looks To Protect Afghan Users.

Reuters (8/19) reports Facebook has "temporarily removed the ability for people to view or search the friends lists of accounts it has determined to be in Afghanistan, the company's head of security policy said in a tweet on Thursday as Afghans feared for their safety amid the Taliban takeover." The company "has also made a 'one-click tool' for users in Afghanistan to lock down their accounts, so that people they are not Facebook friends with are unable to see their timeline posts or share their profile photos," according to a Facebook official.

Member Of Afghan National Youth Soccer Team Died After Fall From US Plane.

The New York Times (8/19, Fassihi, 20.6M) reports Zaki Anwari, "a member of Afghanistan's national youth soccer team was among the people who were killed as they tried desperately to cling to a U.S. military plane evacuating people from Kabul, the country's official sports federation said Thursday." The group said in a statement on Facebook, "Anwari was one of hundreds of young people who wanted to leave the country and, in an incident, fell off an American military plane and died."

Rogin: Biden Went From "Idealist" Foreign Policy To "Realist" In Afghanistan.

Josh Rogin writes in the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) that President Biden told the world that the US would lead the struggle between democracies and autocracies. But "eight months into his presidency, the autocrats are the ones on the march. ... Afghanistan is just the latest example." Rogin says "millions of innocent people in Afghanistan are watching their freedoms and rights vanish before their eyes." In his speech Monday, "Biden said the U.S. intervention in Afghanistan wasn't actually part of the grand struggle between autocracies and democracies." Biden said, "It was never supposed to be creating a unified, centralized democracy." On Afghanistan, Rogin writes, "Biden goes from being an idealist to a realist." The Administration's upcoming "summit of democracies is meant to include both democracies that are strong and those that are struggling. Afghanistan won't be coming to the December event. But hopefully the list of democracies won't get any shorter before then."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UK Study: Pfizer, AstraZeneca Vaccines' Efficacy Wanes Substantially After 90 Days.

Reuters (8/18) reports that "a British public health study has found that protection from either of the two most commonly used COVID-19 vaccines against the now prevalent Delta variant of the coronavirus weakens within three months. ... Based on more than three million nose and throat swabs taken across Britain, the Oxford University study found that 90 days after a second shot of the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine, their efficacy in preventing infections had slipped to 75% and 61% respectively." Reuters says the study "also found that those who get infected after receiving two shots of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or the AstraZeneca vaccine may be of greater risk to others than under previous variants of the coronavirus."

Cuban Healthcare System Grapples With Pressures From COVID Surge.

The New York Times (8/19, Robles, 20.6M) reports that "Cuba's health care system, long a source of national pride, is in acute distress, particularly in distant provinces." The Times explains that despite "fending off the coronavirus last year, Cuba has been ravaged this summer by the highly contagious Delta variant, which has sent case rates soaring and swamped the country's medical system." According to figures from the Cuban Ministry of Health, over "8,600 new cases were reported on Tuesday, about six times as many as the number of new cases just two months ago." The Times adds that while "the pandemic has strained medical systems around the world, the calamity in Cuba is particularly significant because the government has for decades held its free health care system up as a signal accomplishment of the socialist revolution. But the growing crisis has revealed a frayed system that, while often producing medical breakthroughs, is also denounced as ill-equipped and underfunded."

Following Afghanistan's Fall, Prospects Dim For Updating AUMF.

Roll Call (8/19, Oswald, 130K) reports in the wake of "the abrupt collapse of the Afghanistan government and Taliban takeover there," prospects "are dwindling for lawmakers pushing to repeal and replace a measure used to legally justify a list of counterterrorism military operations since 9/11." Momentum "had been building on Capitol Hill around updating the authorization for the use of military force that provided the legal rationale for the U.S. military operation in Afghanistan." But "many Republicans continue to oppose the push to repeal the AUMF and replace it with one crafted around a more narrow scope." Their "argument that the terrorist threat has not receded sufficiently to merit doing away with the expansive AUMF appears strengthened since the Taliban's rapid takeover of Afghanistan."

As Death Toll From Haiti Earthquake Nears 2,200, Slow Pace Of Aid Sparks Anger.

CBS Evening News (8/19, 6:44 p.m. EST, story 7, 2:10, O'Donnell, 3.94M) reported that "tensions are growing in Haiti where more than 2,000 people were killed in a 7.2 earthquake followed by a tropical storm. The biggest challenge is getting food and medical care to survivors. And it is not happening fast enough." Axios (8/19, 1.26M) continues that "Saturday's earthquake in Haiti left the country 'on its knees,' Prime Minister Ariel Henry said Wednesday as the Civil Protection Agency raised the death toll to nearly 2,200." According to Axios, "Frustration and anger continue to grow across Haiti over the slow pace of aid reaching affected areas, AP reported. Tens of thousands were left homeless, 12,268 people were injured and over 300 are still missing, officials said."

The AP (8/19, Stevenson, Sanon) also reports that "tensions have been growing in Haiti over the slow pace of aid reaching victims." According to the AP, aid "has trickled in, but distributing food and getting urgent medical care to those in need is another matter amid the deep poverty, insecurity and lack of basic infrastructure that characterized Haiti before the back-to-back disasters." The AP adds that "a major hospital in the capital of Port-au-Prince, where injured from the earthquake zone in the southwestern peninsula were being sent, was closed Thursday for a two-day shutdown to protest the kidnapping of two doctors, including one of the country's few orthopedic surgeons."

The Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) reports that on Thursday, "relief for the victims of a powerful earthquake and tropical storm began flowing more quickly...but the Caribbean nation's entrenched poverty, insecurity and lack of basic infrastructure were still presenting huge challenges to getting food and urgent medical care to all those who need it." According to the Post, "The U.S. has deployed several heavy-lift helicopters and other aircraft to move relief supplies and personnel to the disaster zone and has dispatched the USS Arlington to provide additional transportation and medical capabilities. ... One of the U.S. helicopters landed Thursday in Les Cayes with equipment, medicine and volunteers, including some from the aid group Samaritan's Purse."

Olsen: Nova Scotia Results Could Bode Ill For Trudeau In Snap Elections.

Henry Olsen writes in the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) that while "most analysts believe" Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party "will gain seats, and perhaps get a majority, in the Sept. 20 snap election," the "surprise outcome" in Tuesday's Nova Scotia's provincial election "suggests it might not be so easy." Like Trudeau, Nova Scotia's incumbent Liberal government was seeking its third term. Both "started their campaigns with strong polling leads over their two main opponents, the Conservative Party – known as Progressive Conservatives in Nova Scotia – and the New Democrats. ... But Nova Scotia's Liberals lost." The Liberals "did well enough to win metropolitan Halifax and the smaller region of Sydney. But they got hammered in rural Nova Scotia and thereby lost their majority." The results "may not carry over nationally." But if they do, "Trudeau's Liberals could lose seats and even finish behind the Conservatives."

WPost Calls On US To Focus On Collapse Of Democracy In Nicaragua.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) reports that the government of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has shut down a major newspaper, while also revoking the licenses of a number of NGOs. The Post says it is "probably no coincidence that the regime raided La Prensa as the Biden administration had its hands full coping with the collapse of Afghanistan. ... As a deep night of political repression descends on what was once a promising democracy — home to 6.5 million people, hundreds of thousands of whom have family in the United States — perhaps the most important thing people in this country can do is pay attention."

Vice President's Trip To Asia Will Show US Commitment To Region.

Reuters (8/19, Bose, Brunnstrom) reports that "a senior administration official said" that Vice President Harris's upcoming "trip to Singapore and Vietnam...will show that the United States is in the region 'to stay'...as Washington seeks to bolster international support to counter China's growing global influence." Harris "will be the most senior U.S. official to visit the region since President Joe Biden took office in January." She will also "be the first U.S. vice president to visit Vietnam." Reuters continues that according to a senior White House official, the vice president is expected to focus on "defending international rules in the South China Sea, strengthening U.S. regional leadership and expanding security cooperation in the region." Reuters adds that Harris would also "continue to work on issues tied to Afghanistan while on her Asia trip."

Politico: Afghan Collapse Highlights Potential Danger To US Commitment To Taiwan.

Politico (8/19, Zhao, 6.73M) reports that the fall of Afghanistan "may not have immediate implications for the credibility of U.S. commitment to Taiwan," but shows that the US' "future commitment to defending Taiwan is inherently interconnected with Taiwan's own commitment to defending itself." If "Taiwan will not fight for its own independence, neither will Washington; similarly, if Washington shows hesitation, Taiwan's resolve may also break down. This reminds Beijing of some of the key vulnerabilities in the U.S.-Taiwan security relationship."

Zelensky Complains About NATO's Hesitancy To Approve Ukraine For Membership.

The Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) reports that in an interview on Wednesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is scheduled to meet with President Biden later this month, "expressed frustration with Western allies' hesitancy to greenlight Kyiv's ascension to NATO and took issue with Biden's comment that the country still has 'to clean up corruption' before it can be considered for membership to the military alliance." According to the Post, Zelensky "said the ambiguity over Ukraine's NATO admittance is 'a signal to other countries that you guys are not welcome here and Russia is just around the corner, increasing its clout.'"

European Leaders Concerned By IAEA Report On Iranian Uranium Enrichment.

Reuters (8/19) reports France, Germany and Britain "voiced grave concern on Thursday about a report that Iran had accelerated its enrichment of uranium to near weapons grade, saying this was a serious violation of its commitments." In a joint statement, the three nations "said they were worried about IAEA reports confirming that Iran has produced uranium metal enriched up to 20% fissile purity for the first time and lifted production capacity of uranium enriched to 60% Both are key steps in the development of a nuclear weapon, they said."

Hezbollah Leader Says Iranian Oil Headed To Lebanon In Defiance Of Sanctions.

The AP (8/19, Mroue) reports Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, "said Thursday that an Iranian fuel tanker will sail toward Lebanon 'within hours,' warning Israel and the United States not to intercept it." The delivery "would violate U.S. sanctions imposed on Tehran after former President Donald Trump pulled America out of a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers three years ago." Reuters (8/19, Bassam, Eltahir) reports Hezbollah's opponents in Lebanon "warned of dire consequences from the move, with Sunni politician Saad al-Hariri, a former prime minister, saying it risked sanctions being imposed on a country whose economy has been in meltdown for nearly two years."

Israelis Reportedly Launch Missiles At Targets In Syria.

Reuters (8/19) reports the Syrian military said on Thursday that Israel carried out a missile strike on Thursday, aiming for targets near Damascus and Homs. The Israeli military declined to comment, but Lebanese defense minister Zeina Akar "condemned the attack, saying that it 'blatantly violated Lebanon's airspace at low altitude, causing a state of panic among citizens.'"

UN, Qatar Reach Deal To Send Aid To Gazans.

The New York Times (8/19, Rasgon, 20.6M) reports that "millions in aid" will be sent to poor families "in the blockaded Gaza Strip under a deal reached by the United Nations and Qatar on Thursday, marking a significant advance in efforts to firm up a cease-fire between Israel and the militant group Hamas." However, the deal "does not address the broader issue of reconstructing Gaza, which suffered immense destruction in the 11-day war between Israel and Hamas in May, according to a diplomat briefed on the deal."

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Internal State Department Cable Warned Of Kabul Collapse](#)
[Taliban Combat Protests As Thousands Seek To Flee Afghanistan](#)
[Toyota To Cut Output As Chip Shortage Finally Catches Up To It](#)
[Amazon Plans To Open Large Retail Locations Akin To Department Stores](#)
[Is Your Oven Stuck On 350 Degrees? It's Not Broken, It's In Sabbath Mode.](#)
[The CEO Wants His Staff Vaccinated. He Also Worries They Will Quit.](#)

New York Times:

[Taliban Quash Protests And Seize Enemies, Tightening Grip On Afghanistan](#)
[How News Organizations Got Afghan Colleagues Out Of Kabul](#)
[Hunted By The Taliban, US-Allied Afghan Forces Are In Hiding](#)
[As Chinese Vaccines Stumble, US Finds New Opening In Asia](#)
[Chuck Close, Artist Of Outsized Reality, Dies At 81](#)
[The School Culture Wars: 'You Have Brought Division To Us'](#)

Washington Post:

[Chaos At Airport Plagues Evacuation Effort](#)
[Bomb Standoff Puts Hill At A Halt](#)
[I'm Begging You. Take That Shot.'](#)
[FTC Says Facebook Has No Real Rivals In New Filing](#)
[Biden's Quandary: How To Starve The Taliban But Spare The Populace](#)
[Orders For Rapid US Military Exit Put Pressure On Afghan Forces](#)

Financial Times:

[Deaths Reported As Taliban Faces Growing Dissent In Afghan Cities](#)
[US Renews 'Buy Or Bury' Charges Against Facebook](#)
[Irish Farmers Fear For Livelihoods As EU Overhauls Agricultural Subsidies](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Taliban Takeover Of Afghanistan; Afghanistan Evacuations; Capitol Bomb Threat; US COVID Surge; US Severe Weather; Rescue On The New York Subway; American Airlines Alcohol Ban.

CBS: Taliban Takeover Of Afghanistan; Afghanistan Evacuations; Capitol Bomb Threat; North Carolina Floods; US Severe Weather; US COVID Surge; Haiti Relief Effort; Final Salute To Fallen Chicago Police Officer; Train Accident Near Indianapolis; FAA Fining passengers; Britney Spears Under Investigation; Child Prodigy.

NBC: Capitol Bomb Threat; Taliban Takeover Of Afghanistan; Interview With Jake Sullivan; COVID Booster Shots; US COVID Surge; US Severe Weather; Afghanistan Situation On The Ground; Afghanistan Taliban Finances; Unruly Airline Passengers; NHL Player Announces He's Gay.

Network TV At A Glance:

Taliban Takeover Of Afghanistan – 11 minutes, 40 seconds
US COVID Surge – 8 minutes, 40 seconds
Capitol Bomb Threat – 7 minutes
Afghanistan Evacuations – 4 minutes, 45 seconds
Afghanistan Taliban Finances – 2 minutes, 30 seconds
Haiti Relief Effort – 2 minutes, 10 seconds

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

President Biden — receives the President's Daily Brief, meets with their national security team to hear intelligence, security, and diplomatic updates on the evolving situation in Afghanistan, delivers remarks on the evacuation of American citizens and their families, SIV applicants and their families, and vulnerable Afghans

Vice President Harris — meets with their national security team to hear intelligence, security, and diplomatic updates on the evolving situation in Afghanistan, delivers remarks on the evacuation of American citizens and their families, SIV applicants and their families, and vulnerable Afghans.

US Senate: The Senate is on recess from August 10 to September 13.

US House: The House Of Representatives is on recess from July 30 to August 23.

Cabinet Officers:

- [Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona participates in Cabinet Affairs Meeting; 1:00 PM](#)

General Events:

- [OAS Permanent Council extraordinary session on Haiti](#) – Organization of American States Permanent Council extraordinary virtual session to 'get updated about the humanitarian crisis in Haiti'. Speakers include Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry, Colombian Vice President and Foreign Affairs Minister Marta Lucia Ramirez, Ecuadorean Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility Minister Mauricio Montalvo, Panamanian Foreign Affairs Minister Erika Mouynes, CAF – Development Bank of Latin America Executive President-elect Sergio Diaz Granados, Inter-American Development Bank Vice President for Countries Richard Martinez, and OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro

Location: Virtual Event; 11:00 AM

- [Middle East Policy Council discussion with former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan](#) – Middle East Policy Council hosts former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ronald Neumann, who discusses what to expect from Taliban rule; 12:00 PM

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From: [redacted] OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [redacted]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 20, 2021 10:21 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

It got canceled early this AM.

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:41 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

Can you provide any details on this?

I was not aware.

Perhaps it was a red side communication.

Thanks.

Stephen

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 20, 2021 10:31 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -5
b7C -5
b5 -2

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [redacted]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b5 -2

LOL. It's BWCs all day, every day now.

Darrin and EAD Turner are meeting with the DD at noon. I think they are the only ones.

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:38 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Thanks.

I'm on a conference call now on BWCs with DoJ.

Can I call in 30 min?

Is Jones going to speak to the DD today, or is that off?

Stephen

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[redacted]

b7E -3

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:27 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hi! What is the best number at which to reach you and I can fill you in on the call.

[redacted]

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:44 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Just an update.

I'm hearing that a broader DD meeting has been cancelled, and now it's just going to be Jones and the DD.

I just want to make sure Jason is briefed up if he gets pulled in.

Just give me a call after you speak to Jones.

Thanks.

Stephen

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:41:03 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Can you provide any details on this?

I was not aware.

Perhaps it was a red side communication.

Thanks.

Stephen

From: Jones, Jason Allen (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] (OGC) (FBI)
Cc: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 20, 2021 12:16 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b5 -2

Thanks [REDACTED] sorry for the late reply. I will catch up with Stephen on Monday.

Have a great weekend
Jason

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:19 AM
To: Jones, Jason Allen (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -30

Hi Jason,

Just wanted to let you know that it appears that the 3:30 group meeting with the DD has been canceled. It appears there is now just a small meeting with EAD Turner, EAD Jones, and the DD at noon. EAD Jones asked to see me this morning [REDACTED]

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -30

[REDACTED] am happy to fill you in, in more detail, as to what EAD Jones and I discussed if you like. I have also briefed Stephen on it.

Best Regards,
Catherine

From: [REDACTED] (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 6:59 PM
To: Jones, Jason Allen (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hi Jason,

Hope you are doing well and enjoying the summer. I saw that we are both the on the body worn camera meeting with the DD for tomorrow. [REDACTED]

b5 -2

[REDACTED] I believe the DD meeting is at 3:30 so I am happy to make myself available at your convenience prior to that time.

Best Regards,



b6 -1
b7C -1

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 20, 2021 12:36 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Thanks [REDACTED]

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Jones, Jason Allen (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hi Jason,

Just wanted to let you know that it appears that the 3:30 group meeting with the DD has been canceled. It appears there is now just a small meeting with EAD Turner, EAD Jones, and the DD at noon. EAD Jones asked to see me this morning [REDACTED]

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -30

[REDACTED] I am happy to fill you in, in more detail, as to what EAD Jones and I discussed if you like. I have also briefed Stephen on it.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 6:59 PM
To: Jones, Jason Allen (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Hi Jason,

Hope you are doing well and enjoying the summer. I saw that we are both the on the body worn camera meeting with the DD for tomorrow. [REDACTED]

b5 -2

[REDACTED] I believe the DD meeting is at 3:30 so I am happy to make myself available at your convenience prior to that time.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1

From: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Cc: McNally, Richard (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 20, 2021 4:53 PM (UTC-04:00)

b5 -2

Thanks, Stephen.

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 2:01:02 PM
To: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: McNally, Richard (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

b7E -3

b5 -2

Erin -



b5 -1,2

b6 -1

b7C -1

b7E -30

Let me know if you have questions.

Stephen

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation



From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs - Director's AM News Briefing Monday, August 23, 2021
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 23, 2021 5:00 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: FBI Dir Briefing 210823.doc

b7E -3

This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR’S AM NEWS BRIEFING

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021 5:00 AM EDT

Biden: US Considering Extending Withdrawal Deadline, Pledges Full Evacuation. The Washington Post (8/22, Suliman, Westfall, Vargas, 10.52M) reports President Biden “said Sunday that he is having ‘discussions’ about extending the deadline for the U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, which had been scheduled for Aug. 31.” The President “said U.S.-led forces have expanded the perimeter of and ‘increased access’” to Kabul’s airport. He added the Taliban has been “cooperative in extending the perimeter.” The AP (8/22, Burns, Superville) reports the President “asserted, without a full explanation, that U.S. forces have managed to improve access to the airport for Americans and others seeking to get on flights. He suggested that the perimeter had been extended, widening a ‘safe zone.’” However, an Administration official told CNN (8/22, Stracqualursi, Klein, Carvajal, 89.21M) “later Sunday that the US military operations at the airport in Kabul have not changed or expanded.”

Politico (8/22, Hooper, 6.73M) reports the President “declined to go into further detail about what his administration has done to expand the evacuation operations outside of the Kabul airport,” saying, “What I’m not going to do is talk about the tactical changes we’re making to make sure we maintain as much security as we can.” Reuters (8/22) reports Biden “said he had directed the State Department to contact Americans stranded in Afghanistan by phone, email and other means, and the United States had a plan to move them to the airport.”

The New York Times (8/22, Shear, 20.6M) reports the President also “pledged that all evacuated Afghan allies will be given a home in the United States after they are screened and vetted at bases in other countries.” Biden said, “We will welcome these Afghans who have helped us in the war effort over the last 20 years to their new home in the United States of America. Because that’s who we are. That’s what America is.” The Hill (8/22, Chalfant, 5.69M) reports the President also “emphasized” in his address that refugees from Afghanistan “will be thoroughly vetted before they are brought to the United States.” The President said, “Planes taking off from Kabul are not flying directly to the United States. They’re landing at U.S. military bases and transit centers around the world. At these sites where they are landing, we are conducting thorough ... security screening for everyone who is not a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident. Anyone arriving in the United States will have undergone a background check.”

ABC World News Tonight (8/22, 6:43 p.m. EST, story 5, 2:00, Davis, 4.05M) reported the President “is facing an avalanche of criticism for his handling of the crisis, still the President insists history will judge his decision was the right one.” ABC (Parks) added, “Late today coming before the cameras insisting the chaos the world is watching was unavoidable.” President Biden: “I think that history is going to record this was the logical, rational and right decision to make.” ABC World News Tonight (8/22, 6:39 p.m. EST, story 4, 4:30, Davis, 4.05M) reported, “President Biden telling Americans a lot could still go wrong. The US extending the safe zone around the Kabul airport and there are now discussions about if American troops will be there beyond the August 31st deadline.” ABC (Pannell) added, “Tonight, the race to evacuate Kabul growing more urgent by the day. Roughly 7,800 people flown out in the last 24 hours, the highest number so far.” The President was shown saying, “We have a long way to go, and a lot could still go wrong.”

NBC Nightly News (8/22, 6:38 p.m. EST, story 4, 2:30, Snow, 6.2M) reported, “President Biden says 28,000 people have been evacuated in just over a week, but pressure is mounting on the President and the Administration to rescue Americans and allies still on the ground.” NBC (Alba) added, “There are still at least several thousand Americans stranded in Afghanistan. The White House not ruling out sending additional forces to help, with the President seeking daily input from his military commanders on the possibility of more troops.”

The CBS Weekend News (8/22, 6:06 p.m. EST, story 4, 2:40, Duncan, 1.69M) reported a new CBS poll “finds most Americans approve of removing US troops. But most also believe the handling of the withdrawal has gone either very or somewhat badly, President Biden approval rating has fallen from 62% in March to 50% right now.” CBS (Alfarone) reported the President “was asked about it point blank. And he seemed unfazed, saying that this chaos would happen no matter when the US withdrew. And then he defended his decision. The President said history will prove him right.” The President was shown saying, “When this is over, the American people have a clear understanding of what I did, why we did it.”

The Hill (8/22, Samuels, 5.69M) reports Biden “sought to underscore how the U.S. evacuation effort was ramping up in the face of bipartisan and international criticism about a withdrawal effort that has been marred by reports of Afghan allies fearful of retribution under Taliban rule.”

In general, the coverage continued to portray the situation at the airport as unstable. For example, the CBS Weekend News (8/22, 6:09 p.m. EST, story 5, 1:40, Duncan, 1.69M) reported, “As the US scrambles to control the mayhem at the Kabul

airport, the situation is growing increasingly dire for thousands of Afghans trying to flee the Taliban." CBS (Saber) added, "CBS News has learned from a State Department source that the US mission says that the situation at the airport remains volatile but the gates where US troops were stationed were less violent today. Just outside some witnesses say the Taliban are now making people form lines but that there is still a mix of order and chaos."

Reuters (8/22) reports the UK's defence ministry "said seven Afghans were killed in the crush around the airport on Saturday as thousands tried to get a flight out. Sky News showed soldiers on a wall on Saturday attempting to pull the injured from the crush and spraying people with a hose to prevent them from getting dehydrated." The AP (8/22, Seir, Akhgar, Gambrell) reports the British military on Sunday "acknowledged at least seven deaths at the airport. Others may have been trampled, suffocated or suffered heart attacks as Taliban fighters fired into the air to try to drive back the crowds." Bloomberg (8/22, 3.57M) also reports on the latest on the evacuation.

Top Administration Officials Defend Evacuation On Morning Shows. Key Administration officials had earlier in the day appeared on the morning shows to highlight the increased pace of the evacuation efforts. Politico (8/22, Hooper, 6.73M) reports National Security Adviser Sullivan said on Sunday that the Administration is "not going to rest" until all civilians are evacuated from Afghanistan. Politico adds, "Asked on CNN's State Of The Union (8/22, 644K) whether the Administration could guarantee continuing evacuations safely past Aug. 31, Sullivan said: 'What we are doing, every single minute of every single hour of every single day is working to ... create safe passage for all civilians, including the Afghans who work for us, to the airport, to get them on planes and get them out.'" On NBC's Meet The Press (8/22, 2.84M), Sullivan highlighted the numbers that have been evacuated, saying, "Just yesterday, we facilitated the flight out of 7,800 people, 3,900 on US military aircraft, 3,900 on charter aircraft from private organizations and other countries. Since the beginning of this evacuation, it's been 30,000 people total. Since August 14th, it's been 25,000." However, on CNN's State Of The Union (8/22, 644K), Sullivan could not provide an exact number of the Americans awaiting evacuation, saying, "We believe it is several thousand Americans who we are working with now to try to get safely out of the country."

Secretary of State Blinken, on Fox News Sunday (8/22, 893K), said, "It's an incredibly volatile situation, it's an incredibly fluid situation. ... The more we move people out of the airport, the more we alleviate what has been overcrowding in the airport, the more we can get people inside the airport and reduce some of the crowding at the gates. Second, and most important, we are in direct contact with Americans and others to help guide them to the airport, to the right place, at the right time, to get in more safely and effectively."

On CBS' Face The Nation (8/22, 2.58M), Blinken highlighted the challenges and successes of the evacuation effort, saying, "Go back a week. The government fell. ... The military collapsed. In the space of that week, our military went in, secured the airport, got our embassy to safety at the airport from the embassy compound, began this remarkable evacuation effort. And as I said, we had about 8,000 people out just in the last 24 hours. Since going back to the end of July it's 30,000 people. And that's quite extraordinary. It doesn't just happen. A tremendous amount of planning and effort went into that, including a lot of pre-planning."

In a prerecorded interview on ABC's This Week (8/22, 2.35M), Defense Secretary Austin said, "We're going to try our very best to get everybody, every American citizen, who wants to get out, out. We continue to look at creative ways to reach out and contact American citizens and help them get into the airfield." Regarding reports that the Taliban are hindering the evacuation, Austin said, "There have been incidents of people having some tough encounters with Taliban. As we learn about those incidents, we engage the Taliban leadership and press home to them that our expectation is they allow our people with the appropriate credentials to get through the check points."

Pentagon Activates CRAF To Aid Evacuation. The Wall Street Journal (8/22, Lubold, Youssef, Sider, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that six airlines are readying 18 planes to help move evacuated Afghans, following a Pentagon order Sunday morning to activate elements of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet. The aircraft won't fly into Kabul, but will ferry evacuees to the US from other bases. Reuters (8/22, Ali, Heavey) says that move "highlights the difficulty Washington is having carrying out the evacuations following the Taliban's swift takeover." The President said on Sunday afternoon, "It's a program that was designed in the wake of the Berlin airlift after World War Two to use commercial aircraft to augment our airlift capacity," adding that the program is voluntary.

Baby Girl Born To Afghan Mother On USAF C-17. The Washington Post (8/22, Sulamin, 10.52M) reports an Afghan Woman gave birth to a daughter in the cargo bay of a USAF C-17 "shortly after landing at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Saturday." Air Mobility Command said, "The mother went into labor and began having complications. The aircraft commander decided to descend in altitude to increase air pressure in the aircraft, which helped stabilize and save the mother's life." The mother and baby are "in good condition."

Mullen Says US Should Have Left Afghanistan Sooner After Killing Bin Laden. The Hill (8/22, Oshin, 5.69M) reports in an appearance on ABC's This Week Sunday, former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Ret. Admiral Michael

Mullen “said...that the U.S. should have left the Afghanistan more quickly after the killing of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in 2011.” Mullen, “who served under former President Obama, also gave credit to President Biden for his focus on counterterrorism in Afghanistan.” He said that “in retrospect, yes, we should have. I don’t think it was possible for us to just abruptly walk away right after we killed bin Laden. But, clearly, we could have gone earlier than we did.” Mullen also said, “As I look back and – and a lot of people are critical of the president right now, President Biden had it right back then. He was focused singly on counterterrorism. His advice was along those lines. And he certainly said that. And I give him credit for that.”

Some Commentators Defend Decision To Withdraw, If Not Handling Of It. A number of columnists and commentators took a nuanced view of the situation in Afghanistan. For example, E.J. Dionne writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/22, 10.52M) that Biden’s decision to withdraw from Afghanistan “is a cold, realpolitik judgment.” American interests “would not be served by extending our military commitment any longer.” Biden, Dionne writes, “carries the burden of showing in the coming months through his policy choices that his decision will – as he insists – make our country stronger, not weaker, and the world safer. It will not be easy. It would not have been easier five, 10 or 20 years from now.”

Jonathan Capehart writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/22, 10.52M) that although the Biden Administration “is right to be slammed for the missteps, bungling and bureaucracy adding to the chaos at Kabul’s airport,” President Biden “made the right decision to withdraw.” Capehart argues, “After 20 years, more than \$2 trillion and the deaths of 2,448 U.S. service members and thousands of Afghan civilians, the president wisely decided ‘no more.’”

In an analysis for [CNN](#) (8/22, 89.21M), John Harwood writes, “In ending America’s longest war, President Joe Biden did something popular. It was never going to help him politically. That was true before damaging images of chaos and desperation filled American television screens last week. The reason is that public opinion about the Afghanistan conflict, as with most overseas events and issues, remains ill-defined and loosely held.”

James Downie writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/22, 10.52M) that Republicans “are encouraging the canard that the Afghanistan withdrawal undermines U.S. strength elsewhere.” Downie cites comments from several Republicans on the Sunday talk shows and writes that while the comments “were mostly asides, but they signal how Republicans – and other interventionist voices – will approach foreign policy debates after Afghanistan: President Biden was weak, therefore the United States needs to show it can’t be pushed around elsewhere.” Downie argues that “American leaders need to recognize the limits of aggressive, interventionist foreign policy – not just because the American people don’t support it, but because decades of poorly conceived and executed overseas adventures show us that these quests rarely succeed. Cooperation, not confrontation, must be the default solution.”

Doyle McManus writes in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/22, 3.37M) that “politicians and pundits have declared the Taliban’s victory in Afghanistan a defeat from which U.S. influence may never recover. ... But take a deep breath and remember some history.” After South Vietnam fell, “many drew the same conclusion: The age of U.S. global power was over. Less than 15 years later, the Berlin Wall came down, the Cold War began to end, and the United States soon stood as the world’s only superpower.” McManus says the lesson is that “a debacle like the defeat in Kabul – or the one in Saigon two generations earlier – doesn’t always prevent a powerful country from marshaling its resources and succeeding.”

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/22, 10.52M) says the Biden Administration “will soon have to confront two challenges – completing a massive airlift perhaps unmatched in history, and the inevitable instances in which Afghans with a claim for refugee status do not make it out (and, worse, are beaten or killed). If Biden can minimize the latter, keep his allies on board and construct a joint counterterrorism strategy that protects us without boots on the ground, he will emerge stronger. That is a big ‘if.’”

In contrast, a number of pieces run by the [Wall Street Journal](#) were more critical. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), Tevi Troy, a senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and a former senior White House aide, argues that part of the problem with President Biden’s decision-making on Afghanistan is that he did not hear dissenting opinions from his aides. While some military and intelligence advisers appear to have argued against withdrawal, top political aides including Secretary of State Blinken and National Security Adviser Sullivan were hesitant to make that case.

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), foreign-policy columnist Benny Anvi says when President Biden decided the US would leave Afghanistan, getting Americans and Afghans who aided the US out of danger should have been the priority before US troops were ordered out of the country.

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), Hy Rothstein, who recently retired from the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School’s special-operations program, argues that President Biden’s action in Afghanistan has undermined allies’ trust in the US and given America’s enemies cause not to fear it

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says that the withdrawal from Afghanistan continues to be “ugly” and “chaotic,” but the “worst humiliation” is the President’s “deference” to the Taliban on how US citizens and allies will get to the airport.

Blinken Seeks To Clarify President's Assertion That Al Qaeda Is "Gone" From Afghanistan.

Politico (8/22, Choi, 6.73M) reports Secretary of State Blinken, speaking on Fox News Sunday, "tried to tamp down unease over al Qaeda's continued presence in Afghanistan, saying their capacity has been considerably diminished since the U.S. invaded the country in 2001." After Biden claimed on Friday that al Qaeda said the group was "gone" from Afghanistan, Blinken "asserted that the U.S. had effectively downgraded al Qaeda's capacity in the country, adding that Biden was referring to its ability to conduct another terrorist attack on the scale of the ones on Sept. 11, 2001." The Hill (8/22, Choi, 5.69M) reports Blinken said, "Al Qaeda's capacity to do what it did on 9/11, to attack us, to attack our partners our allies from Afghanistan, is vastly, vastly diminished. Are there al Qaeda members and remnants in Afghanistan? Yes, but what the president was referring to was its capacity to do what it did on 9/11, and that capacity has been successfully diminished."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) takes issue with Blinken's attempt to clarify the President's statement, arguing that the issue is not whether al Qaeda was diminished while the US had a significant presence in the country, but if they will now have a safe haven in which to build their strength and plot against the US.

Meanwhile, the New York Times (8/22, Schmitt, 20.6M) reports NSA Sullivan "warned" on Sunday that the "threat of a terrorist attack by the Islamic State posed a serious danger" to the evacuation effort. On CNN's State of the Union, Sullivan said, "The threat is real. It is acute. It is persistent. And it is something that we are focused on with every tool in our arsenal." His remarks were "the most urgent so far" about the "steadily increasing threats." Bloomberg (8/22, Czuczka, 3.57M) quotes Sullivan as saying, "We are working hard with our intelligence community to try to isolate and determine where an attack might come from."

The Wall Street Journal (8/22, Restuccia, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that President Biden also warned during his appearance on Sunday, "We know that terrorists may seek to exploit the situation and target innocent Afghans or American troops. We're maintaining constant vigilance to monitor and disrupt threats from any source."

Republicans Hammer President Over Handling Of Evacuation.

In an analysis for USA Today (8/22, 12.7M), Joey Garrison writes Republicans "quickly seized on the chaos, previewing a possible line of attack before the 2022 midterm elections to go along with other go-to themes: a national rise in crime and the increase in migrants on the southern border. Michael McAdams, communication director of the National Republican Congressional Committee, called the Afghanistan situation 'the latest in a long line of crises' under Democratic leadership." On the other side of the aisle, The Hill (8/22, Chalfant, Parnes, 5.69M) reports the President is "grappling" with both the Afghan situation and the pandemic, and "the double crisis has caused some heartburn for Democrats, who have until now, felt as though Biden's presidency has been a resounding success."

Along those lines, a parade of Republicans, including some who were sharp critics of Donald Trump, went on the morning shows on Sunday and hammered the President's handling of the situation, and stressed the idea of that the US must do whatever is possible to ensure the evacuation is successful.

House Minority Leader McCarthy, on Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures (8/22, 1.19M), said, "Remember what [President Biden] said on Friday, that Americans will not have difficulty getting to the airport. They are. That al-Qaeda is no longer in Afghanistan, they are. The foreign leaders are not criticizing America, they are. ... Why can the French and British go out and get citizens and not America? The only thing that is holding us back is the will to do it and the authority from this President. ... This is an atrocity that will harm this nation for years to come, empower our adversaries and make our allies continue to question."

The Hill (8/22, Choi, 5.69M) reports in an appearance on CBS' Face The Nation, former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley "blasted the Biden administration for its execution in withdrawing troops from Afghanistan." Asked "if she agreed with the Biden administration's assertion that it is not negotiating with the Taliban as it continues to evacuate American citizens and allies," Haley said, "They're not negotiating with the Taliban. They've completely surrendered to the Taliban. They surrendered Bagram Air Force Base, which was a major NATO hub. They surrendered \$85 billion worth of equipment and weapons that we should have gotten out of there. They have surrendered the American people and actually withdrew our troops before they withdrew the American people. And they've abandoned our Afghan allies who kept people like my husband safe." Haley "also acknowledged that the Biden administration must" do "whatever it takes to get our Americans out."

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (8/22, 10.52M), Haley similarly says Biden "badly bungled the withdrawal from Afghanistan," but he "must not also bungle the coming decision on whether to recognize" the Taliban "as Afghanistan's legitimate government. Doing so would bring the United States even lower while raising up a regime that deserves nothing but scorn and isolation." Haley says with his "rushed withdrawal, Biden has already insulted the soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen who spent the past two decades fighting the Taliban and protecting the United States. ... There are no words to describe how much worse it would be if Biden rewarded the enemy they sacrificed so much to defeat by recognizing it as a legitimate government."

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE), on [Fox News Sunday](#) (8/22, 893K), said, "The President needs to step up and be the commander-in-chief. Number one, we need enough troops to be sure we can evacuate all our people. Number two, we need to damn these deadlines. August 31 was a stupid, arbitrary politically driven deadline, the Taliban doesn't dictate the timetable on American lives."

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA), on [ABC's This Week](#) (8/22, 2.35M), said, "We should be doing everything possible to get Americans safely to the airport for evacuation. We are the strongest military on the face of this planet. We should be exercising those authorities to make sure we're flexing our military muscle, especially when it comes to evacuating Americans. ... We have to have the right number of troops to execute that mission. Of course, we can do that and I know that Secretary Austin, the President, they keep referring back to the Taliban and agreements negotiated with the Taliban. The Taliban needs to understand quite clearly that we have the right to get our American citizens out of Afghanistan. If that means we need to escort them to the airport to get them out, we will do so."

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#) (8/22, 1.09M), said the situation is "tragic, heartbreaking, it's sad but it's also infuriating because it was not just predictable, it was predicted that Joe Biden's ill-conceived, ill-planned decision to rush troops out in the middle of the fighting season could lead to this kind of chaos that we see now where we have anywhere from 10-15,000 Americans stranded behind Taliban lines, unable to get to the airport, directly contradicting what Joe Biden said Friday."

Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), on [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (8/22, 2.84M), said, "We have to ensure that we get every American out. And we have to ensure that we get out the Afghans that helped us. That's our duty. That's our responsibility. As you pointed out, what you're watching unfold on the ground is a complete catastrophe. To hear the national security adviser say it's complexity, a little turbulence or that this is a civil war, is fundamentally at odds with reality. Our mission in Afghanistan was to deny terrorists a sanctuary. The Biden decision now to completely withdraw has handed them an entire country, has, in fact, ensured, not just the Taliban, but Al Qaeda, ISIS, the Haqqani network, terrorist organizations that want to attack the United States now have an entire country as a sanctuary from which to do so."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (8/22, 644K), said, "We kind of have this failure of confidence right now in this country. ... But even the people that are totally against Afghanistan say we're really good at fighting, we're just not good at building back. Okay. Assuming that, why are we sitting in the Kabul airport right now with such a lack of confidence that we're begging the Taliban to allow us to save our own citizens, that we're scared to death to talk about if anybody has gone outside of the wire, because the United States military is truly capable of anything. ... We're sitting around, licking our wounds in the airport. And even President Biden at one point said, we just can't guarantee the outcome. The United States military can."

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R), on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (8/22, 1.9M), said, "First of all, I think it's an unmitigated disaster about the way we've handled the exit from Afghanistan, number one. Number two, I was the first governor in America to say we wanted to reach out and take more of these special immigrant visas for the folks that have been our allies that we've made a commitment to. We've got to stand by them. We've got to get our Americans out, and we've got to get those allies out of there as well. And we're going to do everything we can to help do that. We have a discussion with the State Department tomorrow. We've already received some over the past week or two into our state and we're going to try to get as many as we can."

Taliban Working with Karzai To Form Government. The [New York Times](#) (8/22, Cohen, 20.6M) reports the Taliban has "reached out" to Hamid Karzai and to Russia "in an attempt to fulfill their pledge to form an 'inclusive' government and defeat holdouts against their rule." Karzai "has stepped into the void left by the flight a week ago of President Ashraf Ghani. He has met with Taliban leaders, including Khalil Haqqani, who has been designated as a terrorist by the United States, and is working closely with Abdullah Abdullah, the head of the former Afghan's government's peace delegation." Mullah Abdul Rahman Mansour "talked over the weekend with Mr. Karzai and Mr. Abdullah. A growing number of senior Taliban have been seen in Kabul in recent days to discuss the shape of the next government, among them Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's chief diplomat and a senior official in the group's government in the 1990s."

Afghan Resistance Looking To Negotiate With Taliban For Role In Government. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Trofimov, Shah, Amiri, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the Taliban has fought several battles with resistance forces in north Afghanistan, particularly in Panjshir, where a number of Afghan government forces that have refused to surrender have retreated. However, the Journal says that most of the anti-Taliban resistance leaders are more focused on ensuring a role in the new government than in starting a civil war. [Reuters](#) (8/22, Mackenzie) reports that Ahmad Shah Massoud, leader of the forces in the Panjshir valley, "said on Sunday he hoped to hold peaceful talks with the Islamist movement that seized power in Kabul a week ago but that his forces were ready to fight." He told Reuters, "We want to make the Taliban realise that the only way forward is through negotiation," adding, "We do not want a war to break out."

FBI Finds Little Evidence Jan. 6 Capitol Attack Was Coordinated.

Reuters

(8/20) reports that

“the FBI has found scant evidence that the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was the result of an organized plot to overturn the presidential election result, according to four current and former law enforcement officials.” Reuters says “though federal officials have arrested more than 570 alleged participants, the FBI at this point believes the violence was not centrally coordinated by far-right groups or prominent supporters of then-President Donald Trump, according to the sources, who have been either directly involved in or briefed regularly on the wide-ranging investigations.” A former senior law enforcement official with knowledge of the investigation said, “Ninety to ninety-five percent of these are one-off cases. Then you have five percent, maybe, of these militia groups that were more closely organized. But there was no grand scheme with Roger Stone and Alex Jones and all of these people to storm the Capitol and take hostages.”

The Hill

(8/20, Vakil, 5.69M) reported that “a Democratic congressional source confirmed to Reuters that senior lawmakers are aware of the FBI’s current findings and believe the results so far are reliable.”

Jonathan Turley, professor at George Washington University, writes at The Hill (8/21, 5.69M) that “a new report from Reuters disclosed that the FBI has apparently struggled to support the account of a coordinated ‘insurrection’ on Jan. 6.” He says the FBI “found a protest that became a runaway riot as insufficient security preparations quickly collapsed.”

Also reporting are Insider (8/20, Metzger, 2.74M), National Review (8/20, 798K), the New York Post (8/20, 7.45M), Salon (8/20, 126K), the Washington Examiner (8/20, Dunleavy, 888K), the Independent (UK) (8/20, Hurley, 1.19M).

DHS Memo Describes Advanced Preparations By Capitol Attackers. The Daily Beast (8/20, 933K) reported that “an internal Department of Homeland Security document reviewed by The Daily Beast describes ‘advanced preparations’ by Capitol rioters ahead of the Jan. 6 attack – and appears to go further than recent descriptions of the FBI’s characterization of the Capitol riot.” The April 8 DHS memo says, “The tactics used by domestic violent extremists (DVEs) to assault law enforcement and security personnel and ultimately breach the US Capitol suggests that some of the participants engaged in pre-operational coordination and planning activities.” The DHS document, “which was shared internally by FBI agents in April, according to emails reviewed by The Daily Beast, does not allege a specific plot to unseat the government.”

InfoWars Host Charged In Connection With Capitol Insurrection.

Reuters

(8/20) reported that

“U.S. prosecutors have charged a Texas man who hosts a talk show tied to the conspiracy-theory website InfoWars with unlawfully breaching the U.S. Capitol grounds during the Jan. 6 riot by supporters of then-President Donald Trump.” Reuters said “Owen Shroyer unlawfully entered a restricted area at the west side of the Capitol during the deadly rampage that interrupted the formal congressional certification of President Joe Biden’s 2020 election victory, prosecutors said in court papers unsealed on Friday.” He “faces two misdemeanor charges: violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, and unlawfully entering a restricted area.”

BuzzFeed News

(8/20) reported that “Shroyer, who is based in Texas, had been photographed on a stage outside the Capitol with right-wing activist and Infowars founder Alex Jones, and the FBI said it received an anonymous tip from someone noting another video that appeared to show Shroyer at the top of a set of stairs on the east side of the Capitol.”

Newsweek

(8/20, 2.67M) reports that “Shroyer was already on a ‘deferred prosecution agreement’ (DPA) for disrupting a December 9, 2019, House Judiciary Committee meeting.” The DPA required Shroyer to never again demonstrate within Capitol grounds nor to “disturb the orderly conduct of any session of the Congress.”

Capitol Police Officer Who Shot Insurrectionist Exonerated By Internal Investigation.

The Washington Examiner (8/20, Beaman, 888K) reported that “the U.S. Capitol Police officer who shot and killed Ashli Babbitt inside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 was exonerated by the force, according to an internal agency document.” The Examiner said “the unidentified officer, whom the Justice Department has cleared of any charges in connection to Babbitt’s death, was not found to have acted improperly following a Capitol Police investigation.” The memo said, “No further action will be taken in this matter.”

NBC News

(8/20, 4.91M) reported that “the Justice Department announced in April that no charges were being brought against the officer.”

Also reporting are the New York Post (8/20, 7.45M) and The Hill (8/20, Vakil, 5.69M).

Missouri Elementary School Teacher Charged In Capitol Insurrection.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (8/20, Thomas, 519K) reported that “six months after her husband was charged in connection with the U.S. Capitol insurrection, a Springfield Christian elementary school teacher faces the same allegations.” According to federal court documents, “Kelsey Leigh Ann Wilson, 29, was charged with knowingly entering or remaining in a restricted building or grounds without lawful authority; disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds; disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds; and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building.” Documents say “the FBI became aware of her husband Zachary

Wilson's alleged involvement in the Capitol breach in January after receiving an anonymous tip." Meanwhile, "FBI investigators interviewed Kelsey and Zachary Wilson on Jan. 18 at their home in Springfield" and, "during the interview, both said they had been on the Capitol grounds on Jan. 6."

Four Ohio Residents Released On Bond After Charged In Relation To Capitol Riot. The [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (8/20, 49K) reported that "four Swanton-area residents have been charged for unlawfully entering the U.S. Capitol in relation to the Jan. 6 riot." The Blade said "Jodi Lynn Wilson, 43, and her son, Cole Temple, 20, both of 100 block of Black Canyon Drive in Swanton, surrendered to FBI agents." Meanwhile, "authorities also charged Gabriel Burress, 22, and Madison Pettit, 20, of the 100 block of Forrester Avenue, with the same misdemeanor offenses."

Tennessee Sheriff's Deputy Charged With Assaulting Officer During Capitol Insurrection. [CNN](#) (8/20, Rabinowitz, Cohen, 89.21M) reported that "a Tennessee man who was a deputy sheriff on January 6 and wore his sheriff's vest to the US Capitol is now behind bars after being charged in one of the most notorious police assaults from the insurrection." Authorities "said they arrested Ronald McAbee, 27, on Tuesday after a tipster recognized him from police body camera footage on the FBI's 'most wanted' website." CNN said "the video allegedly shows McAbee grabbing a police officer and dragging him into the mob – all while wearing a black vest that says 'SHERIFF.'"

Pam Sohn writes at the [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (8/22, 168K) that "McAbee was by no means the only law enforcement officer or military veteran – or Tennessean, Georgian or Alabamian who were part of the insurrection." According to an NPR database, "at least 81 of those charged in the would-be coup have either military or law enforcement ties." She concludes that "sooner or later, we'll know more about that awful day – much of it possibly as these 606 cases work their way through federal courtrooms" and "that will be 606 days of testimony that the GOP can't scuttle."

Accused Capitol Rioter Arrested For Slashing Capitol Police Tires. The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (8/20, Roebuck) reported that "it was pride in his profession that did in Philip Young as federal prosecutors charged the former boilermaker from Gloucester County this week with scuffling with officers outside the Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot in Washington." FBI agents identified Young "from the distinctive logo of his union, Local 28 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, embroidered on the jacket they said he wore while he led a mob that used defensive metal barricades to shove officers on the Capitol's upper west terrace – an assault caught on bodycam video." Meanwhile, "the same distinctive sigil showed up in a photo, taken hours later, of the same man slashing the tires of a Capitol Police car parked on the opposite side of the building."

The [Burlington County \(NJ\) Times](#) (8/21, 56K) also reports.

Rally Planned In Support Of Capitol Rioters. The [Washington Times](#) (8/20, Soellner, Zantow, 626K) reported that "a rally is being planned next month near the U.S. Capitol to demand 'justice' for hundreds of people accused of breaching the building on Jan. 6 in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election." Event organizer Matt Braynard, executive director of Look Ahead America, says the rally is "to raise awareness of this tragedy of this grave violation of civil rights of hundreds of our fellow Americans." The Times says "Braynard served as director of data and strategy for former President Trump's 2016 campaign and started a project to 'investigate illegal ballots cast in 2020,' according to the Look Ahead America website."

Analysis: BLM Protesters Were Targeted With Stiffer Punishments. [CNN](#) (8/20, Carrega, 89.21M) reported that "the Justice Department targeted more than 300 protesters by charging them with federal crimes for their roles during the civil unrest last summer after the murder of George Floyd, according to a new report from The Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of Black advocacy groups." CNN said "the report found that more than 90% of federal cases against Black Lives Matter protesters could have been charged in state court – and that in 88% of those cases, the federal charges carried more severe penalties than similar state charges." The report says, "This persecution resulted in hundreds of organizers and activists facing years in federal prison with no chance of parole."

Far-Right, Far-Left Groups Clash In Portland. [Reuters](#) (8/23) reports, "Protests by rival far-right and left-wing groups in Portland descended into violence on Sunday, as the opposing sides engaged in clashes and at least one man was arrested for firing a gun at demonstrators." Reuters adds that "nobody was hurt in an exchange of gunfire – and by Sunday evening there was no word on any injuries in numerous other skirmishes." Police Chief Chuck Lovell "said during a briefing on Friday that officers would not necessarily intervene to break up fights between the groups," though Lovell also said that "just because arrests are not made at the scene when tensions are high, does not mean that people won't be charged with crimes."

The [Oregonian](#) (8/22, 1.02M) reports Dustin Brandon Ferreira, “a left-wing activist, said he was with other activists Sunday evening when a man used a slur against a Black man in the group and fired multiple rounds in their direction.” Dennis Anderson “was charged with unlawful use and possession of a firearm and booked into the Multnomah County Jail shortly after the shooting, according to jail records.” The Oregonian adds, “Portland police Sgt. Kevin Allen confirmed Anderson was the shooter.”

John Wayne Airport Briefly Evacuated Over “Security Incident.” [Fox News](#) (8/21, Stimson, 23.99M) reported that “John Wayne Airport in Southern California temporarily evacuated its terminals Friday night due to a ‘security incident’ that eventually led to the arrest of a suspect who had been hiding in a ceiling after stealing an airport vehicle, authorities said.” Fox said “the suspect was reportedly taken into custody around 10 p.m. PT.” Earlier, officials at the airport, “acknowledged on Twitter around 7:30 p.m. PT that they were ‘responding to a security incident’ but didn’t elaborate.”

Mike Lindell Hiding Alleged Election Data Leaker Under FBI Probe. [Vice](#) (8/19, 1.13M) reported that “the FBI has opened an investigation into a Colorado GOP election official who’s accused of helping facilitate a leak of highly sensitive election data.” However, “the official at the center of the probe, Mesa County clerk Tina Peters, is ‘holed up’ in a safe house provided by pillow salesman and conspiracy theorist Mike Lindell.” Lindell said “that he had initially taken Peters to Texas following his three-day Cyber Symposium last week, where the Colorado official was a star attraction. But a disgruntled member of Lindell’s own security team leaked Peters’ location earlier this week and so she was moved to another, unknown, location.”

Also reporting are [HuffPost](#) (8/19, 363K) and [Insider](#) (8/21, Zitser, 2.74M).

Security Breach In A Colorado Elections Office Underscores Election Lies. [CNN](#) (8/21, Schouten, 89.21M) reported that “an unusual security breach of an election system in a rural Colorado county has set off a criminal investigation and prompted state authorities to sideline a Republican election official in a fresh display of how debunked claims of a stolen 2020 presidential election continue to resonate across the country.” CNN says “the saga unfolding in Mesa County, Colorado, centers on Tina Peters, a Republican county clerk and recorder and supporter of former President Donald Trump.” CNN reported “Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold, a Democrat, has blamed Peters for a leak of closely guarded election passwords that ended up on a QAnon-affiliated Telegram channel.” The FBI and the Colorado attorney general’s office have confirmed “that they are assisting a probe into the matter by the local district attorney.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, 10.52M) in an editorial says the “bizarre drama unfolding” over a security breach of Mesa County, Colorado election machines “illustrates” the danger to US democracy, adding that “the country’s institutions may be weaker in coming election cycles, even as the pressure mounts on GOP officials involved in counting or certifying votes to find ‘fraud.’” The Post says the “weird episode” indicates “the lengths to which those devoted to the Trumpist lie will go – and the sabotage they could do if they are in positions of responsibility.”

Man Who Caused Evacuation Of Capitol After Saying He Had Bomb Facing Multiple Charges. The [Washington Post](#) (8/20, 10.52M) reports, “A man who prompted an evacuation of the U.S. Capitol and surrounding buildings on Thursday by claiming to have a bomb inside his truck faces charges of threatening to use explosives and a weapon of mass destruction.” Floyd Ray Roseberry “of North Carolina surrendered to authorities Thursday about five hours after he drove a truck onto the sidewalk outside of the Library of Congress and launched a standoff with law enforcement officers, police said.” The Post adds that Roseberry, “in a court appearance Friday when the charges were made public,” indicated that “he hadn’t taken his ‘mind medicine’ for at least two days.” Moreover, Roseberry “said his wife had power of attorney over his medical care.” US Magistrate Judge Zia Faruqui “said he would delay any substantive decisions until the medication was provided but told Roseberry he faces up to life in prison.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/20, Goldman, Feuer, 20.6M) reports that Faruqui “said that he would order a competency evaluation as the case proceeded. Mr. Roseberry’s relatives told reporters that he had a history of mental instability and a bad temper.”

[USA Today](#) (8/20, 12.7M) reported that “in court documents Friday, FBI Special Agent Brandon Camiliere said that local North Carolina authorities had received a report Thursday from a Roseberry relative that the suspect spouted anti-government views and rhetoric and intended to travel to ‘Virginia or Washington, D.C. to conduct acts of violence.’” The unnamed relative, “according to the FBI affidavit, also reported that Roseberry talked of taking ‘a trench coat to protect him from Taser and pepper ball guns and he would just tip his cowboy hat at the police.’”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/20, story 6, 0:20, Axelrod, 3.32M) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/20, story 6, 0:20, Holt, 4.97M) provided similar coverage in brief broadcasts. Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (8/20, Castronuovo, 5.69M), [NPR](#) (8/20, Romo, 3.69M), the [AP](#) (8/20), the [New York Post](#) (8/21, 7.45M), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/20, Balsamo, 3.37M), [Axios](#) (8/20, 1.26M), [Insider](#)

(8/20, 2.74M), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (8/20, Hurley, Woodward, 1.19M), the [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Blake, 626K), [Spectrum News Charlotte \(NC\)](#) (8/20, 43K), and the [Daily Beast](#) (8/20, 933K).

Brooks Denies Sympathizing With Capitol Bomb-Threat Suspect. The [Washington Times](#) (8/20, Blake, 626K) reported that Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL) “denied expressing sympathy for domestic terrorism Friday after the Alabama Republican took heat from both sides of the aisle over his reaction to Thursday’s bomb scare at the U.S. Capitol.” The Times said Brooks has “issued a statement on social media that seemed to relate with the suspect.” He said, “Although this terrorist’s motivation is not yet publicly known, and generally speaking, I understand citizenry anger directed at dictatorial Socialism and its threat to liberty, freedom and the very fabric of American society,” stressing that he believes the “way to stop Socialism’s march is for patriotic Americans to fight back in the 2022 and 2024 elections.”

FBI Identifies Individuals Behind Accounts Set Up To Extort, Threaten Witnesses. The [Washington Post](#) (8/22, 10.52M) reports that “the FBI has identified multiple people believed to be behind a series of Instagram accounts that posted pictures of – and sought to extort money from – people dubbed ‘rats’ for allegedly cooperating with law enforcement in Baltimore.” The Post says “search warrants unsealed last month show authorities found information suggesting three people ran accounts such as ‘ratsofbmoe,’ with two of them even communicating at one point.” FBI Special Agent Summer Baugh wrote in the search warrant, “This example illustrates the concern law enforcement has for the safety of witnesses and victims based on the posting of the information made by these accounts. It also illustrates why people may be dissuaded from appearing in court or cooperating with law enforcement, thus the posts on these accounts serve to obstruct the administration of justice.”

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (8/20, Fenton, 629K) reported “no one has been charged in connection with investigation, which is focused on obstruction of justice and witness tampering, and a spokeswoman for the FBI’s Baltimore field office declined to comment on the status of the case.”

Oklahoma Man Pleads Guilty To Threatening President, Congress. The [AP](#) (8/20) reported that “a Tulsa man has pleaded guilty to sending emails to a Tulsa television station threatening to kill President Joe Biden, members of Congress and their families.” Court records show John Jacob Ahrens “pleaded guilty Thursday to threatening the president and two counts of interstate communication with a threat to injure.” The AP said “in a signed statement, Ahrens said he had no plea agreement, but pleaded guilty on his attorney’s advice in hopes of a lenient sentence.” Station personnel had previously “notified the FBI of the emails.”

DEA, FBI Investigation Results In Sentences For High-Volume Drug Trafficking Operation In Southwest Georgia. The [Albany \(GA\) Herald](#) (8/22) reports, “Multiple co-defendants involved in a high-volume drug trafficking operation located in a southwest Georgia city were sentenced to federal prison for their crimes this week.” James Malone, 51, of Albany, “was sentenced to serve 240 months in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release after he pleaded guilty to distribution of methamphetamine.” Co-defendants Laura Ann Dungee-Ali, 49, of Albany, William Raymond Cook, 46, of Albany, Shannon Marie Mason, 39, of Leesburg, Anthony Dewayne Pearson, 42, of Sylvester, Patricia Odom, 50, of Albany, and Sherrod Winchester, 39, of Albany, also were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Leslie Gardner. According to acting U.S. Attorney Peter D. Leary, “Investigators with the Albany-Dougherty Drug Unit, GBI, DEA and FBI successfully stopped a pit-stop of poison from continuing to destroy lives and a community.” Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Atlanta Field Division Robert J. Murphy said, “DEA eradicated a methamphetamine distribution network that pushed poison throughout the Albany community.” Chris Hacker, special agent in charge of FBI Atlanta, said, “These defendants were so brazen they barely tried to hide their stop-and-shop operation that perpetuated crime throughout the community.”

The [Tifton \(GA\) Gazette](#) (8/22, Richards, 26K) reports that Anthony Dewayne Pearson, 42, of Sylvester, Georgia, “was sentenced to federal prison last week” for his involvement “in a high-volume drug-trafficking operation.” Pearson “pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute hydrocodone.”

[WAOK-AM](#) Atlanta (8/21, 16K) and [WALB-TV](#) Albany, GA (8/20) also reported the news.

Woman Who Intentionally Drove Into Children Sentenced On Federal Hate Crime Charges. [USA Today](#) (8/20, 12.7M) reported that “a U.S. District Court judge for the Southern District of Iowa sentenced Nicole Poole Franklin, who said she drove her SUV into two children in 2019 because of their race, to 25 years and four months in prison on federal hate crimes charges.” Poole “told police she intentionally struck a 14-year-old with her SUV because the girl was Latina and a Black 12-year-old boy because he appeared to be Middle Eastern and a member of an Islamic terrorist group.” Poole “pleaded guilty in state court in April to two counts of attempted murder” and “was sentenced to 25-year-concurrent

sentences for those charges in May.” Meanwhile, “her federal hate crime sentence will run concurrently to her attempted murder sentence by the state.”

Atlanta Federal Penitentiary Nearly Vacant Amid Corruption Investigation. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (8/20, 1.46M) reports that “an investigation into alleged corruption at the U.S. Penitentiary in Atlanta has led federal officials to ban several prison staffers and nearly empty out the prison, transferring about 1,100 offenders to correctional facilities in other states.” As of Friday, “134 inmates remained inside the Atlanta prison” compared to more than 1,800 in March. Meanwhile, “employees have been told that ultimately all prisoners from the penitentiary and inmates at the adjacent minimum security camp will be transferred.” The facility “went into an institutional lockdown on June 22 after receiving a ‘serious threat’ and an institution emergency was declared, a staff memo obtained by the AJC states.” Two days later, “an official with the Federal Bureau of Prisons told the staff in a follow-up memo the lockdown was being extended after investigators discovered a ‘prevalence of narcotics and cellular devices being used by the inmate population.’”

FBI, DEA Assists Investigation Leading To Arrests In North Georgia. Now Habersham (GA) (8/20) reports, “Three suspects are behind bars and a large quantity of meth is off the streets following a recent joint federal, state, and local law enforcement operation in North Georgia.” On August 12, “agents with the Hall County/Gainesville Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad and other agencies executed multiple search warrants in Hall and Gwinnett counties” and “seized approximately 200 kilograms of methamphetamine and approximately \$45,000 in cash” as well as arresting “Almarud Duarte, 25, Kevin Tello, 26, and Eduardo Penaloza-Pacheco, 36, in connection with the sale and trafficking of methamphetamine.” The investigation involved assistance from “Homeland Security, the FBI, DEA, Georgia State Patrol, and Gwinnett County and Snellville police departments.”

The Gainesville (GA) Times (8/20, Watson, 75K) and WXIA-TV Atlanta (8/20, Nussman, 409K) also reported the news.

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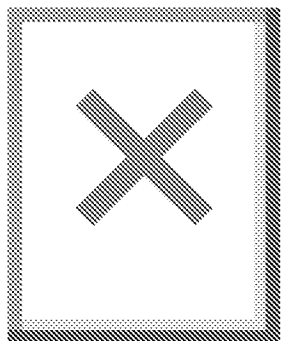
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TO : THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF
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LEADING THE NEWS

Man Who Caused Evacuation Of Capitol After Saying He Had Bomb Facing Multiple Charges.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/20, 10.52M) reports, "A man who prompted an evacuation of the U.S. Capitol and surrounding buildings on Thursday by claiming to have a bomb inside his truck faces charges of threatening to use explosives and a weapon of mass destruction." Floyd Ray Roseberry "of North Carolina surrendered to authorities Thursday about five hours after he drove a truck onto the sidewalk outside of the Library of Congress and launched a standoff with law enforcement officers, police said." The Post adds that Roseberry, "in a court appearance Friday when the charges were made public," indicated that "he hadn't taken his 'mind medicine' for at least two days." Moreover, Roseberry "said his wife had power of attorney over his medical care." US Magistrate Judge Zia Faruqui "said he would delay any substantive decisions until the medication was provided but told Roseberry he faces up to life in prison."

The [New York Times](#) (8/20, Goldman, Feuer, 20.6M) reports that Faruqui "said that he would order a competency evaluation as the case proceeded. Mr. Roseberry's relatives told reporters that he had a history of mental instability and a bad temper."

[USA Today](#) (8/20, 12.7M) reported that "in court documents Friday, FBI Special Agent Brandon Camilliere said that local North Carolina authorities had received a report Thursday from a

Roseberry relative that the suspect spouted anti-government views and rhetoric and intended to travel to 'Virginia or Washington, D.C. to conduct acts of violence.'" The unnamed relative, "according to the FBI affidavit, also reported that Roseberry talked of taking 'a trench coat to protect him from Taser and pepper ball guns and he would just tip his cowboy hat at the police.'"

The CBS Evening News (8/20, story 6, 0:20, Axelrod, 3.32M) and NBC Nightly News (8/20, story 6, 0:20, Holt, 4.97M) provided similar coverage in brief broadcasts. Also reporting are The Hill (8/20, Castronuovo, 5.69M), NPR (8/20, Romo, 3.69M), the AP (8/20), the New York Post (8/21, 7.45M), the Los Angeles Times (8/20, Balsamo, 3.37M), Axios (8/20, 1.26M), Insider (8/20, 2.74M), the Independent (UK) (8/20, Hurley, Woodward, 1.19M), the Washington Times (8/21, Blake, 626K), Spectrum News Charlotte (NC) (8/20, 43K), and the Daily Beast (8/20, 933K).

Brooks Denies Sympathizing With Capitol Bomb-Threat Suspect. The Washington Times (8/20, Blake, 626K) reported that Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL) "denied expressing sympathy for domestic terrorism Friday after the Alabama Republican took heat from both sides of the aisle over his reaction to Thursday's bomb scare at the U.S. Capitol." The Times said Brooks has "issued a statement on social media that seemed to relate with the suspect." He said, "Although this terrorist's motivation is not yet publicly known, and generally speaking, I understand citizenry anger directed at dictatorial Socialism and its threat to liberty, freedom and the very fabric of American society," stressing that he believes the "way to stop Socialism's march is for patriotic Americans to fight back in the 2022 and 2024 elections."

CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

FBI Finds Little Evidence Jan. 6 Capitol Attack Was Coordinated.

Reuters (8/20) reports that "the FBI has found scant evidence that the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was the result of an organized plot to overturn the presidential election result, according to four current and former law enforcement officials." Reuters says "though federal officials have arrested more than 570 alleged participants, the FBI at this point believes the violence was not centrally coordinated by far-right groups or prominent supporters of then-President Donald Trump, according to the sources, who have been either directly involved in or briefed regularly on the wide-ranging investigations." A former senior law enforcement official with knowledge of the investigation said, "Ninety to ninety-five percent of these are one-off cases. Then you have five percent, maybe, of these militia groups that were more closely organized. But there was no grand scheme with Roger Stone and Alex Jones and all of these people to storm the Capitol and take hostages."

The Hill (8/20, Vakil, 5.69M) reported that "a Democratic congressional source confirmed to Reuters that senior lawmakers are aware of the FBI's current findings and believe the results so far are reliable."

Jonathan Turley, professor at George Washington University, writes at The Hill (8/21, 5.69M) that "a new report from Reuters disclosed that the FBI has apparently struggled to support the account of a coordinated 'insurrection' on Jan. 6." He says the FBI "found a protest that became a runaway riot as insufficient security preparations quickly collapsed."

Also reporting are Insider (8/20, Metzger, 2.74M), National Review (8/20, 798K), the New York Post (8/20, 7.45M), Salon (8/20, 126K), the Washington Examiner (8/20, Dunleavy, 888K), the Independent (UK) (8/20, Hurley, 1.19M).

DHS Memo Describes Advanced Preparations By Capitol Attackers. The Daily Beast (8/20, 933K) reported that "an internal Department of Homeland Security document reviewed by The Daily Beast describes 'advanced preparations' by Capitol rioters ahead of the Jan. 6 attack – and appears to go further than recent descriptions of the FBI's characterization of the Capitol riot." The April 8 DHS memo says, "The tactics used by domestic violent extremists (DVEs) to assault law enforcement and security personnel and ultimately breach the US Capitol suggests that some of the participants engaged in pre-operational coordination and planning activities." The DHS document, "which was shared internally by FBI agents in April, according to emails reviewed by The Daily Beast, does not allege a specific plot to unseat the government."

InfoWars Host Charged In Connection With Capitol Insurrection.

Reuters (8/20) reported that "U.S. prosecutors have charged a Texas man who hosts a talk show tied to the conspiracy-theory website InfoWars with unlawfully breaching the U.S. Capitol grounds during the Jan. 6 riot by supporters of then-President Donald Trump." Reuters said "Owen Shroyer unlawfully entered a restricted area at the west side of the Capitol during the deadly rampage that interrupted the formal congressional certification of President Joe Biden's 2020 election victory, prosecutors said in court papers unsealed on Friday." He "faces two misdemeanor charges: violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, and unlawfully entering a restricted area."

BuzzFeed News (8/20) reported that "Shroyer, who is based in Texas, had been photographed on a stage outside the Capitol with right-wing activist and Infowars founder Alex Jones, and the FBI said it received an anonymous tip from someone noting another video that appeared to show Shroyer at the top of a set of stairs on the east side of the Capitol."

Newsweek (8/20, 2.67M) reports that "Shroyer was already on a 'deferred prosecution agreement' (DPA) for disrupting a December 9, 2019, House Judiciary Committee meeting." The DPA required Shroyer to never again demonstrate within Capitol grounds nor to "disturb the orderly conduct of any session of the Congress."

Capitol Police Officer Who Shot Insurrectionist Exonerated By Internal Investigation.

The Washington Examiner (8/20, Beaman, 888K) reported that "the U.S. Capitol Police officer who shot and killed Ashli Babbitt inside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 was exonerated by the force, according to an internal agency document." The Examiner said "the unidentified officer, whom the Justice Department has cleared of any charges in connection to Babbitt's death, was not found to have acted improperly following a Capitol Police investigation." The memo said, "No further action will be taken in this matter."

NBC News (8/20, 4.91M) reported that "the Justice Department announced in April that no charges were being brought against the officer."

Also reporting are the New York Post (8/20, 7.45M) and The Hill (8/20, Vakil, 5.69M).

Missouri Elementary School Teacher Charged In Capitol Insurrection.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (8/20, Thomas, 519K) reported that "six months after her husband was charged in connection with the U.S. Capitol insurrection, a Springfield Christian elementary school teacher faces the same allegations." According to federal court documents, "Kelsey Leigh Ann Wilson, 29, was charged with knowingly entering or remaining in a restricted building or grounds without lawful authority; disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds; disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds; and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building." Documents say "the FBI became aware of her husband Zachary Wilson's alleged involvement in the Capitol breach in January after receiving an anonymous tip." Meanwhile, "FBI investigators interviewed Kelsey and Zachary Wilson on Jan. 18 at their home in Springfield" and, "during the interview, both said they had been on the Capitol grounds on Jan. 6."

Four Ohio Residents Released On Bond After Charged In Relation To Capitol Riot.

The Toledo (OH) Blade (8/20, 49K) reported that "four Swanton-area residents have been charged for unlawfully entering the U.S. Capitol in relation to the Jan. 6 riot." The Blade said "Jodi Lynn Wilson, 43, and her son, Cole Temple, 20, both of 100 block of Black Canyon Drive in Swanton, surrendered to FBI agents." Meanwhile, "authorities also charged Gabriel Burress, 22, and Madison Pettit, 20, of the 100 block of Forrester Avenue, with the same misdemeanor offenses."

Tennessee Sheriff's Deputy Charged With Assaulting Officer During Capitol Insurrection.

CNN (8/20, Rabinowitz, Cohen, 89.21M) reported that "a Tennessee man who was a deputy sheriff on January 6 and wore his sheriff's vest to the US Capitol is now behind bars after being charged in one of the most notorious police assaults from the insurrection." Authorities "said they arrested Ronald McAbee, 27, on Tuesday after a tipster recognized him from police body camera footage on

the FBI's 'most wanted' website." CNN said "the video allegedly shows McAbee grabbing a police officer and dragging him into the mob – all while wearing a black vest that says 'SHERIFF.'"

Pam Sohn writes at the [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (8/22, 168K) that "McAbee was by no means the only law enforcement officer or military veteran – or Tennessean, Georgian or Alabamian who were part of the insurrection." According to an NPR database, "at least 81 of those charged in the would-be coup have either military or law enforcement ties." She concludes that "sooner or later, we'll know more about that awful day – much of it possibly as these 606 cases work their way through federal courtrooms" and "that will be 606 days of testimony that the GOP can't scuttle."

Accused Capitol Rioter Arrested For Slashing Capitol Police Tires.

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (8/20, Roebuck) reported that "it was pride in his profession that did in Philip Young as federal prosecutors charged the former boilermaker from Gloucester County this week with scuffling with officers outside the Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot in Washington." FBI agents identified Young "from the distinctive logo of his union, Local 28 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, embroidered on the jacket they said he wore while he led a mob that used defensive metal barricades to shove officers on the Capitol's upper west terrace – an assault caught on bodycam video." Meanwhile, "the same distinctive sigil showed up in a photo, taken hours later, of the same man slashing the tires of a Capitol Police car parked on the opposite side of the building."

The [Burlington County \(NJ\) Times](#) (8/21, 56K) also reports.

Op-Ed: Trump's Conduct Needs Federal Investigation.

Donald Ayer and Norman Eisen, who served under presidents Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Obama, write at [CNN](#) (8/20, 89.21M) that they "believe that the full scope of Trump's conduct must be investigated by federal authorities, for the same reasons and in the same way they usually investigate credible evidence of major wrongdoing. But we recognize that much is not yet known, and that charging decisions are premature." They state that "Attorney General Merrick Garland's lifetime of dedication to the even-handed, apolitical administration of justice, combined with his performance of the job to date, make clear that he is well suited to oversee the process and make the ultimate decisions." They also "take exception to those who say there is 'little reason' to open an investigation." They also note that we should not conclude from the seriousness of such challenges that no FBI investigation is ongoing, because "departmental policy expressly rules out publicly acknowledging or discussing an investigation while it is underway."

Prosecutors, Judges Don't Want Capitol Rioters Compared To Tourists.

[BuzzFeed News](#) (8/22) reports that "in the months since a Republican member of Congress went viral in May for comparing footage of rioters inside the Capitol to a 'normal tourist visit,' the word has become a symbol of GOP efforts to downplay the violence on Jan. 6 and criticize the investigation." However, "the 'tourist' comparison has struck a nerve not only with the prosecutors bringing these cases but also with the presiding judges." BuzzFeed says "in court filings and hearings, they've made clear just how much it bothers them."

Rally Planned In Support Of Capitol Rioters.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/20, Soellner, Zantow, 626K) reported that "a rally is being planned next month near the U.S. Capitol to demand 'justice' for hundreds of people accused of breaching the building on Jan. 6 in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election." Event organizer Matt Braynard, executive director of Look Ahead America, says the rally is "to raise awareness of this tragedy of this grave violation of civil rights of hundreds of our fellow Americans." The Times says "Braynard served as director of data and strategy for former President Trump's 2016 campaign and started a project to 'investigate illegal ballots cast in 2020,' according to the Look Ahead America website."

Capitol Riot Suspect Broke Pretrial-Release Rules By Watching Conspiracy Videos.

Insider (8/20, Colson, 2.74M) reported that "a Capitol riot suspect could be sent back to jail after prosecutors said he broke pretrial-release rules by watching conspiracy-theory videos on his phone, including Mike Lindell's 'cyber symposium,' an event where the MyPillow CEO spread baseless election conspiracy theories." Insider says "Douglas Jensen is awaiting trial on several federal charges relating to the January 6 insurrection, where he was photographed in front of police officers breaking into the Capitol in a QAnon T-shirt." According to a filing published Thursday, "prosecutors said a court officer discovered Jensen in his garage streaming videos on his iPhone from the video-sharing platform Rumble."

PROTESTS

Analysis: BLM Protesters Were Targeted With Stiffer Punishments.

CNN (8/20, Carrega, 89.21M) reported that "the Justice Department targeted more than 300 protesters by charging them with federal crimes for their roles during the civil unrest last summer after the murder of George Floyd, according to a new report from The Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of Black advocacy groups." CNN said "the report found that more than 90% of federal cases against Black Lives Matter protesters could have been charged in state court – and that in 88% of those cases, the federal charges carried more severe penalties than similar state charges." The report says, "This persecution resulted in hundreds of organizers and activists facing years in federal prison with no chance of parole."

Far-Right, Far-Left Groups Clash In Portland.

Reuters (8/23) reports, "Protests by rival far-right and left-wing groups in Portland descended into violence on Sunday, as the opposing sides engaged in clashes and at least one man was arrested for firing a gun at demonstrators." Reuters adds that "nobody was hurt in an exchange of gunfire – and by Sunday evening there was no word on any injuries in numerous other skirmishes." Police Chief Chuck Lovell "said during a briefing on Friday that officers would not necessarily intervene to break up fights between the groups," though Lovell also said that "just because arrests are not made at the scene when tensions are high, does not mean that people won't be charged with crimes."

The Oregonian (8/22, 1.02M) reports Dustin Brandon Ferreira, "a left-wing activist, said he was with other activists Sunday evening when a man used a slur against a Black man in the group and fired multiple rounds in their direction." Dennis Anderson "was charged with unlawful use and possession of a firearm and booked into the Multnomah County Jail shortly after the shooting, according to jail records." The Oregonian adds, "Portland police Sgt. Kevin Allen confirmed Anderson was the shooter."

COUNTER-TERRORISM

John Wayne Airport Briefly Evacuated Over "Security Incident."

Fox News (8/21, Stimson, 23.99M) reported that "John Wayne Airport in Southern California temporarily evacuated its terminals Friday night due to a 'security incident' that eventually led to the arrest of a suspect who had been hiding in a ceiling after stealing an airport vehicle, authorities said." Fox said "the suspect was reportedly taken into custody around 10 p.m. PT." Earlier, officials at the airport, "acknowledged on Twitter around 7:30 p.m. PT that they were 'responding to a security incident' but didn't elaborate."

Op-Ed: QAnon Followers Are Like Opioid Addicts.

Sophia Moskalenko, a psychologist, and Mia Bloom, a professor at Georgia State University, write at NBC News (8/22, 4.91M) that "one way to comprehend the incomprehensible is to recognize the parallels between QAnon and addictive drugs like opioids – which are also manipulated by malicious actors to trap vulnerable people in increasingly unhealthy spirals that ultimately result in the destruction of families and even death." They analyze the parallels, stating that "while it's easy

to see QAnon followers as crazy or evil, the example of the opioid epidemic offers a broader perspective that indicates pain, vulnerability and powerlessness are part of what brought them to their way of thinking." They conclude that "the best approach to help people out of QAnon is to do so with kindness and empathy" because, "as with opioid users, QAnon followers are suffering and in some ways may feel powerless to their addiction."

Newsweek Series Examines Path To 9/11.

In a series examining the road to 9/11, Newsweek (8/22, 2.67M) reports that on August 22, 2001, "the FBI's legal attaché office in Paris forwarded a report from French intelligence that Zacarias Moussaoui, taken into custody on August 16 in Minnesota, was known to their internal security department and that French intelligence had information that Moussaoui was associated with a man who was born in France and died in 2000 in Chechnya fighting with 'the Mujahideen.'" Newsweek says "the receipt of this information on August 22 began a series of discussions between the Minneapolis field office and FBI headquarters focusing on whether the Chechen rebels were a 'recognized' foreign power for purposes of obtaining approval to search Moussaoui's belongings under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)." Meanwhile, "the FBI headquarters National Security Law Unit (NSLU) also denied a request to submit a request for a FISA warrant, saying that there was insufficient information to show that Moussaoui was an agent of a foreign power."

As part of the same series, Newsweek (8/21, 2.67M) reports that on August 21, 2001, while "doing research to determine who were the planners and supporters behind the attack on the USS Cole in October 2000, Margaret Gillespie, an FBI analyst detailed to the CIA Counterterrorist Center (CTC), read a 15-month-old cable from the Bangkok station reporting that Khalid al-Mihdhar and Nawaf al-Hazmi had traveled from Thailand to the United States on January 15, 2000." She eventually drew the conclusion "that the two 'known' al Qaeda operatives were still in the U.S."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Mike Lindell Hiding Alleged Election Data Leaker Under FBI Probe.

Vice (8/19, 1.13M) reported that "the FBI has opened an investigation into a Colorado GOP election official who's accused of helping facilitate a leak of highly sensitive election data." However, "the official at the center of the probe, Mesa County clerk Tina Peters, is 'holed up' in a safe house provided by pillow salesman and conspiracy theorist Mike Lindell." Lindell said "that he had initially taken Peters to Texas following his three-day Cyber Symposium last week, where the Colorado official was a star attraction. But a disgruntled member of Lindell's own security team leaked Peters' location earlier this week and so she was moved to another, unknown, location."

Also reporting are HuffPost (8/19, 363K) and Insider (8/21, Zitser, 2.74M).

Security Breach In A Colorado Elections Office Underscores Election Lies.

CNN (8/21, Schouten, 89.21M) reported that "an unusual security breach of an election system in a rural Colorado county has set off a criminal investigation and prompted state authorities to sideline a Republican election official in a fresh display of how debunked claims of a stolen 2020 presidential election continue to resonate across the country." CNN says "the saga unfolding in Mesa County, Colorado, centers on Tina Peters, a Republican county clerk and recorder and supporter of former President Donald Trump." CNN reported "Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold, a Democrat, has blamed Peters for a leak of closely guarded election passwords that ended up on a QAnon-affiliated Telegram channel." The FBI and the Colorado attorney general's office have confirmed "that they are assisting a probe into the matter by the local district attorney."

The Washington Post (8/21, 10.52M) in an editorial says the "bizarre drama unfolding" over a security breach of Mesa County, Colorado election machines "illustrates" the danger to US democracy, adding that "the country's institutions may be weaker in coming election cycles, even as the pressure mounts on GOP officials involved in counting or certifying votes to find 'fraud.'" The

Post says the "weird episode" indicates "the lengths to which those devoted to the Trumpist lie will go – and the sabotage they could do if they are in positions of responsibility."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Driver Indicted In Crash That Killed Three On North Dakota Reservation.

The AP (8/21) reported that "a federal grand jury has indicted a North Dakota man following a crash that killed three people and severely injured another person." Winter Skye Bigtrack has been "charged with three counts of involuntary manslaughter and one count of assault resulting in serious bodily injury." Court documents say he "was driving a vehicle on the Spirit Lake Reservation Aug. 11, when it veered off the road and rolled over." The AP said "this case was investigated by the FBI, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the North Dakota Highway Patrol and was being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office."

Additional Charges Filed Against Former Marines In Gun Plot.

The AP (8/20) reported that "new indictments have been filed against four men, including two former U.S. Marines, in connection with a plot to damage a power grid somewhere in the northwest U.S., federal prosecutors said Friday." A news release from the US Department of Justice "said Paul James Kryscuk, 35; Liam Collins, 21; Jordan Duncan, 26; and Joseph Maurino, 22, were charged on Friday." Meanwhile, "Duncan, Kryscuk and Collins were previously indicted on charges of planning to illegally manufacture and sell guns." Duncan "moved to Idaho in 2018 after separating from the Marines and discussed the shooting of protesters with a group member who had been observing Black Lives Matter rallies in Boise, Idaho, the indictment said." Less than a month later, "FBI agents notified two BLM movement co-founders that their names were on a list kept by a different paramilitary group member."

FBI Identifies Individuals Behind Accounts Set Up To Extort, Threaten Witnesses.

The Washington Post (8/22, 10.52M) reports that "the FBI has identified multiple people believed to be behind a series of Instagram accounts that posted pictures of – and sought to extort money from – people dubbed 'rats' for allegedly cooperating with law enforcement in Baltimore." The Post says "search warrants unsealed last month show authorities found information suggesting three people ran accounts such as 'ratsofbmoe,' with two of them even communicating at one point." FBI Special Agent Summer Baugh wrote in the search warrant, "This example illustrates the concern law enforcement has for the safety of witnesses and victims based on the posting of the information made by these accounts. It also illustrates why people may be dissuaded from appearing in court or cooperating with law enforcement, thus the posts on these accounts serve to obstruct the administration of justice."

The Baltimore Sun (8/20, Fenton, 629K) reported "no one has been charged in connection with investigation, which is focused on obstruction of justice and witness tampering, and a spokeswoman for the FBI's Baltimore field office declined to comment on the status of the case."

Oklahoma Man Pleads Guilty To Threatening President, Congress.

The AP (8/20) reported that "a Tulsa man has pleaded guilty to sending emails to a Tulsa television station threatening to kill President Joe Biden, members of Congress and their families." Court records show John Jacob Ahrens "pleaded guilty Thursday to threatening the president and two counts of interstate communication with a threat to injure." The AP said "in a signed statement, Ahrens said he had no plea agreement, but pleaded guilty on his attorney's advice in hopes of a lenient sentence." Station personnel had previously "notified the FBI of the emails."

New York Man Pleaded Guilty To Having, Distributing Child Porn.

The Watertown (NY) Daily Times (8/21, 58K) reports that "an FBI investigation led to federal child pornography charges against a Martinsburg man in November" and on Thursday, he plead guilty. Randell S. Adsit "admitted to distributing and possessing child pornography to U.S. District Court

Judge David N. Hurd in Syracuse according to a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice." The AP said "with his admission of guilt, Adsit asserted he had distributed child pornography using a social media application between February and September 2020 and that on Nov. 11, when his residence was given a warranted search by authorities, he had about 40 files containing child pornography on his cell phone."

Louisville Homicides Go Unsolved As Number Of Killings Climbs.

NBC News (8/21, 4.91M) reported that Louisville "had reported 125 homicides as of Sunday and is in danger of breaking its homicide record for a second consecutive year." NBC said "roughly 65 percent of this year's killings have gone unsolved, a sharp change from just three years ago when about 39 percent of killings were not resolved." The city's "current 34 percent solve rate falls far short of the 61.4 percent national average in 2019, the last year for which FBI data is available."

Fugitives Arrested In Baltimore-Area Sweep Dubbed "Operation Washout."

CNN (8/22, Elassar, 89.21M) reports that "a multi-agency law enforcement operation resulted in 93 fugitives being arrested, according to the US Marshals Service." CNN says "'Operation Washout' focused on wanted violent offenders and gang members in the Baltimore, Maryland, area." The operation, "led by the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force and the Baltimore Police Department's Warrant Apprehension Task Force, was carried out over a two-week period in July." Other agencies participating "in Operation Washout include the FBI; ATF; Department of Homeland Security Investigations; Maryland State Police; Howard County Police; Maryland Transportation Authority Police; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; and Annapolis Police Department."

Virginia Man Sentenced In Cross-Burning Case.

The Bristol (VA) Herald Courier (8/21, Sorrell) reported that "a Marion, Virginia, man who burned a cross on the front yard of an African American family in June 2020 following a civil rights protest, was sentenced Friday to 18 months in prison." James Brown "pleaded guilty in April to criminal interference with federally protected housing rights based upon the victim's race." Acting US Attorney Daniel Bubar said, "When Brown burned a cross in the victim's front yard, he carried out a despicable act of intimidation, interfered with a federally protected housing right, and broke a serious federal law." FBI Special Agent in Charge Stanley M. Meador "said there is zero tolerance for someone violating anyone's civil rights. He said civil rights violations continue to be a top priority for the FBI."

Also reporting are the Augusta (VA) Free Press (8/21), The Root (8/21, 191K), and Newsweek (8/21, 2.67M).

Louisiana Police Arrest New Orleans Man In Child Sex Trafficking Investigation.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (8/20, 691K) reported that "a New Orleans man was arrested Friday in connection with an investigation into sex trafficking involving a child, according to State Police." Cornell Cobbins "was taken into custody by troopers from the department's Special Victims Unit with help from the FBI and the New Orleans Police Department." The Times-Picayune said "State Police did not release any details about the allegations against Cobbins, saying only that he's the fifth suspect to be arrested in the investigation, which began in 2018."

Also reporting are WVLA-TV Baton Rouge, LA (8/20) and WDSU-TV New Orleans (8/20, 101K).

DEA, FBI Investigation Results In Sentences For High-Volume Drug Trafficking Operation In Southwest Georgia.

The Albany (GA) Herald (8/22) reports, "Multiple co-defendants involved in a high-volume drug trafficking operation located in a southwest Georgia city were sentenced to federal prison for their crimes this week." James Malone, 51, of Albany, "was sentenced to serve 240 months in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release after he pleaded guilty to distribution of

methamphetamine." Co-defendants Laura Ann Dungee-Ali, 49, of Albany, William Raymond Cook, 46, of Albany, Shannon Marie Mason, 39, of Leesburg, Anthony Dewayne Pearson, 42, of Sylvester, Patricia Odom, 50, of Albany, and Sherrod Winchester, 39, of Albany, also were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Leslie Gardner. According to acting U.S. Attorney Peter D. Leary, "Investigators with the Albany-Dougherty Drug Unit, GBI, DEA and FBI successfully stopped a pit-stop of poison from continuing to destroy lives and a community." Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Atlanta Field Division Robert J. Murphy said, "DEA eradicated a methamphetamine distribution network that pushed poison throughout the Albany community." Chris Hacker, special agent in charge of FBI Atlanta, said, "These defendants were so brazen they barely tried to hide their stop-and-shop operation that perpetuated crime throughout the community."

The Tifton (GA) Gazette (8/22, Richards, 26K) reports that Anthony Dewayne Pearson, 42, of Sylvester, Georgia, "was sentenced to federal prison last week" for his involvement "in a high-volume drug-trafficking operation." Pearson "pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute hydrocodone."

WAOK-AM Atlanta (8/21, 16K) and WALB-TV Albany, GA (8/20) also reported the news.

Woman Who Intentionally Drove Into Children Sentenced On Federal Hate Crime Charges.

USA Today (8/20, 12.7M) reported that "a U.S. District Court judge for the Southern District of Iowa sentenced Nicole Poole Franklin, who said she drove her SUV into two children in 2019 because of their race, to 25 years and four months in prison on federal hate crimes charges.." Poole "told police she intentionally struck a 14-year-old with her SUV because the girl was Latina and a Black 12-year-old boy because he appeared to be Middle Eastern and a member of an Islamic terrorist group." Poole "pleaded guilty in state court in April to two counts of attempted murder" and "was sentenced to 25-year-concurrent sentences for those charges in May." Meanwhile, "her federal hate crime sentence will run concurrently to her attempted murder sentence by the state."

Atlanta Federal Penitentiary Nearly Vacant Amid Corruption Investigation.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (8/20, 1.46M) reports that "an investigation into alleged corruption at the U.S. Penitentiary in Atlanta has led federal officials to ban several prison staffers and nearly empty out the prison, transferring about 1,100 offenders to correctional facilities in other states." As of Friday, "134 inmates remained inside the Atlanta prison" compared to more than 1,800 in March. Meanwhile, "employees have been told that ultimately all prisoners from the penitentiary and inmates at the adjacent minimum security camp will be transferred." The facility "went into an institutional lockdown on June 22 after receiving a 'serious threat' and an institution emergency was declared, a staff memo obtained by the AJC states." Two days later, "an official with the Federal Bureau of Prisons told the staff in a follow-up memo the lockdown was being extended after investigators discovered a 'prevalence of narcotics and cellular devices being used by the inmate population.'"

Three Men Sentenced In Connection To Murder Of Northern Arapaho Man.

Native News Online (8/20) reported that "three Wyoming men were sentenced on Wednesday by a federal district court judge for their involvement in crimes related to the death of a Northern Arapaho man two years ago." Chief US District Judge Scott W. Skavdahl "sentenced Seth T. Blackburn, age 31; Peter J. Blackburn, also known as 'Homer,' age 34; and Brent J. Gould, age 30 for crimes related to the kidnapping and murder of Victor D. Addison, 29, on Aug. 4, 2019." According the US Attorney's Office, "Addison's murder was the result of the defendants thinking he was responsible for death of Martika Spoonhunter." However, "a FBI investigation into the circumstances of Spoonhunter's death found no evidence to suggest that her death was anything other than a tragic accident."

Virginia Mother Pleads Guilty To Abduction.

WTVR-TV Richmond, VA (8/22, 173K) reports that Kathleen Shehadeh, a Virginia Beach mother,

"pleaded guilty to international parental abduction in federal court on Friday." Anthony Gentile" said his daughter was missing for almost two years after his ex-wife made off with her." Gentile "said for months he called authorities and politicians, and eventually the FBI got involved. ... He said soon after, the FBI got involved and they were able to figure out that his ex-wife had allegedly traveled to Spain."

Suit Alleges Old Partner In "Cuomo's Firm" For Abused Children.

The Daily Beast (8/22, 933K) reports that "amid the storm of sexual misconduct allegations against Andrew Cuomo, one New Yorker says the soon-to-be-ex-governor has helped him and his peers expose their childhood sexual abuser – who is alleged to be Cuomo's former law partner, Michael Blutrigh." The Beast says "Blutrigh was a member of the wired Park Avenue firm of Blutrigh, Falcone and Miller – nicknamed 'Cuomo's firm' and made up of allies and administration veterans of Gov. Mario Cuomo during the 1980s – before founding the Gambino family-controlled strip club and celebrity hot-spot Scores in 1991." When the FBI caught on, "he became an informant who achieved infamy...for snitching on John Gotti Jr." Meanwhile, "in claims filed in 2020, during the just-closed two-year lookback window in which victims could file civil suits against long-ago abusers under the Child Victims Acts or CVA that Gov. Cuomo signed in 2019, survivors describe how Blutrigh preyed upon vulnerable, impoverished kids from broken homes."

South Carolina Man Among Three Sentenced In Illegal Gambling Operation.

The Greenwood (SC) Index-Journal (8/20, Hensley, 32K) reported that "a federal judge sentenced three men – including one from Greenwood – to pay a combined \$661,800 in connection to an illegal gambling operation." Prosecutors say "Grady Brandon Mobley of Waynesboro, Georgia operated as a bookie for illegal sports betting for at least a decade, first as a one-man operation, then as part of a Costa Rica-based sports betting website." Chris Hacker, special agent in charge of FBI Atlanta, said: "Their greed eventually caught up with them and now they will suffer the consequences."

DC Woman Sentenced For Stealing From Downtown Restaurant.

The Georgetown (DC) Patch (8/20, 1.44M) reported that "a former bookkeeper for a Washington, D.C., restaurant was sentenced Thursday to two years in prison for committing wire fraud against her employer, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia." Jessica J. Lucas "plead guilty in February 2020 to one count of wire fraud in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia." In addition to her prison term, US District Court Judge Thomas Hogan ordered Lucas to "pay restitution in the amount \$364,004, as well as a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of \$364,004," according to a Department of Justice news release. The Patch said "both the FBI's Washington Field Office and the Metropolitan Police Department investigated the case into Lucas."

Santa Clara County Asks State, Justice Department To Investigate Sheriff.

The Gilroy (CA) Dispatch (8/20) reported that "the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Aug. 17 voted unanimously to ask the U.S. Justice Department, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, the county civil grand jury and its own county counsel to investigate Sheriff Laurie Smith, her department and the county jail for possible violation of state and federal laws." The Dispatch said "the supervisors' action came one day after San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo called on Smith to resign immediately in the face of recent scandals and lawsuits." Smith "said Monday she would not resign." Four hours ahead of the supervisors' August 17 vote, "Smith read a prepared statement at a morning press conference in which she welcomed all investigations of her and her office, and she added the FBI to the list of investigative agencies."

Michigan Man Arrested After He Travels To Wisconsin To Have Sex With Young Girl.

WNMU-FM Marquette, MI (8/20, Walton) reported that "an Ishpeming man faces federal charges after he traveled to Oshkosh to have sex with a 15-year-old girl." Scott Sundberg "thought he was chatting online with the parent of the teen, but he was actually exchanging messages with a law

enforcement agent working with the FBI and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office in 'Operation Kick Boxer.'"

Police Arrest Kansas Man In Recent Rash Of Store Robberies.

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (8/22, 117K) reports that "police have arrested a 20-year-old Topeka man they think is responsible for a recent rash of local store robberies." The Capital-Journal says "formal charges haven't been filed against the man" and "Shawnee County Jail records showed he was being held without bond after being booked in at 4:20 a.m. Sunday." The arrest "came after the FBI announced in a news release Thursday that it was offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for information that would lead to the arrest of the person or people responsible for the robberies committed Aug. 8 at the Dollar General Store at 1920 S.W. 10th Ave. and Aug. 15 at the Kwik Shop at 102 S.W. 37th."

FBI, DEA Assists Investigation Leading To Arrests In North Georgia.

Now Habersham (GA) (8/20) reports, "Three suspects are behind bars and a large quantity of meth is off the streets following a recent joint federal, state, and local law enforcement operation in North Georgia." On August 12, "agents with the Hall County/Gainesville Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad and other agencies executed multiple search warrants in Hall and Gwinnett counties" and "seized approximately 200 kilograms of methamphetamine and approximately \$45,000 in cash" as well as arresting "Almarud Duarte, 25, Kevin Tello, 26, and Eduardo Penaloza-Pacheco, 36, in connection with the sale and trafficking of methamphetamine." The investigation involved assistance from "Homeland Security, the FBI, DEA, Georgia State Patrol, and Gwinnett County and Snellville police departments."

The Gainesville (GA) Times (8/20, Watson, 75K) and WXIA-TV Atlanta (8/20, Nussman, 409K) also reported the news.

FBI Joined Raid On Oregon Ranch For Illegal Cannabis Cultivation, Human Trafficking.

The Bend (OR) Bulletin (8/20, Prince, 92K) reports, "The Josephine County Sheriff's department raided a ranch in Southern Oregon's Illinois Valley this week as part of an investigation into illegal cannabis cultivation, involuntary servitude, human trafficking and forced labor." It was also "part of a larger investigation." The investigation "followed multiple 911 hang-up calls that came from the property, as well as information from a source who is remaining anonymous for their own safety." The sheriff's department "was joined by 16 other state and federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI." They "seized ten firearms and \$140,000 in cash" and also "destroyed 72,283 cannabis plants along with 6,000 pounds of processed cannabis and 373 greenhouses." Law enforcement "found the workers living in squalid conditions, sleeping on cardboard mats or in tents," but the workers all denied being trafficked and refused "victim services" and "no arrests have been made since the raid."

The Oregonian (8/21, Yohannes, 1.02M) also carried a report on the raid.

North Carolina Men Arrested For Impersonating Federal Law Enforcement.

The AP (8/21) reports, "Two North Carolina men are accused of impersonating federal law enforcement officers, restraining a group of people inside a home and robbing it, authorities said." The men, Freddie Wayne Huff II, 41, of Lexington and Rahain Antoine Deriggs, 27, of Jacksonville "face multiple charges, including robbery with a dangerous weapon and kidnapping."

Four Maryland Men Arrested For Distributing Methamphetamine.

WRC-TV Washington (8/20, Stabley, 301K) reports, "Four Maryland men conspired to distribute methamphetamine through the U.S. mail with the help of a mail carrier who allegedly took bribes to reroute the drugs." Robert DuBois Miller III, 30, of Bowie "allegedly mailed packages of methamphetamine from post offices in Los Angeles to addresses in Bowie and Lanham that were on the route of mail carrier Walter Ellis Minor III, 30, of Lanham, according to the indictment." In addition, "Isaiah David Hamilton and Raynard Jordan Johnson, both 24 and from Upper Marlboro,

also were charged in the indictment.”

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Thousands Of Counterfeit Vaccination Cards Seized In Alaska.

The Washington Examiner (8/20, Notheis, 888K) reported that “officials have seized over 3,000 counterfeit COVID-19 vaccination cards in Alaska, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection revealed Wednesday.” The Examiner said “the counterfeit cards were discovered by CBP officers at an express consignment facility at the Port of Alaska in Anchorage.” The FBI warned the public in March “about the dangers and consequences of selling and using fake vaccine cards, as doing so endangers society and is punishable by law.”

Man Pardoned By Kentucky Governor Takes Stand In His Federal Murder Trial.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (8/20, 554K) reported that “Patrick Baker, the convicted felon pardoned by then-Gov. Matt Bevin, testified Friday he did not kill drug dealer Donald Mills.” He “was the first witness to testify in his defense, which is likely to finish his case Friday or Monday.” The Courier-Journal said “closing arguments likely will be Monday in what may be the first case in which federal authorities are prosecuting a man for the same crime he was pardoned on by a governor.” Meanwhile, “the FBI is conducting a separate investigation of whether Bevin issued the pardon – one of 670 acts of clemency as the lame-duck governor left office in 2019 – in exchange for \$21,500 Baker’s brother and sister-in-law raised at a fundraiser the year before to retire Bevin’s campaign debt.”

Man Charged After Allegedly Stealing, Reselling US Open Tickets.

CNN (8/21, Elassar, 89.21M) reported that “a Philadelphia-area man was charged with allegedly embezzling more than \$3 million in tickets to the United States Open Championship over seven years, according to the US Attorneys Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.” Robert Fryer “was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, four counts of mail fraud, and 10 counts of wire fraud related to a scheme to embezzle and keep proceeds from the unauthorized sale of tickets to the US Open, Acting US Attorney Jennifer Arbittier Williams said in a statement on Tuesday.” Bradley Benavides, acting special agent in charge of the FBI’s Philadelphia Division, which investigated the alleged fraud, said: “Fraud is simply not the answer, if you feel your paycheck isn’t up to par. ... The FBI takes seriously allegations of embezzlement and fraud and will investigate anyone engaged in this sort of criminal behavior.”

Feds Arrest Texas Man For Selling Fake Vaccination Cards.

The Dallas Morning News (8/20, 772K) reported that “a Texas soldier has been charged in federal court in Fort Worth with selling bogus COVID-19 vaccination cards on Instagram, federal court records show.” Agents say Keishaun Edward Todd “sold undercover agents at least one vaccination card for \$150.” The FBI and HHS “issued an alert in March warning the public that buying or making fake COVID-19 vaccination record cards is illegal and could endanger others.”

Report: Global Black Market For Fake Vaccination Cards Flourishing.

US News & World Report (8/20, 1.91M) reported that “as the COVID-19 delta variant spreads and the pandemic shows no signs of slowing down, experts say that people across the world are now having an easier time getting around restrictions related to vaccination status – by purchasing fake vaccine cards online.” Research published by Check Point Software Technologies, a cybersecurity company based in California and Israel, “shows that fake cards are now being sold through messaging apps such as Telegram...and WhatsApp for anywhere between \$100 and \$120.” The FBI put out an “alert specifically about fake vaccination cards in late March.”

Former San Francisco Building Commissioner, Senior Inspector Accused Of Wire Fraud.

The San Francisco Chronicle (8/21, Dineen, 2.44M) reported that “the probe into corruption in the

city's Department of Building Inspection intensified Friday when the U.S. Attorney's Office filed wire fraud charges against former San Francisco senior building inspector Bernie Curran and Rodrigo Santos, a former city building commissioner who was indicted in July." The complaint alleges that Santos "would request his clients make charitable contributions between \$500 and \$1,500 'attributable to Curran' to a 'local non-profit athletic organization favored by Curran" and "in exchange for the contribution, Curran gave Santos' clients 'favorable official treatment.'" The Chronicle says "the prosecution is the result of an investigation by the FBI."

FirstEnergy Reports Smaller Lobbying Contributions After Bribery Allegations.

The AP (8/20) reported that FirstEnergy, the energy giant at the center of a \$60 million bribery scheme in Ohio, "has dramatically decreased the amount of money it provides to dark money groups to influence public policy, according to a Friday filing required by a deal with federal prosecutors that allowed the company to avoid a criminal case." The company "paid \$2.2 million to nonprofits and groups benefitting public officials during the first half of 2021...considerably below the approximately \$60 million the company paid between 2017 and 2020 to dark money groups to fund a bailout of two aging nuclear power plants." Last month, "FirstEnergy admitted to that dark money spending to benefit the power plants, and agreed to pay a \$230 million fine."

Former Broward Health Executive Sentenced For Kickback Scheme.

The South Florida Business Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 871K) reported that "a former Broward Health executive is facing prison time for allegedly awarding lucrative government contracts to vendors and a consultant in exchange for illegal kickback payments." Brian Bravo "was sentenced to 42 months in prison and ordered to pay a forfeiture money judgment of \$427,000. Bravo, 46, served as corporate procurement officer and director of materials management at the public hospital system from 2005 to 2015." The Business Journal says "FBI Miami investigated this case."

Compton Residents Call On Councilman Accused Of Election Fraud, Bribery To Resign.

The Los Angeles Times (8/20, 3.37M) reported that Compton City Councilman Isaac Galvan "had been charged with one count each of election fraud and bribery, according to a criminal complaint filed by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office." He "had already been the subject of a federal investigation into cannabis corruption in Baldwin Park, a town 24 miles away." The Times says "on Friday afternoon, more than an hour before the city's outdoor inauguration ceremony - where Galvan was to be sworn in for another term as councilman" - a dozen residents gathered "outside City Hall to call on him to resign."

CYBER DIVISION

Continuing Coverage: T-Mobile Confirms Data Breach Exposed Information Of Nearly 50M People.

TechRepublic (8/19, Whitney, 94K) reports, "A cyberattack against T-Mobile has compromised the personal information of almost 50 million people, according to the carrier." On Tuesday, "the company said that certain customer data had been accessed and stolen by unauthorized individuals and that the data did include some personal information for a wide range of customers." The data "obtained in the attack encompassed first and last names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers (SSNs) and driver's license/ID numbers." Those affected "by the breach include 7.8 million current T-Mobile postpaid customers and more than 40 million former or potential customers who had applied for credit with the company." Also included in the breach were "the names, phone numbers and account PINs of around 850,000 active T-Mobile prepaid customers." T-Mobile "said that so far there's no indication that any customer financial data, credit card details, debit or other payment information have been compromised."

The Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M) reports Federal Communications Commission "spokesperson Paloma Perez said that the agency 'is aware of reports of a data breach affecting T-

Mobile customers and we are investigating.” She added, “Telecommunications companies have a duty to protect their customers’ information.” The carrier “seemingly sought to assuage fears about the breadth of information accessed by noting in a statement that ‘no phone numbers, account numbers, PINs, passwords, or financial information were compromised in any of these files of customers or prospective customers.’” However, “lawmakers are calling for a fuller accounting of the hack and urging regulators to consider steep fines for lapses in the telecom industry.”

Also reporting are the Detroit Free Press (8/19, 2.16M), USA Today (8/19, 12.7M), the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Uberti, Rundle, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), TechDirt (8/18), The Hill (8/19, 5.69M), the Washington Post (8/19, 10.52M), UberGizmo (8/19), the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (8/19, 396K), ABC News (8/19, 2.44M), CNET News (8/19, 3.77M), the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Uberti, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), CNET News (8/19, Cipriani, 3.77M), the Daily Mail (UK) (8/18, Manno, 4.11M), the Chicago Tribune (8/18, O’Brien, 2.03M), and Gadgets360 (IND) (8/19).

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

WPost: Police Shootings Not Letting Up. Congress Must Act.

The Washington Post (8/20, 10.52M) editorializes, “It has been six years since The Post began tracking fatal shootings by on-duty police and the story has — depressingly — remained unchanged.” The Post says that shows “the need for Congress to pass police reforms.” The Post also says that “The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act could help bring about some needed reforms,” and “the Post’s latest findings should be a spur to Congress to act.” The Post says its “investigation then found that the FBI undercounted fatal police shootings by more than half because the reporting by police departments is voluntary and many departments fail to do so.”

Experts Say Police Posts Of Crises May Traumatize.

The AP (8/23) reports that short clips of suicide rescues have been “posted on official law enforcement social media accounts, part of a longstanding practice by police agencies to showcase their lifesaving efforts online – especially in 2021 as desperation grows for positive press amid accusations of excessive force and racism following George Floyd’s murder, and rising gun violence and killings.” However, “with renewed attention on officer interactions with people who are suffering from mental health issues, experts and advocates are taking another look at these posts with an eye toward whether they exploit the very victims law enforcement just saved.”

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Ontario Police Shooting Death Of Boy, Father, On Hold As FBI Conducts Ballistic Testing.

The National Post (CAN) (8/20, 75K) reports that “Ontario’s police watchdog says its investigation into the police shooting death of a one-year-old boy and his father is on hold.” The Special Investigations Unit “says the ‘hold pattern’ is due to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation conducting ballistic testing.” The SIU “said Ontario Provincial Police officers shot at the 33-year-old father in Kawartha Lakes, Ont., in his car after he allegedly abducted his child on Nov. 26, 2020.” SIU spokeswoman Kristy Denette said, “The investigation is currently in a hold pattern awaiting the results of specialized, out-of-country forensic testing of some of the ballistic evidence by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.”

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Nation Continues To Grapple With COVID Surge As Reporting Indicates FDA May Give Pfizer Vaccine Full Approval As Soon As Monday.

The CBS Weekend News^s (8/22, 6:15 p.m. EST, story 6, 2:20, Duncan, 1.35M) reported that the

CDC "says hospitalizations of people under the age of 50 with COVID are at the highest level since the start of the pandemic. With the largest increases among young people." Correspondent Mark Strassman said, "Nationwide four of every five ICU beds are full. Nearly one-third of all adult ICU patients have the virus. The vast majority unvaccinated. Oregon is overwhelmed. 1,500 National Guard troops back up front line workers. And Orlando residents have to conserve water. It is treated with liquid oxygen which hospitals need to keep COVID-19 patients breathing, and COVID deaths are now up in 42 states."

Meanwhile, on ABC World News Tonight⁸ (8/22, 6:45 p.m. EST, story 6, 2:00, Davis, 4.05M), correspondent Marcus Moore reported that "as the nation battles against the surge of COVID cases and deaths, the New York Times is reporting the FDA may grant full approval to Pfizer's COVID vaccine as early as" Monday. Moore added, "The US' daily case average has now risen to 137,000 cases a day, up by approximately 230% in the last month, overwhelming hospitals."

NBC Nightly News⁸ (8/22, 6:40 p.m. EST, story 5, 2:00, Snow, 6.2M) reported that the Pfizer vaccine receiving full approval "could boost vaccination efforts at a time when the delta variant continues to ravage the South." Correspondent Emilie Ikeda said that Florida became the third state to surpass three million cases. Meanwhile, Jesse Jackson "and his wife [were] hospitalized after testing positive for COVID-19." Jesse Jackson was inoculated in January. Ikeda also reported that Mississippi is "experiencing the most hospitalizations since the start of the pandemic. State health officials ordering people to home isolate on first knowledge of infection with COVID-19. Failure to do so could result in a \$500 fine or even six months behind bars."

The AP (8/22, Tareen) reports that Jackson and his wife "remained under doctors' observation Sunday at a Chicago hospital and were 'responding positively to treatments' for COVID-19, their son told The Associated Press." Jesse Jackson and his wife "were admitted to Northwestern Memorial Hospital a day earlier. Physicians were 'carefully monitoring their condition' because of their ages, Jonathan Jackson, one of the couple's five children, said in a statement." The AP says of Jesse Jackson, "A mentee of the Rev. Martin Luther King, he was crucial in guiding the modern civil rights movement on numerous issues, including voting rights."

Moreover, Surgeon General Murthy, on CNN's State Of The Union⁸ (8/22, 655K), discussed whether the FDA will soon approve the coronavirus vaccine. Murthy said, "I won't get ahead of the FDA's announcement. We've known for a while they were considering the full approval for the Pfizer vaccine. I anticipate if and when that comes, that will have two impacts. I think for people who have been waiting for this, and that's a small number of people, but I think still significant, this may tip them over toward getting vaccinated. But I also think for businesses and universities that have been thinking about putting vaccine requirements in place in order to create safer spaces for people to work and learn, I think that this move from the FDA when it comes will actually help them to move forward with those kinds of plans."

The Hill (8/22, Schnell, 5.69M) reports that while on "State of the Union," Murthy "said vaccine requirements at businesses and colleges are 'a very reasonable thing to do,' as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reportedly set to fully approve the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as soon as this week." Moreover, Murthy "endorsed requirements for school employees to get vaccinated to 'create a safer environment for our kids.'" Said Murthy, "There's one other thing I think we need to do that some states have been doing to create a safer school environment, and that's requiring that employees in the school, including teachers and other staff, are vaccinated as well to create a safer environment for our kids."

Murthy Discusses Booster Shot Plan. On ABC's This Week⁸ (8/22, 2.35M), Murthy discussed the Administration's plan to recommend booster shots. Murthy said, "There are several things Americans should know about the booster announcement. Number one is that the vaccines are continuing to work remarkably well for preventing people from ending up in the hospital and they're saving lives. That's the reason we're not regular recommending boosters today. We're anticipating there may be an erosion in the protection down the line. To stay ahead of the virus we're recommending that people start to get boosters the week of September 20th. It will start with people on their eight-month anniversary following their second shot. It will end up prioritizing those at highest risk including long term healthcare workers, long-term facility residents, and the

elderly.”

Murthy: COVID Case Totals “Deeply Concerning.” On Fox News Sunday³ (8/22, 893K), Murthy discussed the overall number of cases in the fourth wave. Murthy said, “The numbers are deeply concerning. Driven by the delta variant, cases have surged over the last several weeks and how high they could go is an open question, but I do think there are a couple of things buried in the data which are very important to recognize. Number one is that the vast majority of people who are ending up in hospital and who are losing their lives to this illness are those who are unvaccinated, which means that the vaccinations are doing their job to keep people out of the hospital and to save lives, and what we’ve got to do is get more people vaccinated as quickly as possible. It was encouraging, over the last three days in particular, to see that we topped one million vaccinations administered each day.”

More Than Two Dozen States Hired Consultants To Manage Inoculation Rollouts.

The Washington Post (8/22, A1, Stanley-Becker, 10.52M) reports a Post tally shows that no less than “25 states, along with federal agencies and many cities and counties, hired consulting firms” to manage vaccine rollouts. The Post adds, “The American vaccination drive came to rely on global behemoths such as McKinsey and Boston Consulting Group (BCG), with downsized state and local health departments and even federal health agencies relying on the private sector to make vaccines available to their citizens, according to hundreds of pages of contract documents, emails and text messages obtained through public records requests.” Consultants claim that they helped prevent fatalities “by supporting overextended public servants with specialized expertise,” though “critics question whether such contracts improve government performance.”

Cardona: States Can’t Withhold Federal Funds From School Districts Over Mask Mandates.

Politico (8/22, Choi, 6.73M) reports that public schools wishing to implement mask requirement “rules can’t be denied federal funds, even if their state governments try to pressure them out of mask mandates, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said.” Florida “threatened to withhold funds for schools in Broward and Alachua counties if they imposed mandatory mask rules.” The Administration, though, has proposed utilizing federal money “to make up the difference, with Cardona specifying Sunday that the schools ‘do not have to get the green light for [their] governor to use these funds.’” On NBC’s “Meet the Press”³ (8/22, 2.84M), Cardona said, “We have to do everything in our power to keep them safe,” adding, “I spoke to the superintendents of those two communities and I let them know that we have their back. And yes, they can draw down on the funds that were promised to them so they can safely reopen schools.”

Schools In Tallahassee, Florida Impose Mask Requirement. The AP (8/22, Spencer) reports, “The school superintendent in Florida’s capital city announced Sunday that masks will be required for students in prekindergarten through eighth grade,” thus making his district the seventh one to spurn Gov. Ron DeSantis’ (R) prohibition of such COVID-19 requirements. Leon County Superintendent Rocky Hanna “said the district has seen positive tests for the coronavirus skyrocket since school opened Aug. 11 in Tallahassee and its immediate suburbs.” The AP also reports that Hanna “said parents who don’t want their elementary or middle school student to wear a mask will need to get a signed note from their child’s physician or psychologist by Friday.”

Southern, Midwestern Hospitals Treating More Pediatric COVID Cases Than At Any Previous Point.

The Wall Street Journal (8/22, Toy, Wernau, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Southern as well as Midwestern hospitals indicate that they are treating a greater number of children with COVID-19 than at any previous point and are gearing up for more severe surges. The Journal adds that during the past six weeks, infections in the South and Midwest have surged as the Delta variant spreads mainly among unvaccinated individuals.

Politico Analysis: Looming Decisions By Certain Students Who “Stepped Away From School” Could Increase Income Gap.

A [Politico](#) (8/17, Quilantan, 6.73M) analysis says a recovering economy, pervasiveness of COVID-19 inoculations and face-to-face learning might be insufficient with regard to attracting "students who have turned their backs on a postsecondary education." Politico adds, "That prospect has sent college and career advisers scrambling to connect with at-risk students. Many stepped away from school to help their families by taking low-paying jobs in the pandemic-ravaged economy." Student's choices this month could increase an income gap, thus possibly worsening "inequities for a new generation." During an interview, The Education Trust Vice President of Higher Education Policy and Practice Wil Del Pilar said, "If we don't go get these students, there are students who just aren't going to show up at our institutions." Pilar also said, "Low-income students and students of color don't take a gap year - they leave school and then we've lost them in higher ed."

Neurosurgery Professor Feels Healthcare Personnel Should Treat People With Dignity To Encourage Inoculations.

In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) op-ed, University of South Alabama Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery Dr. Richard Menger says that to encourage inoculations, healthcare workers should talk to people as well as treat them with dignity, with Menger also saying that a sensationalist, self-righteous narrative propelled by social media doesn't assist anybody.

Hogan Touts Maryland's Vaccination Numbers.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R), on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (8/22, 1.9M), discussed the status of the coronavirus in the state. Hogan said, "It's under control better than in most other states where we have the second lowest case rate and positivity rate in America. So, you know, we've got 80% of our population over 18 that's been vaccinated. That's one of the best in the country which is helping us keep this delta variant at bay. We've got 94% of our vulnerable population, 65 and over. So while it is an issue, we're very concerned about the spread of the delta variant all across the country and it has impacted us. Our numbers are going up, but they're going up from a very low place. We're still better off than a lot of people and we're better able to handle the surge than many other places."

Gottlieb: "Presumption Is That We're Diagnosing Just A Small Fraction Of The Kids Who Are Ultimately Contracting" Coronavirus.

Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (8/22, 1.9M), discussed the total number of coronavirus cases, and whether testing is adequate to get a sense of the true scale. Gottlieb said, "We may be very far off, we don't have an accurate sense of that number. Right now, about 4.2 million kids have been diagnosed with COVID. But the presumption is that we're diagnosing just a small fraction of the kids who are ultimately contracting the virus. ... There's been far more infection among children than what we're diagnosing because most of the infection is asymptomatic or mild and that doesn't necessarily present to a pediatrician for testing. This is really a critical question because it gets to the heart of whether or not this new delta variant is more pathogenic in children."

Pelosi, Centrist Democrats Remain Divided Over Infrastructure Vote.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports centrist House Democrats and House Speaker Pelosi remain deadlocked over when to hold a vote on the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, which puts in jeopardy the House's ability to move a \$3.5 trillion infrastructure package, which includes key pieces of President Biden's agenda, in votes early this week. The [New York Times](#) (8/22, Weisman, 20.6M) describes "finger-pointing and rising tensions" among House Democrats. This, as the "clamor for a quick victory on infrastructure, both for congressional Democrats and President Biden, has only grown louder amid the anguish over Afghanistan." While the centrists "say they will block consideration of the budget blueprint... unless the House immediately votes on the Senate-passed bipartisan infrastructure bill," Pelosi "and dozens of progressive Democrats are equally adamant that the infrastructure vote will happen only

after the Senate approves an ambitious bill that includes universal preschool, two years of free community college, paid family leave, federal support for child care and elder care, an expansion of Medicare, and a broad effort to convert the fossil fuel economy to one based on renewable, clean energy.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/22, A1, Romm, 10.52M) says even if Democrats do “come together...some Democrats acknowledged this weekend the spat has lasting significance – foreshadowing potentially further clashes as lawmakers translate their budget into fuller legislation still to come.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/22, 10.52M) argues in an editorial that Democrats’ intraparty battles “must not ruin what is a rare opportunity in Washington, a moment when substantial reform is possible. Instead of issuing ultimatums, the party that narrowly controls the House should get to work.”

Georgia Reaping Benefits Of Solar Power Despite Lack Of Renewable Mandates.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Shao, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that while Georgia lacks mandates for renewable energy production, the state has benefited from the solar power industry. The Journal adds Georgia now has the ninth largest installed solar capacity in the country, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. However, the Journal says Republican regulators in Georgia have pressed the state’s primary utility to invest in solar power as a way to attract major businesses.

Grocery Stores Facing Supply Challenges.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports grocery stores are tackling supply challenges some executives said are similar to what they saw when the pandemic hit in spring 2020, as hoarding left holes in the stock for some staple goods. The Journal reports some food companies are anticipating disruptions that will last into 2022. Industry executives say shortages of labor and raw materials are leading to new problems weekly. Resin, aluminum, and other raw materials used for packaging are running low, and producers are prioritizing their most popular items, according to some retailers. Companies including Kraft Heinz and Conagra said they are facing shortages of popular products.

Ellison, Advocates Press Biden To Support Progressive Prosecutors.

Writing at [USA Today](#) (8/22, 12.7M), Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison (D), Miriam Aroni Krinsky, the executive director of Fair and Just Prosecution, and Joyce White Vance, a professor at the University of Alabama School of Law who previously served as US attorney in Alabama, assert “millions of people have taken to the streets demanding an end to racial injustice and mass incarceration,” and “voters across the country are giving the nod to prosecutors who are pushing for an end to mass incarceration over those with a more tough-on-crime agenda.” They call upon President Biden “and national leaders to heed this call and invest in prosecutorial innovation that can make the criminal legal system more fair and just for all communities and leave America safer.” They argue the Administration “must build on this community-based movement and follow through on a commitment the president made to form a Task Force on 21st Century Prosecution, modeled on President Barack Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing.”

US Schools Confront Shortages Of Bus Drivers.

The [AP](#) (8/22, Hanson, Whitehurst) says school districts nationwide are offering incentives to hire bus drivers, as the “shortage...is complicating the start of a school year already besieged by the highly contagious delta variant of COVID-19, contentious disagreement over masking requirements, and the challenge of catching up on educational ground lost as the pandemic raged last year.” The AP adds the shortage “isn’t new, but a labor shortage across many sectors and the pandemic’s lingering effects have made it worse, since about half the workforce was over 65 and more vulnerable to the virus, said Joanna McFarland, co-founder and CEO of school ride-service company HopSkipDrive, which tracks school bus issues.”

White House Officials Tout Drug Price Plan To Democrats, Sources Say.

Politico (8/22, Barron-Lopez, 6.73M) reports White House officials are "aggressively touting the political benefits of President Joe Biden's plan to lower the cost of prescription drug prices" in private conversations with lawmakers, "setting up the issue as a likely focal point of Congress' budget debate when the House returns this week." Politico adds that the White House and Democrats are also planning "to hammer Republicans who oppose the proposal as being on the side of big pharmaceutical companies that overcharge Americans."

JUUL, Other E-Cigarette Manufacturers Awaiting Imminent FDA Decision On Products.

The Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that JUUL Labs and other makers of electronic cigarettes are waiting for a Sept. 9 deadline under which the FDA will make a series of rulings on which products will be allowed to remain on the market. The agency said it has fast-tracked those with the biggest market share.

New Data Show Hospitals Charge Vastly Different Prices For Same Services.

The New York Times (8/22, A1, Kliff, Katz, Taylor, 20.6M) reports, "This year, the federal government ordered hospitals to begin publishing a prized secret: a complete list of the prices they negotiate with private insurers." The Times says "data from the hospitals that have complied hints at why the powerful industries wanted this information to remain hidden." It "shows hospitals are charging patients wildly different amounts for the same basic services: procedures as simple as an X-ray or a pregnancy test." And it "provides numerous examples of major health insurers – some of the world's largest companies, with billions in annual profits – negotiating surprisingly unfavorable rates for their customers." In many cases, insured patients "are getting prices that are higher than they would if they pretended to have no coverage at all."

O'Grady: Administration Ineptitude Has Been Factor In Immigration Policy Most Suitably Characterized As Cruel.

In a Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) column, Mary Anastasia O'Grady says that a combination of Administration ineptitude and political one-upmanship has led to an immigration policy most suitably characterized as cruel.

Biden Promises Federal Help After Henri Makes Landfall In Rhode Island.

The New York Times (8/22, Newman, 20.6M) reports Tropical Storm Henri "battered the Northeast with fierce winds and torrential rain on Sunday, knocking out power in most of coastal Rhode Island, forcing evacuations in Connecticut, stranding dozens of motorists in New Jersey and shattering rainfall records in New York City," but the storm, "which was downgraded from a hurricane hours before making landfall in Rhode Island, spared the region the worst of what had been predicted, and it weakened quickly as it made its way north."

The AP (8/22, Klepper, Kunzelman) reports that while "there were few early reports of major damage due to wind or surf," the "heavy, sustained rains raised concerns about flooding from the storm that threatened to stall over the region before pivoting to the East and moving out to the Atlantic Ocean on Monday night." The AP adds President Biden on Sunday "promised to provide federal help as quickly as possible to the residents of northeastern states affected by Henri." The AP says the President "declared disasters in much of the region, opening the purse strings for federal recovery aid."

The Washington Post (8/22, 10.52M) describes Biden as "seeking to project competence and control in the face of dueling crises at home and abroad." The Post adds that the President "said he has deployed the Federal Emergency Management Agency" and "said he spoke with governors from states likely to be affected and approved emergency declarations for Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York." Biden also "warned that Henri could compound with rainfall that has already affected the region over the past several days."

According to Bloomberg (8/22, Sullivan, 3.57M), "Manhattan has never had a wetter hour, at least since Ulysses S. Grant was president." Bloomberg adds the National Weather Service

announced Henri "poured 1.9 inches (48 millimeters) of rain on New York City's Central Park between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. Saturday as it swirled past on its way to Rhode Island, making it the wettest 60 minutes on record there dating to 1869," and it "set a new mark for the rainiest Aug. 21 on record." Reuters (8/22, Garibian, Zieminski) reports Henri "left more than 110,000 electric customers in southern New England without power, including 72,000 in Rhode Island," as of Sunday afternoon, according to PowerOutage. US. On CBS Weekend News (8/22, 6:03 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:10, Duncan, 1.69M), Kris Van Cleave described the power outages as "the biggest issue in... Connecticut," though "for other parts of New England, it is seemingly unending rain."

Linsey Davis opened ABC World News Tonight (8/22, 6:32 p.m. EST, lead story, 4:00, Davis, 4.05M) by reporting Henri "is now heading northwest. Coastal towns feeling the brunt of Henri's powerful storm surge and 60 plus-mile-per-hour winds." Janai Norman continued, "More than an additional six inches of rain or more [are] possible over the next 24 hours as this storm continues to move through." Kate Snow opened NBC Nightly News (8/22, 6:31 p.m. EST, lead story, 2:35, Snow, 6.2M) by reporting 38 million people "are now under some form of flood alert with more expected. Rivers are close to flood stage in many areas, and you can see just how many people have felt this storm by looking at the view from space." However, Kathy Park added, "Conditions have improved dramatically. No coastal flooding to report where we are, but high winds were a big concern earlier in the day. Meanwhile, all coastal watches and warnings have since been cancelled."

At Least 22 People Dead, Dozens Missing After Flash Floods In Tennessee.

The New York Times (8/22, Rojas, Levenson, 20.6M) reports at least 22 people have died "and more than two dozen others remain missing on Sunday after a catastrophic flash flood swept through a rural area of rivers, creeks and rolling woods about 90 minutes west of Nashville, the authorities said." The Times adds that the floods "vanished as quickly as it arrived, and left in its wake was a bewildering display of its fury and strength in a collection of rural communities in and around Humphreys County." The AP (8/21) reports that the flooding occurred after "up to 17 inches (43 centimeters) of rain fell in Humphreys County in less than 24 hours Saturday, shattering the Tennessee record for one-day rainfall by more than 3 inches (8 centimeters), the National Weather Service said."

On ABC World News Tonight (8/22, 6:37 p.m. EST, story 3, 2:10, Davis, 4.05M), Elwyn Lopez reported local officials are "combing the area going door to door checking houses like this one looking for the missing." On NBC Nightly News (8/22, 6:36 p.m. EST, story 3, 2:10, Snow, 6.2M), Vaughn Hillyard reported the National Guard is "with other state and local emergency teams trying to account for those missing. It's knocked out cell service and mass power outages, complicated loved ones efforts to find each other." On the CBS Weekend News (8/22, 6:01 p.m. EST, lead story, 1:45, Duncan, 1.69M), Jessi Mitchell reported that with "a massive search and rescue operation," Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee (R) on Sunday toured the area "as volunteers from around the volunteer state arrive to help with the recovery." According to the Washington Post (8/22, 10.52M), "The destruction unfolded as other extreme weather events around the country stoke concerns that the changing climate is making natural disasters more frequent and more intense."

California's Caldor And Dixie Fires Rage With Little Progress On Containment.

The AP (8/22) reports the Caldor Fire, which has "charred nearly 154 square miles (399 square kilometers) of trees and brush in the northern Sierra Nevada" since starting on Aug. 14, on Sunday "continued to grow out of control," and "there was zero containment." Meanwhile, the AP says that on Sunday,, "the massive Dixie Fire also kept expanding. In five weeks, the blaze about 175 miles (282 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco became the second-largest in state history and blackened an area twice the size of Los Angeles. It was 37% contained." The AP adds that in Southern California, "evacuation orders remain in place for rural communities near the French Fire northeast of Bakersfield in Kern County. That blaze grew to about 21 square miles (54 square kilometers) and was 10% contained."

Cuomo Says He Will Leave Office Monday Despite Tropical Storm Henri.

The AP (8/22) reports New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), who is set to resign at the end of the day Monday, "spent his second-to-last day in office projecting an image that he is still in control, and still fully engaged as the state dealt with heavy rain from Tropical Storm Henri." Cuomo "appeared at a televised briefing Sunday surrounded by top state officials involved in the state's storm response." Cuomo said Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, who will become governor Tuesday morning, "has been briefed on all of this and we're in constant communication." Asked "if he still planned to leave office as planned," Cuomo said "Yes, my final day is tomorrow." Cuomo "said he asked his emergency management team that if any were thinking of leaving their jobs Tuesday, and not joining the new administration, that they stay in place 'for the good of the state' until the storm crisis had passed." The Wall Street Journal (8/22, Vielkind, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says as Cuomo's belongings were moved out of the Executive Mansion, he spent his final days in office signing bills and granting clemency to several prison inmates.

An AP (8/22, Klepper) analysis says while "those who watched Cuomo's daily COVID-19 briefings and saw a beacon of strength and competence," may see his departure as "a stunning reversal," for "New Yorkers, and especially those who butted heads with Cuomo, it is a story about how his drive to dominate made him the master of New York politics and brought about his downfall."

Experts Say Results Of Arizona Election Audit Cannot Be Taken Seriously.

The AP (8/22) reports the cybersecurity firm Cyber Ninjas, which was "plucked from relative obscurity to conduct an unprecedented review of ballots in Arizona's largest country is readying to present its findings to Republican lawmakers." But, experts say "there should be little anticipation about the revelations from the Maricopa County audit --and whatever those revelations are, they cannot be taken seriously." Cyber Ninjas' report "is scheduled to be handed over Monday, but the findings will not immediately be made public."

The Wall Street Journal (8/22, Corse, Collins, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says Arizona Republicans are divided over the audit. While its backers say it is necessary to show election security is being treated seriously and the 2022 elections will be fair, others believe continuing to relitigate the 2020 election will drive away centrist Republicans and independents.

Both Parties Seek To Recruit Veterans as Candidates For Midterms.

The AP (8/22, Weissert) reports Republicans and Democrats are trying to recruit veterans as candidates in the midterm elections. Both parties expect "a significant number of races where veterans will be opposing each other, using their military service as a foundation of their appeal even as they hold widely diverging views on issues." With Democrats "clinging to threadbare advantages in both the House and Senate," the AP says "the success of these candidates could determine the balance of power." The AP adds that the "chaotic winding down of the U.S. war effort in Afghanistan" alongside "President Joe Biden's blaming his predecessor's policies for much of what occurred" could "resonate with voters in ways not seen since opposition to the Iraq War helped Democrats retake the House in 2006."

California Regulators Investigating Whether Elder Failed To Disclose Income Sources.

The Los Angeles Times (8/22, 3.37M) reports a spokesman for California's Fair Political Practices Commission confirmed Sunday that regulators "have launched an investigation into whether recall election gubernatorial candidate Larry Elder failed to properly disclose his income sources." Elder "was required to file a public statement of economic interests that discloses some aspects of his personal finances, including stocks, gifts, real estate that he owns and sources of income." His "initial filing was only two pages long and only showed income from Laurence A. Elder and Associates Inc." According to a Times report, Elder "likely failed to properly disclose his finances because he appeared to own the company, meaning he was also required to report ownership in the business as well as income sources to the company above certain amounts." Following the story, the California Democratic Party "filed a complaint with the Fair Political Practices

Commission alleging that Elder failed to properly disclose the business and its sources of income.”

Experts Say California Recall Process Likely To Survive Legal Challenge. The Los Angeles Times (8/22, 3.37M) reports that “legal scholars have debated whether the recall election of Gov. Gavin Newsom [D] could be found unconstitutional if Newsom failed to realize a ‘no recall’ majority of the ballots cast and was ousted by a candidate who received fewer votes than he did.” While it is “impossible to predict how courts will rule, many experts say the current recall process has long survived legal challenges, and probably would again.”

WSJournal: House Should Vote Down John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

A Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial says the Senate’s push for H.R. 1 was a politico show designed, in part, to increase pressure for H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the text of which was released last week. The Journal argue that measure should also be defeated when the House votes this week.

Blow: Many Black Americans Moving To Southern Cities.

Charles M. Blow writes in the New York Times (8/22, 20.6M) that “many inner cities in the North and West are becoming less and less Black because Black people are moving out.” The “dwindling of the Black population in what had come to be Black strongholds is happening all over the country, either because of pricing pressure for housing spurred by gentrification or the reverse migration wave of Black people from the North and West moving back to the South.” While this “has been a boon for Black power in many of the places to which Black people have moved,” Blow says “there has been another undeniable impact – a vanishing of culture and a hollowing out of power in the places they fled.” This does not “mean that there are now fewer cities with Black majorities; the number is on the rise, as Brookings pointed out in 2019. It’s just that 90 percent of majority Black cities are now in the South.”

OTHER AFGHANISTAN NEWS

Biden: US Considering Extending Withdrawal Deadline, Pledges Full Evacuation.

The Washington Post (8/22, Suliman, Westfall, Vargas, 10.52M) reports President Biden “said Sunday that he is having ‘discussions’ about extending the deadline for the U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, which had been scheduled for Aug. 31.” The President “said U.S.-led forces have expanded the perimeter of and ‘increased access’ to Kabul’s airport. He added the Taliban has been “cooperative in extending the perimeter.” The AP (8/22, Burns, Superville) reports the President “asserted, without a full explanation, that U.S. forces have managed to improve access to the airport for Americans and others seeking to get on flights. He suggested that the perimeter had been extended, widening a ‘safe zone.’” However, an Administration official told CNN (8/22, Stracqualursi, Klein, Carvajal, 89.21M) “later Sunday that the US military operations at the airport in Kabul have not changed or expanded.”

Politico (8/22, Hooper, 6.73M) reports the President “declined to go into further detail about what his administration has done to expand the evacuation operations outside of the Kabul airport,” saying, “What I’m not going to do is talk about the tactical changes we’re making to make sure we maintain as much security as we can.” Reuters (8/22) reports Biden “said he had directed the State Department to contact Americans stranded in Afghanistan by phone, email and other means, and the United States had a plan to move them to the airport.”

The New York Times (8/22, Shear, 20.6M) reports the President also “pledged that all evacuated Afghan allies will be given a home in the United States after they are screened and vetted at bases in other countries.” Biden said, “We will welcome these Afghans who have helped us in the war effort over the last 20 years to their new home in the United States of America. Because that’s who we are. That’s what America is.” The Hill (8/22, Chalfant, 5.69M) reports the President also “emphasized” in his address that refugees from Afghanistan “will be thoroughly vetted before they are brought to the United States.” The President said, “Planes taking off from Kabul are not flying directly to the United States. They’re landing at U.S. military bases and transit

centers around the world. At these sites where they are landing, we are conducting thorough ... security screening for everyone who is not a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident. Anyone arriving in the United States will have undergone a background check."

ABC World News Tonight⁸ (8/22, 6:43 p.m. EST, story 5, 2:00, Davis, 4.05M) reported the President "is facing an avalanche of criticism for his handling of the crisis, still the President insists history will judge his decision was the right one." ABC (Parks) added, "Late today coming before the cameras insisting the chaos the world is watching was unavoidable." President Biden: "I think that history is going to record this was the logical, rational and right decision to make." ABC World News Tonight⁸ (8/22, 6:39 p.m. EST, story 4, 4:30, Davis, 4.05M) reported, "President Biden telling Americans a lot could still go wrong. The US extending the safe zone around the Kabul airport and there are now discussions about if American troops will be there beyond the August 31st deadline." ABC (Pannell) added, "Tonight, the race to evacuate Kabul growing more urgent by the day. Roughly 7,800 people flown out in the last 24 hours, the highest number so far." The President was shown saying, "We have a long way to go, and a lot could still go wrong."

NBC Nightly News⁸ (8/22, 6:38 p.m. EST, story 4, 2:30, Snow, 6.2M) reported, "President Biden says 28,000 people have been evacuated in just over a week, but pressure is mounting on the President and the Administration to rescue Americans and allies still on the ground." NBC (Alba) added, "There are still at least several thousand Americans stranded in Afghanistan. The White House not ruling out sending additional forces to help, with the President seeking daily input from his military commanders on the possibility of more troops."

The CBS Weekend News⁸ (8/22, 6:06 p.m. EST, story 4, 2:40, Duncan, 1.69M) reported a new CBS poll "finds most Americans approve of removing US troops. But most also believe the handling of the withdrawal has gone either very or somewhat badly, President Biden approval rating has fallen from 62% in March to 50% right now." CBS (Alfarone) reported the President "was asked about it point blank. And he seemed unfazed, saying that this chaos would happen no matter when the US withdrew. And then he defended his decision. The President said history will prove him right." The President was shown saying, "When this is over, the American people have a clear understanding of what I did, why we did it."

The Hill (8/22, Samuels, 5.69M) reports Biden "sought to underscore how the U.S. evacuation effort was ramping up in the face of bipartisan and international criticism about a withdrawal effort that has been marred by reports of Afghan allies fearful of retribution under Taliban rule."

In general, the coverage continued to portray the situation at the airport as unstable. For example, the CBS Weekend News⁸ (8/22, 6:09 p.m. EST, story 5, 1:40, Duncan, 1.69M) reported, "As the US scrambles to control the mayhem at the Kabul airport, the situation is growing increasingly dire for thousands of Afghans trying to flee the Taliban." CBS (Saberi) added, "CBS News has learned from a State Department source that the US mission says that the situation at the airport remains volatile but the gates where US troops were stationed were less violent today. Just outside some witnesses say the Taliban are now making people form lines but that there is still a mix of order and chaos."

Reuters (8/22) reports the UK's defence ministry "said seven Afghans were killed in the crush around the airport on Saturday as thousands tried to get a flight out. Sky News showed soldiers on a wall on Saturday attempting to pull the injured from the crush and spraying people with a hose to prevent them from getting dehydrated." The AP (8/22, Seir, Akhgar, Gambrell) reports the British military on Sunday "acknowledged at least seven deaths at the airport. Others may have been trampled, suffocated or suffered heart attacks as Taliban fighters fired into the air to try to drive back the crowds." Bloomberg (8/22, 3.57M) also reports on the latest on the evacuation.

Top Administration Officials Defend Evacuation On Morning Shows. Key Administration officials had earlier in the day appeared on the morning shows to highlight the increased pace of the evacuation efforts. Politico (8/22, Hooper, 6.73M) reports National Security Adviser Sullivan said on Sunday that the Administration is "not going to rest" until all civilians are evacuated from Afghanistan. Politico adds, "Asked on CNN's State Of The Union⁸ (8/22, 644K) whether the Administration could guarantee continuing evacuations safely past Aug. 31, Sullivan said: 'What we are doing, every single minute of every single hour of every single day is working

to ... create safe passage for all civilians, including the Afghans who work for us, to the airport, to get them on planes and get them out." On NBC's Meet The Press (8/22, 2.84M), Sullivan highlighted the numbers that have been evacuated, saying, "Just yesterday, we facilitated the flight out of 7,800 people, 3,900 on US military aircraft, 3,900 on charter aircraft from private organizations and other countries. Since the beginning of this evacuation, it's been 30,000 people total. Since August 14th, it's been 25,000." However, on CNN's State Of The Union (8/22, 644K), Sullivan could not provide an exact number of the Americans awaiting evacuation, saying, "We believe it is several thousand Americans who we are working with now to try to get safely out of the country."

Secretary of State Blinken, on Fox News Sunday (8/22, 893K), said, "It's an incredibly volatile situation, it's an incredibly fluid situation. ... The more we move people out of the airport, the more we alleviate what has been overcrowding in the airport, the more we can get people inside the airport and reduce some of the crowding at the gates. Second, and most important, we are in direct contact with Americans and others to help guide them to the airport, to the right place, at the right time, to get in more safely and effectively."

On CBS' Face The Nation (8/22, 2.58M), Blinken highlighted the challenges and successes of the evacuation effort, saying, "Go back a week. The government fell. ... The military collapsed. In the space of that week, our military went in, secured the airport, got our embassy to safety at the airport from the embassy compound, began this remarkable evacuation effort. And as I said, we had about 8,000 people out just in the last 24 hours. Since going back to the end of July it's 30,000 people. And that's quite extraordinary. It doesn't just happen. A tremendous amount of planning and effort went into that, including a lot of pre-planning."

In a prerecorded interview on ABC's This Week (8/22, 2.35M), Defense Secretary Austin said, "We're going to try our very best to get everybody, every American citizen, who wants to get out, out. We continue to look at creative ways to reach out and contact American citizens and help them get into the airfield." Regarding reports that the Taliban are hindering the evacuation, Austin said, "There have been incidents of people having some tough encounters with Taliban. As we learn about those incidents, we engage the Taliban leadership and press home to them that our expectation is they allow our people with the appropriate credentials to get through the check points."

Pentagon Activates CRAF To Aid Evacuation. The Wall Street Journal (8/22, Lubold, Youssef, Sider, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that six airlines are readying 18 planes to help move evacuated Afghans, following a Pentagon order Sunday morning to activate elements of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet. The aircraft won't fly into Kabul, but will ferry evacuees to the US from other bases. Reuters (8/22, Ali, Heavey) says that move "highlights the difficulty Washington is having carrying out the evacuations following the Taliban's swift takeover." The President said on Sunday afternoon, "It's a program that was designed in the wake of the Berlin airlift after World War Two to use commercial aircraft to augment our airlift capacity," adding that the program is voluntary.

Baby Girl Born To Afghan Mother On USAF C-17. The Washington Post (8/22, Sulamin, 10.52M) reports an Afghan Woman gave birth to a daughter in the cargo bay of a USAF C-17 "shortly after landing at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Saturday." Air Mobility Command said, "The mother went into labor and began having complications. The aircraft commander decided to descend in altitude to increase air pressure in the aircraft, which helped stabilize and save the mother's life." The mother and baby are "in good condition."

Mullen Says US Should Have Left Afghanistan Sooner After Killing Bin Laden. The Hill (8/22, Oshin, 5.69M) reports in an appearance on ABC's This Week Sunday, former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Ret. Admiral Michael Mullen "said...that the U.S. should have left the Afghanistan more quickly after the killing of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in 2011." Mullen, "who served under former President Obama, also gave credit to President Biden for his focus on counterterrorism in Afghanistan." He said that "in retrospect, yes, we should have. I don't think it was possible for us to just abruptly walk away right after we killed bin Laden. But, clearly, we could have gone earlier than we did." Mullen also said, "As I look back and - and a lot of people

are critical of the president right now, President Biden had it right back then. He was focused singly on counterterrorism. His advice was along those lines. And he certainly said that. And I give him credit for that."

Some Commentators Defend Decision To Withdraw, If Not Handling Of It. A number of columnists and commentators took a nuanced view of the situation in Afghanistan. For example, E.J. Dionne writes in the Washington Post (8/22, 10.52M) that Biden's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan "is a cold, realpolitik judgment." American interests "would not be served by extending our military commitment any longer." Biden, Dionne writes, "carries the burden of showing in the coming months through his policy choices that his decision will – as he insists – make our country stronger, not weaker, and the world safer. It will not be easy. It would not have been easier five, 10 or 20 years from now."

Jonathan Capehart writes in the Washington Post (8/22, 10.52M) that although the Biden Administration "is right to be slammed for the missteps, bungling and bureaucracy adding to the chaos at Kabul's airport," President Biden "made the right decision to withdraw." Capehart argues, "After 20 years, more than \$2 trillion and the deaths of 2,448 U.S. service members and thousands of Afghan civilians, the president wisely decided 'no more.'"

In an analysis for CNN (8/22, 89.21M), John Harwood writes, "In ending America's longest war, President Joe Biden did something popular. It was never going to help him politically. That was true before damaging images of chaos and desperation filled American television screens last week. The reason is that public opinion about the Afghanistan conflict, as with most overseas events and issues, remains ill-defined and loosely held."

James Downie writes in the Washington Post (8/22, 10.52M) that Republicans "are encouraging the canard that the Afghanistan withdrawal undermines U.S. strength elsewhere." Downie cites comments from several Republicans on the Sunday talk shows and writes that while the comments "were mostly asides, but they signal how Republicans – and other interventionist voices – will approach foreign policy debates after Afghanistan: President Biden was weak, therefore the United States needs to show it can't be pushed around elsewhere." Downie argues that "American leaders need to recognize the limits of aggressive, interventionist foreign policy – not just because the American people don't support it, but because decades of poorly conceived and executed overseas adventures show us that these quests rarely succeed. Cooperation, not confrontation, must be the default solution."

Doyle McManus writes in the Los Angeles Times (8/22, 3.37M) that "politicians and pundits have declared the Taliban's victory in Afghanistan a defeat from which U.S. influence may never recover. ... But take a deep breath and remember some history." After South Vietnam fell, "many drew the same conclusion: The age of U.S. global power was over. Less than 15 years later, the Berlin Wall came down, the Cold War began to end, and the United States soon stood as the world's only superpower." McManus says the lesson is that "a debacle like the defeat in Kabul – or the one in Saigon two generations earlier – doesn't always prevent a powerful country from marshaling its resources and succeeding."

In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/22, 10.52M) says the Biden Administration "will soon have to confront two challenges – completing a massive airlift perhaps unmatched in history, and the inevitable instances in which Afghans with a claim for refugee status do not make it out (and, worse, are beaten or killed). If Biden can minimize the latter, keep his allies on board and construct a joint counterterrorism strategy that protects us without boots on the ground, he will emerge stronger. That is a big 'if.'"

In contrast, a number of pieces run by the Wall Street Journal were more critical. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), Tevi Troy, a senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and a former senior White House aide, argues that part of the problem with President Biden's decision-making on Afghanistan is that he did not hear dissenting opinions from his aides. While some military and intelligence advisers appear to have argued against withdrawal, top political aides including Secretary of State Blinken and National Security Adviser Sullivan were hesitant to make that case.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), foreign-policy columnist Benny Anvi says when President Biden decided the US would leave Afghanistan, getting

Americans and Afghans who aided the US out of danger should have been the priority before US troops were ordered out of the country.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), Hy Rothstein, who recently retired from the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School's special-operations program, argues that President Biden's action in Afghanistan has undermined allies' trust in the US and given America's enemies cause not to fear it

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says that the withdrawal from Afghanistan continues to be "ugly" and "chaotic," but the "worst humiliation" is the President's "deference" to the Taliban on how US citizens and allies will get to the airport.

Blinken Seeks To Clarify President's Assertion That Al Qaeda Is "Gone" From Afghanistan.

Politico (8/22, Choi, 6.73M) reports Secretary of State Blinken, speaking on Fox News Sunday, "tried to tamp down unease over al Qaeda's continued presence in Afghanistan, saying their capacity has been considerably diminished since the U.S. invaded the country in 2001." After Biden claimed on Friday that al Qaeda said the group was "gone" from Afghanistan, Blinken "asserted that the U.S. had effectively downgraded al Qaeda's capacity in the country, adding that Biden was referring to its ability to conduct another terrorist attack on the scale of the ones on Sept. 11, 2001." The Hill (8/22, Choi, 5.69M) reports Blinken said, "Al Qaeda's capacity to do what it did on 9/11, to attack us, to attack our partners our allies from Afghanistan, is vastly, vastly diminished. Are there al Qaeda members and remnants in Afghanistan? Yes, but what the president was referring to was its capacity to do what it did on 9/11, and that capacity has been successfully diminished."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) takes issue with Blinken's attempt to clarify the President's statement, arguing that the issue is not whether al Qaeda was diminished while the US had a significant presence in the country, but if they will now have a safe haven in which to build their strength and plot against the US.

Meanwhile, the New York Times (8/22, Schmitt, 20.6M) reports NSA Sullivan "warned" on Sunday that the "threat of a terrorist attack by the Islamic State posed a serious danger" to the evacuation effort. On CNN's State of the Union, Sullivan said, "The threat is real. It is acute. It is persistent. And it is something that we are focused on with every tool in our arsenal." His remarks were "the most urgent so far" about the "steadily increasing threats." Bloomberg (8/22, Czuczka, 3.57M) quotes Sullivan as saying, "We are working hard with our intelligence community to try to isolate and determine where an attack might come from."

The Wall Street Journal (8/22, Restuccia, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that President Biden also warned during his appearance on Sunday, "We know that terrorists may seek to exploit the situation and target innocent Afghans or American troops. We're maintaining constant vigilance to monitor and disrupt threats from any source."

Austin: No One Predicted Such A Rapid Fall Of Afghan Government.

Politico (8/22, Choi, 6.73M) reports in an interview with Martha Raddats on ABC's This Week that aired on Sunday, Defense Secretary Austin said that no one had expected the Afghan government "would fall in 11 days." He added, "It was a wide range of assessments, and as the Taliban began to make gains, and then we saw that in a number of cases, there was less fighting and more surrendering and more forces just kind of evaporating. It was very difficult to predict with accuracy."

The Hill (8/22, Schnell, 5.69M) adds that when "pressed on whether the U.S.'s planning for the withdrawal was 'acceptable and appropriate,' Austin responded, 'I do based upon, you know, what we were looking at and the inputs to the plan' before criticizing the previous administration for providing a situation in which 'there were no good options.'" Austin said of the President, "He went through a very rigorous process, very detailed process. He listened to the input that was provided by all of the stakeholders in the interagency process. And so, at the end of the day, the president made his decision. But again he was faced with a situation where there were no good options."

Republicans Hammer President Over Handling Of Evacuation.

In an analysis for [USA Today](#) (8/22, 12.7M), Joey Garrison writes Republicans "quickly seized on the chaos, previewing a possible line of attack before the 2022 midterm elections to go along with other go-to themes: a national rise in crime and the increase in migrants on the southern border. Michael McAdams, communication director of the National Republican Congressional Committee, called the Afghanistan situation 'the latest in a long line of crises' under Democratic leadership." On the other side of the aisle, [The Hill](#) (8/22, Chalfant, Parnes, 5.69M) reports the President is "grappling" with both the Afghan situation and the pandemic, and "the double crisis has caused some heartburn for Democrats, who have until now, felt as though Biden's presidency has been a resounding success."

Along those lines, a parade of Republicans, including some who were sharp critics of Donald Trump, went on the morning shows on Sunday and hammered the President's handling of the situation, and stressed the idea of that the US must do whatever is possible to ensure the evacuation is successful.

House Minority Leader McCarthy, on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#) (8/22, 1.19M), said, "Remember what [President Biden] said on Friday, that Americans will not have difficulty getting to the airport. They are. That al-Qaeda is no longer in Afghanistan, they are. The foreign leaders are not criticizing America, they are. ... Why can the French and British go out and get citizens and not America? The only thing that is holding us back is the will to do it and the authority from this President. ... This is an atrocity that will harm this nation for years to come, empower our adversaries and make our allies continue to question."

[The Hill](#) (8/22, Choi, 5.69M) reports in an appearance on [CBS' Face The Nation](#), former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley "blasted the Biden administration for its execution in withdrawing troops from Afghanistan." Asked "if she agreed with the Biden administration's assertion that it is not negotiating with the Taliban as it continues to evacuate American citizens and allies," Haley said, "They're not negotiating with the Taliban. They've completely surrendered to the Taliban. They surrendered Bagram Air Force Base, which was a major NATO hub. They surrendered \$85 billion worth of equipment and weapons that we should have gotten out of there. They have surrendered the American people and actually withdrew our troops before they withdrew the American people. And they've abandoned our Afghan allies who kept people like my husband safe." Haley "also acknowledged that the Biden administration must" do "whatever it takes to get our Americans out."

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (8/22, 10.52M), Haley similarly says Biden "badly bungled the withdrawal from Afghanistan," but he "must not also bungle the coming decision on whether to recognize" the Taliban "as Afghanistan's legitimate government. Doing so would bring the United States even lower while raising up a regime that deserves nothing but scorn and isolation." Haley says with his "rushed withdrawal, Biden has already insulted the soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen who spent the past two decades fighting the Taliban and protecting the United States. ... There are no words to describe how much worse it would be if Biden rewarded the enemy they sacrificed so much to defeat by recognizing it as a legitimate government."

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE), on [Fox News Sunday](#) (8/22, 893K), said, "The President needs to step up and be the commander-in-chief. Number one, we need enough troops to be sure we can evacuate all our people. Number two, we need to damn these deadlines. August 31 was a stupid, arbitrary politically driven deadline, the Taliban doesn't dictate the timetable on American lives."

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA), on [ABC's This Week](#) (8/22, 2.35M), said, "We should be doing everything possible to get Americans safely to the airport for evacuation. We are the strongest military on the face of this planet. We should be exercising those authorities to make sure we're flexing our military muscle, especially when it comes to evacuating Americans. ... We have to have the right number of troops to execute that mission. Of course, we can do that and I know that Secretary Austin, the President, they keep referring back to the Taliban and agreements negotiated with the Taliban. The Taliban needs to understand quite clearly that we have the right to get our American citizens out of Afghanistan. If that means we need to escort them to the airport to get them out, we will do so."

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#)⁸ (8/22, 1.09M), said the situation is "tragic, heartbreaking, it's sad but it's also infuriating because it was not just predictable, it was predicted that Joe Biden's ill-conceived, ill-planned decision to rush troops out in the middle of the fighting season could lead to this kind of chaos that we see now where we have anywhere from 10-15,000 Americans stranded behind Taliban lines, unable to get to the airport, directly contradicting what Joe Biden said Friday."

Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), on [NBC's Meet The Press](#)⁸ (8/22, 2.84M), said, "We have to ensure that we get every American out. And we have to ensure that we get out the Afghans that helped us. That's our duty. That's our responsibility. As you pointed out, what you're watching unfold on the ground is a complete catastrophe. To hear the national security adviser say it's complexity, a little turbulence or that this is a civil war, is fundamentally at odds with reality. Our mission in Afghanistan was to deny terrorists a sanctuary. The Biden decision now to completely withdraw has handed them an entire country, has, in fact, ensured, not just the Taliban, but Al Qaeda, ISIS, the Haqqani network, terrorist organizations that want to attack the United States now have an entire country as a sanctuary from which to do so."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), on [CNN's State Of The Union](#)⁸ (8/22, 644K), said, "We kind of have this failure of confidence right now in this country. ... But even the people that are totally against Afghanistan say we're really good at fighting, we're just not good at building back. Okay. Assuming that, why are we sitting in the Kabul airport right now with such a lack of confidence that we're begging the Taliban to allow us to save our own citizens, that we're scared to death to talk about if anybody has gone outside of the wire, because the United States military is truly capable of anything. ... We're sitting around, licking our wounds in the airport. And even President Biden at one point said, we just can't guarantee the outcome. The United States military can."

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R), on [CBS' Face The Nation](#)⁸ (8/22, 1.9M), said, "First of all, I think it's an unmitigated disaster about the way we've handled the exit from Afghanistan, number one. Number two, I was the first governor in America to say we wanted to reach out and take more of these special immigrant visas for the folks that have been our allies that we've made a commitment to. We've got to stand by them. We've got to get our Americans out, and we've got to get those allies out of there as well. And we're going to do everything we can to help do that. We have a discussion with the State Department tomorrow. We've already received some over the past week or two into our state and we're going to try to get as many as we can."

Taliban Working with Karzai To Form Government.

The [New York Times](#) (8/22, Cohen, 20.6M) reports the Taliban has "reached out" to Hamid Karzai and to Russia "in an attempt to fulfill their pledge to form an 'inclusive' government and defeat holdouts against their rule." Karzai "has stepped into the void left by the flight a week ago of President Ashraf Ghani. He has met with Taliban leaders, including Khalil Haqqani, who has been designated as a terrorist by the United States, and is working closely with Abdullah Abdullah, the head of the former Afghan's government's peace delegation." Mullah Abdul Rahman Mansour "talked over the weekend with Mr. Karzai and Mr. Abdullah. A growing number of senior Taliban have been seen in Kabul in recent days to discuss the shape of the next government, among them Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's chief diplomat and a senior official in the group's government in the 1990s."

Afghan Resistance Looking To Negotiate With Taliban For Role In Government. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Trofimov, Shah, Amiri, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the Taliban has fought several battles with resistance forces in north Afghanistan, particularly in Panjshir, where a number of Afghan government forces that have refused to surrender have retreated. However, the Journal says that most of the anti-Taliban resistance leaders are more focused on ensuring a role in the new government than in starting a civil war. [Reuters](#) (8/22, Mackenzie) reports that Ahmad Shah Massoud, leader of the forces in the Panjshir valley, "said on Sunday he hoped to hold peaceful talks with the Islamist movement that seized power in Kabul a week ago but that his forces were ready to fight." He told Reuters, "We want to make the Taliban realise that the only way forward is through negotiation," adding, "We do not want a war to break

out.”

UK Expected To Push G7 To Consider New Sanctions On Taliban.

Reuters (8/22, MacAskill, Shalal) reports that the UK “plans to push world leaders to consider new sanctions on the Taliban when the G7 group of advanced economies meet on Tuesday to discuss the crisis in Afghanistan, sources told Reuters.” According to a UK official, Britain “believes the G7 should consider economic sanctions and withhold aid if the Taliban commits human rights abuses and allows its territory to be used as a haven for militants.” Asked if he would back Britain’s push for sanctions if the Taliban acted in that manner, the President said, “The answer is yes. It depends on the conduct.”

Collapsing Economy A Rising Problem In Kabul.

Reuters (8/22) reports that “growing numbers” of Afghans in Kabul are “facing a daily struggle to get by with their jobs gone, banks still shuttered and food prices soaring.” While the chaos at the airport has “provided the starkest image” of the situation, “everyday worries about food and rent are adding to the uncertainty in a country whose fragile economy has been crushed by the disappearance of international support.”

Turkey Steps Up Border Security To Prevent Surge Of Afghan Refugees.

Reuters (8/22, Kucukgocmen) reports Turkey has “beefed up” its frontier with Iran to keep out Afghan refugees who may make the long trek to the country across Iran. Mehmet Emin Bilmez, governor of the eastern border province of Van, told Reuters, “We want to show the whole world that our borders are unpassable. Our biggest hope is that there is no migrant wave from Afghanistan.”

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Findings Published By Israeli Health Ministry Show Third Pfizer Dose Significantly Boosts Protection.

Reuters (8/22, Heller, Lubell) reports, “A third dose of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine has significantly improved protection from infection and serious illness among people aged 60 and older in Israel compared with those who received two shots, findings published by the Health Ministry showed on Sunday.” Reuters adds that “the findings were on par with separate statistics reported last week by Israel’s Maccabi healthcare provider.”

New Zealand’s Current COVID Outbreak Surpasses 100 Cases.

Reuters (8/23) says New Zealand on Monday “reported 35 new cases of COVID-19,” thus bringing the aggregate amount of cases in the nation’s “current outbreak to 107.”

Haitian Gang Leader Proposes Truce In Wake Of Deadly Earthquake.

The AP (8/22, Sanon, Alvarez) reports a Haitian gang leader on Sunday “offered a truce and help for communities shattered by a devastating earthquake – potentially offering a break for a relief effort that has been plagued by hijacked aid trucks and disorder,” but “it wasn’t immediately clear how much impact the truce offer might have: While powerful, Jimmy Cherizier, alias ‘Barbecue,’ is far from the only gang leader in Haiti and widely repeated social media reports of an earlier gang truce failed to prevent attacks on the expanding relief effort.”

Meanwhile, the New York Times (8/22, Kurmanaev, 20.6M) reports that as Haitians “desperately lined up for hot meals delivered to a sweltering makeshift camp this past week, fighting over – and scooping from the muddy ground – rice and chicken that spilled from plastic food containers,” Haitian politicians “have tried to fill the gap, flying out the injured on their private planes, delivering medical supplies and food and even handing out cash.” The Times adds that with elections looming, “their personal initiatives have taken on political overtones, and the epicenter has in effect become a campaign launchpad for some of Haiti’s presidential and congressional

hopefuls." However, the Times says that these efforts "have raised difficult questions about the fine line between offering urgently needed aid and cynically exploiting the suffering."

Haitian Officials Reflect On President's Murder. "More than a dozen officials, politicians, diplomats and relatives" spoke with Reuters (8/22, Graham, Paultre) about the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moise, which "decapitated a fragile government in a Caribbean country repeatedly convulsed by crisis – now exacerbated by a major earthquake on Aug. 14 – since the overthrow of the Duvalier family dictatorship in 1986." According to Reuters, "The conversations painted the 53-year-old president as a man increasingly isolated and in peril toward the end of his life." Reuters adds Moise's supporters "described his downfall as the inevitable consequence of a corrupt ruling elite closing ranks against a provincial outsider who dared to help Haiti's majority poor," while critics "cast Moise as a political novice who lacked the skills to build consensus, drifted towards autocracy and turned a blind eye to gang violence in areas hostile to his administration."

Harris Visits Singapore As Part Of Southeast Asia Trip.

Reuters (8/22) reports Vice President Harris was to "meet Singapore's leaders on Monday on the first working day of a trip to Southeast Asia aimed at bolstering ties as part of Washington's efforts to counter China's growing influence." The Vice President was also slated to "visit the Changi Naval Base and tour the USS Tulsa – a combat ship of the U.S. Navy." Reuters adds that the Vice President "arrived in Singapore on Sunday at the start of a seven-day visit to the region, which will also include a trip to Vietnam. During the visits U.S. officials will aim to address Washington's concerns about China's claims to disputed parts of the South China Sea."

Georgetown Professor Suggests That Harris Provide Vietnam With "Market Economy" Status. In an op-ed on The Hill's (8/22, 5.69M) website, Georgetown University Professor of International Business Diplomacy Marc Busch writes, "The fall of Kabul has drawn comparisons to America's chaotic withdrawal from Saigon, raising concerns about the timing of Vice President Kamala Harris's visit to Vietnam." The Vice President's "trip is intended to reassure Southeast Asian countries that the U.S. sees the region as more than just real estate in its rivalry with China. That's a difficult task in the best of times, and these aren't those." However, Harris can accomplish the job by providing Vietnam with "market economy" status. Vietnam is among the 11 nations the US regards as a "non-market economy," which means "that Vietnam's exporters are highly exposed to U.S. trade remedies, particularly antidumping duties."

Bloomberg Analysis: Xi Uses References To "Common Prosperity" To Warn China's Wealthy.

In an analysis, Bloomberg (8/22, 3.57M) says Chinese President Xi Jinping's use of the term "common prosperity" has "surged this year, evidence of the Communist Party's commitment to closing the country's yawning wealth gap." Bloomberg found that since Xi last year began to reference the term more often, "the phrase has appeared 65 times in Xi's speeches and meetings so far this year, compared with 30 in all of last year." According to Bloomberg, "The overall egalitarian push seems to implicate a wider swath of top earners."

The Wall Street Journal (8/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorializes that China's latest five-year economic plan deserves more media attention because it shows Xi is not interested in investor friendly economic reform. The Journal cautions Xi's policies will ultimately hurt the Chinese people and foreign investors, but they play well politically in the short term and it predicts they will continue for the foreseeable future.

WPost: China "May Be Spreading" Its Repressive Policies To Other Countries. The Washington Post (8/22, 10.52M) editorializes that while "many of China's ethnic Uyghurs clamor to flee the horrors they face in their home country: detainment, torture and 'reeducation' in the concentration camps that speckle the western region of Xinjiang," there is "mounting evidence suggests that even the disfavored minority citizens and persecuted critics who manage to escape China remain within its brutal reach." The Post says the arrest of Chinese dissidents in other countries, including the UAE, reflect "China's broader effort to harass and repatriate Uyghurs who have escaped the terrors of the Chinese government, and silence its critics." The Post concludes

that countries who “participate in China’s extreme human rights abuses” have “a moral stain that no amount of infrastructure investment or goodwill curried in Beijing can justify.”

New Malaysian Prime Minister Promises To Work With Opposition.

The [AP](#) (8/22) reports Malaysia’s new Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob “struck a conciliatory tone in his first national address Sunday, saying he would embrace the opposition in an effort to tackle the runaway pandemic and revive a slumping economy.” The AP adds that although “many” view his appointment “as a return to the status quo,” Ismail “said he would invite the opposition to be part of the National Recovery Council and the committee combating COVID-19.”

Russia To Send One-Time Payments To Military, Retirees Ahead Of Election.

[Reuters](#) (8/22, Tsvetkova) cites the RIA news agency in reporting Russian President Vladimir Putin “said his government will make one-off payments to pensioners and military personnel this year to help them cope with a sharper-than-expected rise in inflation.” Reuters adds Putin “told leaders of the ruling United Russia party that the planned rise in state payments would no longer be enough to cover current annual inflation of 6.5% year-on-year, which is exceeding expected levels of 4%, the RIA report said.” According to Reuters, “Rising food prices are a sensitive matter for the Kremlin ahead of a parliamentary election in September.”

Ukraine Sanctions Lawmaker For Allegedly Meddling In US Election.

[Reuters](#) (8/22, Polityuk) reports Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Sunday “signed a decree imposing sanctions on Andriy Derkach, the Ukrainian lawmaker accused by the United States of being a Russian agent and interfering in U.S. elections, the presidential office said.” Reuters adds the sanctions “include an asset freeze, a ban on capital withdrawals, the revocation of Derkach’s licences, restrictions on him transferring resources of any kind and other measures.”

Ukrainian President Warns Russia’s Nord Stream 2 Pipeline Is “Dangerous Weapon” Despite Germany’s Claims.

[Politico Europe](#) (8/22, Furlong, 15K) says Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Sunday “insisted the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline is a ‘dangerous weapon,’ posing a threat not only to Ukraine but to all of Europe, despite attempts at reassurance from German Chancellor Angela Merkel.” Politico says the Ukrainian government is “fiercely opposed to the pipeline, which will carry natural gas from Russia to Germany, bypassing former routes through Ukraine,” though Germany and the US issued a joint statement last month “saying that if Russia attempts to use energy as a weapon or commits future ‘aggressive acts’ against Ukraine, Germany will press for sanctions against Russia.”

Ukraine Hosts Summit Focused On Crimean Tatars Living Under Russian Occupation.

The [AP](#) (8/22, Karmanau) reports “many” Crimean Tatars fled their homes “after Russia’s annexation of Ukraine’s Black Sea peninsula in 2014,” but those who remained “have since been convicted on charges of extremism, separatism and membership in banned organizations and have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from eight to 19 years.” The AP says that their “fate... is one of the top issues at Monday’s inaugural meeting of the Crimean Platform, an international summit called by Ukraine to build up pressure on Russia over the annexation that has been denounced as illegal by most of the world.”

US Coalition Shoots Down Drone Over Syria.

[Reuters](#) (8/22, So) reports that according to the US military, “a fighter jet with the U.S.-led coalition shot down a drone in eastern Syria on Saturday after the unmanned aircraft was deemed a threat.” Reuters adds the Pentagon last month “said it was deeply concerned about attacks on U.S. personnel in Syria and Iraq after U.S. diplomats and troops were targeted in three rocket and drone attacks that wounded two American service members.”

Israel Strikes Targets In Gaza After Violent Border Protests.

The AP (8/22) reports the Israeli military "bombed Palestinian militant weapons sites in the Gaza Strip early Sunday in response to a violent demonstration on the perimeter fence that left an Israeli police officer critically injured, the army said." According to the AP, "Saturday's violence erupted after hundreds of Palestinians took part in a demonstration organized by Gaza's Hamas rulers to draw attention to the Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the territory."

Lebanon Raises Fuel Prices By 66% In Response To Shortages.

Reuters (8/22, Perry, Al-Khalidi) reports the Lebanese government on Sunday raised the price of gasoline by 66% "in a partial reduction of fuel subsidies as it seeks to ease crippling shortages that have brought the country to a standstill." Reuters adds the immediate price increase "follows the state's decision on Saturday to change the exchange rate used to price petroleum products in a bid to ease the shortages."

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

Pentagon Orders Airlines To Help With Afghan Evacuees As US Weighs New Exit Deadline
Clashes Erupt In Northern Afghanistan As Taliban Pursue Talks With Former Foes
How A Billion-Dollar Farm-Tech Startup Stumbled, Then Revamped
Do Blue-Light Glasses Work? Who Cares—They Look Hot.
Remote Work May Now Last For Two Years, Worrying Some Bosses

New York Times:

Chaos Persists At Kabul Airport As Taliban Discuss New Government
Did The War In Afghanistan Have To Happen?
New York's Economy, Poised For Comeback, Finds Setback Instead
Hospitals And Insurers Didn't Want You To See These Prices. Here's Why.
The US Is Getting A Crash Course In Scientific Uncertainty
A Tidal Wave Of Water And At Least 22 Deaths As Floodwaters Ravage Rural Tennessee

Washington Post:

Biden to Expand Safe Zone Around Airport In Kabul
Facing Compounding Crises, President Projects Confidence Biden notes Afghans' Plight, Says He Made 'Right Decision'
Rifts Imperil Swift Vote On Democrats' Budget Plan
In Race To Vaccinate, US Turned To Army Of Consultants
For Appalachian Trail, A Pandemic Of Popularity

Financial Times:

Russia Cannot Use Nord Stream 2 Pipeline As A 'Weapon', Merkel Says
Johnson To Host G7 Talks On Afghanistan With Role Sought For China And Russia

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Tropical Storm Henri; Tropical Storm Henri Forecast; Rainfall/Flooding In Tennessee; Afghanistan Evacuations; Biden Administration Response to Afghanistan; US COVID Surge; US Wildfires; Off Duty Police Officer Shot In Houston; Don Everly Passed Away; Tropical Storm Henri Continued.

CBS: Rainfall/Flooding In Tennessee; Tropical Storm Henri; Tropical Storm Henri Continued; Biden Administration Response To Afghanistan; Afghanistan Evacuations; Don Everly Passed Away; US COVID Surge; Colorado River Water Shortage; Elisa Montati/Global Medical Relief Fund.

NBC: Tropical Storm Henri; Tropical Storm Henri Continued; Rainfall/Flooding In Tennessee;

Afghanistan Evacuations; US COVID Surge; Increase In Speeding Leading To More Highway Deaths; US Wildfires; The Truth Behind Native American Boarding Schools; Out Of Touch Daddies.

Network TV At A Glance:

Tropical Storm Henri – 14 minutes

Afghanistan Evacuations – 8 minutes, 40 seconds

US COVID Surge – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Rainfall/Flooding In Tennessee – 6 minutes, 5 seconds

Biden Administration Response to Afghanistan – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

Colorado River Water Shortage – 2 minutes, 40 seconds

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

President Biden — receives the President's Daily Brief, meets with his national security team to hear intelligence, security, and diplomatic updates on the evolving situation in Afghanistan, welcomes the Seattle Storm to the White House to honor the team for their 2020 WNBA Championship.

Vice President Harris — participates in an arrival ceremony with His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore at the Istana, participates in an orchid ceremony with Prime Minister Lee, holds a courtesy call with Her Excellency Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, holds a restricted bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Lee, holds an expanded bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Lee, holds a press conference with Prime Minister Lee, receives a briefing from Singaporean defense officials on the US-Singapore defense relationship, tours the USS Tulsa, delivers remarks to troops aboard the USS Tulsa.

US Senate:

- Senate Transportation subcommittee field hearing on 'Collaboration and Competition in Space' – Space and Science Subcommittee field hearing on 'Collaboration and Competition in Space: Ushering in a New Era', with testimony from former NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine; Axiom Space Executive Vice President for Government Affairs Mary Lynne Dittmar; and Redwire Space Executive Vice President for Civil Space and External Affairs Mike Gold

Location: The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave, Colorado Springs, CO; 2:00 PM

US House:

- House Rules Committee hearing – Hybrid hearing on 'S. Con. Res. 14 – Setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2022 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2023 through 2031', 'H.R. 4 – John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021', and Senate Amendment to 'H.R. 3684 – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act' * Held via Cisco Webex and in-person

Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 11:00 AM

- House of Representatives returns after summer recess, a week earlier than previously scheduled – House of Representatives returns after summer District Work Period, a week earlier than previously scheduled, in order to consider 'S.Con.Res. 14 – A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2022 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2023 through 2031', which passed the Senate earlier this month and features \$3.5 trillion in spending plans

General Events:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment Virtual Meeting

Location: Virtual Event; 9:30 AM

- State Department meeting in preparation for International Maritime Organization Maritime Organization III 7 meeting

Location: Virtual Event; 10:00 AM

- Federal Reserve Board of Governors closed meeting (virtual) – Federal Reserve Board of Governors closed meeting via conference call to review and determine the advance and discount rates to be charged by the Federal Reserve Banks

Location: Virtual Event; 11:30 AM

- Hudson Institute discussion on sustaining U.S. microelectronics leadership – ‘Sustaining U.S. Microelectronics Leadership’ Hudson Institute virtual event, discussing the state of the U.S. microelectronics industry and strategies to restore U.S. leadership in the sector. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Mikie Sherrill, U.S. Air Force Chief Scientist Dr Victoria Coleman, D2D Advisory CEO Jay Goldberg, and Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Bryan Clark

Location: Virtual Event; 12:00 PM

- Jewish Policy Center discussion on Afghanistan – ‘What’s Next for Afghanistan?’ Endowment for Middle East Truth webinar, with Foundation for Defense of Democracies’ Thomas Joscelyn discussing the future of U.S. policy in the region and how to deal with reverberations from Pakistan to Iran to Israel

Location: Virtual Event; 12:00 PM

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b7E -3

From: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI)
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 23, 2021 9:35 AM (UTC-04:00)

b5 -2

FYSA

Matthew A. Feinberg, Section Chief
Science and Technology Branch, Federal Bureau of Investigation

b7E -3

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:07 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

Good Morning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b5 -1,2

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

A/ASO [REDACTED]
FBI – Criminal Investigative Division
Violent Crime Section
Desk [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:05 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: FYI [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

UC [REDACTED]

Are you available by phone? thx

SSA [REDACTED]
A/Chief Division Counsel
Pittsburgh Field Office

[REDACTED]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:54 AM

To: HQ-DIV09-CDC [redacted]; Jones, Jason Allen (OGC) (FBI [redacted]) Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI [redacted]); Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI [redacted])

[redacted]

Subject: FYI -- Facing revolt from police chiefs, U.S. Marshals agree to change body camera rules

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/facing-revolt-police-chiefs-u-s-marshals-agree-change-body-n1277029>

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI)

Subject: [Redacted]
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Start: Thursday, August 26, 2021 10:00 AM
End: Thursday, August 26, 2021 10:30 AM
Recurrence: (none)

b5 -2

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer: Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI)
Required Attendees: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); [Redacted] CIRG) (FBI);
Guyton, Robert P. Jr. (TD) (FBI); [Redacted] (OTD) (FBI);
[Redacted] CID) (FBI); Dimos, Nicholas (FFD) (FBI);
Perese, Dogan A. (ITADD) (FBI); Delbagno, William J. (CCRSB)
(FBI); Barnes, Steven B. (STB) (FBI); [Redacted]
(DO) (FBI); Collodi, Richard A. (INSD) (FBI); Greenberg, Jay
(CID) (FBI)

b6 -1
b7C -1

Optional Attendees: [Redacted] TADD) (FBI); [Redacted] CIRG) (FBI);
[Redacted] OGC) (FBI); [Redacted] HRD) (FBI);
[Redacted] (AL) (FBI); Tapp, Aaron G. (CID) (FBI);
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] (DO) (FBI); TAPP, AARON G. (DL) (FBI)

Hello,

[Redacted]

b5 -2

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[Learn more about Teams](#)



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Expiration Date of
Special Deputation

Oath of Office and Credential - Special Deputation

(See reverse side for instructions)

Deputation Statement

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Attorney General by Public Law 99-570, Section 1869, and delegated to me by Section 0.85, Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, you are hereby authorized to exercise the powers of enforcement personnel set forth in Section 87B, Title 21, United States Code, which are to:

- (1) carry firearms;
- (2) execute and serve search warrants, arrest warrants, administrative inspection warrants, subpoenas, and summonses issued under the authority of the United States;
- (3) make arrests without warrant (A) for any offense against the United States committed in your presence, or (B) for any felony, cognizable under the laws of the United States, if you have probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing a felony;
- (4) make seizures of property pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter; and
- (5) perform such other law enforcement duties as the Attorney General may designate.

Deputation authority is authorized from the date affixed to my signature for the time period indicated below unless sooner terminated in writing:

For investigation VARIOUS with an automatic expiration date of 2/25/2017
FO. File Number(s)

[Signature] Special Agent in Charge / Field Office / Date 02/24/15

Appointee's Employer: Bayonne Police Department

Appointee's Supervisor during Special Deputation: [Redacted] Agent

b6 -1,6
b7C -1,6

I, [Redacted], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office in which I am about to enter.

I have read and understand the provisions contained in the Departmental Order 860-81, which set forth in the FBI Manual of

[Redacted] / Date 02/25/15

Field Division

Physical Description

Date of Birth [Redacted]

Height [Redacted]

Weight [Redacted] Pounds

Sex Male Female

Race Caucasian

Color Eyes Brown

Color Hair Brown

COPY 1 - APPOINTEE

131176

U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Expiration Date of
Special Deputation

Special Deputation

2/25/2017

having taken the Oath of Office, [Redacted] Officer under this deputation on the 25th day of February, 2015 Subject to the terms of Special Deputation and the following restrictions.

(Signature) [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

FBI (22-cv-00149)-7585

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