The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Thank you for your May 14, 2014 letter to Secretary Johnson regarding recent media reports alleging that in 2013, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement released immigration violators with criminal convictions.

Your inquiry is very important to us and the appropriate DHS component is preparing information so we may respond with the accuracy and completeness that your letter deserves. Please know that the Department’s leadership has accorded your letter a high priority and we are endeavoring to respond to you as soon as possible.

Should you or your staff have any questions in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 447-4557.

Respectfully,

Brian de Vallance  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
May 14, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Johnson,

I write to express my grave concerns regarding recent reports that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released 36,000 criminal aliens into American communities during Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, a rate of approximately 100 released criminals per day. Collectively, these criminals had committed more than 87,000 total offenses at the time of their release, including 116 homicides, 238 kidnappings, 426 sexual assaults, 1,333 non-assault sex offenses, 701 robberies, 1,517 acts of domestic violence, 1,724 weapons offenses, 9,187 drug offenses, and 10,071 drunk or drugged driving offenses. Your Department’s actions have jeopardized the safety of Americans and raise serious concerns about its commitment to full enforcement of our immigration laws.

As you are aware, Section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) protects public safety by authorizing DHS broad authority to detain criminal aliens during their removal proceedings when they have been previously convicted of offenses involving moral turpitude, aggravated felonies, controlled substances offenses, firearms offenses, and other dangerous crimes. This provision of the INA ensures that those who have shown a continuing disrespect for our laws should be kept from further victimizing law-abiding citizens. Because aliens who have committed serious crimes face a high probability of deportation at the conclusion of their removal proceedings, the detention of criminal aliens also ensures that those individuals are unable to abscond and further avoid immigration enforcement by disappearing into the United States. It is your Department’s duty to exercise this authority with the highest degree of caution and deference to public safety and it appears that your Department has failed to live up to this important responsibility.

Achieving bipartisan border security and immigration reform will require the American people to trust that DHS and the Obama Administration are committed to the faithful execution of the laws passed by Congress. Unfortunately, your Department’s release of more than 36,000 criminal aliens in FY 2013 has done great damage to this goal. I ask that you work with me to regain the trust of Congress, my constituents and the American people by providing detailed responses to the following questions:

1. What is the total number of criminal aliens your Department released into Texas communities last year?

2. Did your Department provide notice of any released criminal aliens to Texas law enforcement officials last year? If so, in how many cases?
3. What is the total number of criminal aliens released by your Department last year who have subsequently committed a criminal offense?  

4. What is the total number of criminal aliens released by your Department last year who subsequently failed to appear for removal proceedings?  

5. What is the total number of criminal aliens released by your Department last year who were released as a result of changes to your Department’s prosecutorial discretion policies since 2011?  

6. Is it ever appropriate for your Department to release a criminal alien who has been convicted of homicide or sexual assault prior to the conclusion of their removal proceedings? If so, under what specific circumstances?  

7. Does your Department have in place any mechanism to notify victims of the impending or actual release of a criminal alien who has committed an offense against them?  

8. Does your Department have in place any mechanism to consult with victims prior to the release of a criminal alien who has committed an offense against them?  

9. Should a criminal alien who has been convicted of a crime of domestic violence ever be released from your Department’s custody without providing notice to the victims?  

10. Will your Department commit to providing Congress with quarterly reports on the number of criminal aliens released from DHS custody pending the outcome of their removal proceedings?  

11. Has your Department requested additional resources to ensure that, in the future, it can detain all criminal aliens required under Section 236 of the INA throughout the course of their removal proceedings?  

12. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the number of unlawfully present individuals encountered by your Department in FY 2013 who were released from custody without detention, including the number of such individuals who were criminal aliens and the classes of crimes for which these offenders had been convicted. Do these numbers suggest that your Department is employing “search and release” enforcement methods?  

I appreciate your prompt cooperation on this important matter.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]  

JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator
Dan,

and Kate put this together on the quick based closely off of our McCain response. I think this meets the mark.

Thanks,

---

From: Mills, Kate
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:14 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)
Subject: FW: One Pager for PDAS

said that you are the best POC for this. Attached is what I put together using the draft response to McCain that is currently with the White House. Thoughts?

Kate Christensen Mills
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
From: Mills, Kate
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:08 PM
To: [b][c][d][y](C)
Cc: Ragsdale, Daniel H; [b][r][b][r][c](C)
Subject: RE: One Pager for PDAS

10-4. Per our call just now, I’ll work with [b][r][c] on what I’ve already put together.

From: [b][c][d][y](C)
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:05 PM
To: Mills, Kate
Cc: Ragsdale, Daniel H; [b][c][d][y](C)
Subject: One Pager for PDAS

Kate – as discussed, PDAS would like a one pager on the release issue before his Hill meetings tomorrow. He is leaving at 8AM so please get it to [b][r][c](through DD) before that. I am going to be at DHS all morning so will not be available. Thanks.
We are working with ERO. We did provide her what she asked originally.

-----Original Message-----
From: Ragsdale, Daniel H
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 02:54 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Mendoza, Mike; Sekar, Radha
Cc: Homan, Thomas; Rapp, Marc A.; Porter, Jonathan; Joseph, Leonard
Subject: Re: Feds released hundreds of immigrant murderers, drunk drivers, sex-crimes
convicts

Scratch that. The only one that went is Lamar Smith. McCain/Levin, Goodlatte, and the
2nd Smith response are still in clearance.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Ragsdale, Daniel H
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 02:52 PM
To: Mendoza, Mike; Sekar, Radha
Cc: Homan, Thomas; Rapp, Marc A.; Porter, Jonathan; Joseph, Leonard
Subject: Re: Feds released hundreds of immigrant murderers, drunk drivers, sex-crimes
convicts

Let's be sure to reach out to her. She is referring to an article that quotes the McCain
and Goodlatte responses. Do you have the letters?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Mendoza, Mike
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 2:41 PM
To: Sekar, Radha C
The article is much more granular than what she's asked us for [b][b](b)(b)(b)(b)[/b], I told her they're already working on this.

I thought we gave her as part of the TA.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mendoza, Mike
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 02:17 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Sekar, Radha C
Subject: FW: Feds released hundreds of immigrant murderers, drunk drivers, sex-crimes convicts

FYI

Gentlemen,

At the ICE hearing and throughout the data call on ICE's budget request, we've requested data on the make-up of the non-detained ATD docket, specifically as it relates to violent crimes. I'm wondering why the Washington Times and Post have more information on
the ATD population than the Chairman and other members of the subcommittee. Please respond with an answer today.

Thanks, Valerie


Immigration officials knowingly released dozens of murderers and thousands of drunken drivers back into the U.S. in 2013, according to Obama administration statistics that could undercut the president’s argument that he is trying to focus on the most serious criminals in his immigration enforcement.

Among the 36,000 immigrants whom U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement released from custody last year there were 116 with convictions for homicide, 43 for negligent manslaughter, 14 for voluntary manslaughter and one with a conviction classified by ICE as “homicide-willful kill-public official-gun.”

The immigrants were in deportation proceedings, meaning ICE was trying to remove them from the country and could have held them in detention but released them anyway, according to the Center for Immigration Studies, which published the numbers Monday. The Washington Times also obtained the data.

“This would be considered the worst prison break in American history, except it was sanctioned by the president and perpetrated by our own immigration officials,” said Rep. Lamar Smith, Texas Republican. “The administration’s actions are outrageous. They willfully and knowingly put the interests of criminal immigrants before the safety and security of the American people.”

The data raised thorny questions about how the government decides which immigrants to detain and which it will release as they await court hearings and final action on deportation.

Jessica Vaughan, policy studies director at the Center for Immigration Studies, said the numbers undercut the Obama administration’s argument that it is trying to keep its enforcement efforts targeted at dangerous criminals.

“We keep hearing from the administration that they are focused like a laser on enforcement against the worst of the worst, convicted criminals, as their top priority. On the other hand, they are releasing, at a rate of about 100 a day, aliens from their custody with criminal convictions, and many of them are serious criminal convictions,” she said.
In a statement, ICE said many of those it released were subject to electronic monitoring, posting bond or having to check in with officers.

In other cases, the agency was required to release immigrants because of court decisions, including a 2001 Supreme Court ruling that found immigrants whose home countries refused to take them back could not be held for more than six months.

ICE said 75 percent of the convicted murderers released in 2013 were considered "mandatory releases" in compliance with court decisions.

"Others, typically those with less serious offenses, were released as a discretionary matter after career law enforcement officers made a judgment regarding the priority of holding the individual, given ICE’s resources, and prioritizing the detention and removal of individuals who pose a risk to public safety or national security," ICE said.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson will have to answer questions.

Mr. Goodlatte and Mr. Smith asked ICE for the release numbers but said the agency never turned them over.

"These criminals should be locked up, not roaming our streets," the lawmakers said.

ICE has told Congress it doesn’t need to hold as many immigrants in detention. In its budget request this year, ICE asked that Congress fund slightly more than 30,500 detention beds a day, down from the 34,000 set in current law.

"This funding level of beds will allow ICE to detain the current mandatory population, as well as the higher-risk, non-mandatory detainees," ICE Deputy Director Daniel Ragsdale testified in March.

Ms. Vaughan said that rings hollow if the administration is releasing murderers and other serious criminals even with 34,000 detention beds.

The 36,007 criminal aliens counted in the data had more than 87,000 convictions among them: 15,635 for drunken driving, 9,187 for what ICE labeled “dangerous drugs,” 2,691 for assault, 1,724 for weapons offenses and 303 for “flight escape” — a category that would seem to make them bad candidates for release.

The immigrants are in addition to the 68,000 other immigrants that ICE officers came across but didn’t put into deportation proceedings.

ICE came under fire last year for releasing thousands of immigrants and blaming it on the sequester budget cuts. Among those released were 622 criminals, including 24 with repeated felony convictions so bad that the administration had to go recapture them.

Officials later said it wasn’t the sequester, but rather the regular budget process that caused them to have to release the immigrants. They said they had been running above the 34,000 detention level for too long and would have had to cut detention to average out the numbers.
Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office: 202-732
Cell: 215-768-

Sent Date: 2014/05/14 15:05:50
Delivered Date: 2014/05/14 15:05:52
Generator: Microsoft Word 14 (filtered medium)
Smith: ICE Authorizes Worst “Prison Break” in History

Releases Thousands of Criminal Immigrants Convicted of Murder, Rape, Kidnapping, Aggravated Assault and Drunk Driving

WASHINGTON – Former Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Lamar Smith (R-Texas) today responded to troubling reports that the Obama administration released more than 36,000 criminal immigrants in 2013, including individuals convicted of murder, rape, kidnapping, and drunk driving. According to a report by the Center for Immigration Studies, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers released 36,007 criminal illegal immigrants into American communities last year alone. Together these 36,000 criminals had 88,000 convictions, including 193 homicide convictions, 426 sexual assault convictions, 303 kidnapping convictions, 9,187 dangerous drug convictions, and 16,070 drunk or drugged driving convictions.

Congressman Smith: “President Obama’s lax immigration policies have put the lives of Americans at risk. In 2013, ICE officials reportedly released more than 36,000 criminal immigrants who had nearly 88,000 convictions.

“Obama administration officials want the American people to think these individuals were guilty of minor, petty offenses. But the convictions tell a chilling story. Among those released were criminal immigrants convicted of murder, rape, kidnapping, drunk driving, and aggravated assault.

“According to information obtained by the Center for Immigration Studies, the crimes committed by the released immigrants include nearly 200 convictions of homicide, over 400 sexual assault convictions, more than 300 kidnapping convictions, and upwards of 16,000 drunk or drugged driving convictions.
“This would be considered the worst prison break in American history, except it was sanctioned by the President and perpetrated by our own immigration officials. These criminal immigrants should have been deported to ensure that they could never commit crimes on U.S. soil. But instead, ICE officials chose not to detain them and instead released them back onto American streets.

“The Administration’s actions are outrageous. They willfully and knowingly put the interests of criminal immigrants before the safety and security of the American people.

“There should be no discussion of reforming our nation’s immigration laws until the President enforces the laws currently on the books. The safety of the American people should be the President’s top priority. We need a President who follows the law and deports criminal immigrants who violate our laws and endanger our lives.”

###

- Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
  - Committee on Homeland Security  
  - Committee on the Judiciary

http://lamarsmith.house.gov

Brian P. Hale

Director, Office of Public Affairs (OPA)

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

500 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20536

Telephone: 202-732-

Mobile: 202-6-
Sent Date: 2014/05/12 14:58:06
Delivered Date: 2014/05/12 14:58:07
Generator: Microsoft Word 14 (filtered medium)
From: Bernacke, Michael V
To: Ragsdale, Daniel H
CC: Homan, Thomas

Subject: FW: 36k
Date: 2014/05/15 09:30:59
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

FYI per your request.

202-486

(Sent from mobile device)

-----Original Message-----
From: Rapp, Marc A
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 09:30 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Ragsdale, Daniel H
Cc: Homan, Thomas

Subject: RE: 36k

Attached is what we showed Mr. Ragsdale yesterday.

We are working on building this out further and should have something later today hopefully.

Marc Rapp

Law Enforcement Systems and Analysis

Enforcement and Removal Operations

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Department of Homeland Security
FYI

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 09:03 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: 36k

Thanks. [redacted] just pinged as well. They're looking for a quick turnaround.

Getting it now.
Good morning folks,

The DD is requesting a copy of the LESA document that broke out the 36k releases by bond, by Zadvydas, etc. Would you be able to share a copy? Even if it is a work-in-progress, the data will only be viewed in house.

Thanks,
Yes, sir. Getting the numbers from them now.

---

From: Homan, Thomas  
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 10:14 AM  
To: Ragsdale, Daniel H; Robbins, Timothy S  
Cc: Robbins, Timothy S  
Subject: RE: 36k

Please add the OPLA data on releases in FY 13.

---

From: Ragsdale, Daniel H  
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:32 AM  
To: Ragsdale, Daniel H  
Cc: Homan, Thomas; Robbins, Timothy S  
Subject: FW: 36k

202-486 (Sent from mobile device)

-----Original Message-----
From: Rapp, Marc A
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 09:30 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: 36k

Attached is what we showed Mr. Ragsdale yesterday.

We are working on building this out further and should have something later today hopefully.

Marc Rapp
Law Enforcement Systems and Analysis
Enforcement and Removal Operations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security

FYI
202-486........,.......__,
(Sent from mobile device)

-----Original Message-----
From: 
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 09:03 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: 
Subject: RE: 36k

Thanks. just pinged as well. They’re looking for a quick turnaround.

From: 
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:00 AM
To: 
Subject: RE: 36k

Getting it now.

(A) Deputy Chief of Staff
Enforcement and Removal Operations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Desk: 202-732
Cell: 202-486-

From: 
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:54 AM
To: 
Subject: 36k

Good morning folks,
The DD is requesting a copy of the LESA document that broke out the 36k releases by bond, by Zadvydas, etc. Would you be able to share a copy? Even if it is a work-in-progress, the data will only be viewed in house.

Thanks,
Subject: discussion
Date: 2014/05/15 10:29:21
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Date: 2014/05/15 10:29:20
Delivered Date: 2014/05/15 10:29:21
Generator: Microsoft Word 14 (filtered medium)
Overview of ICE Release

Issue:
ICE releases aliens from ICE custody for various reasons: 1) humanitarian concerns; 2) federal court order; 3) bond or recognizance set by IJ or DHS; and 4) as a result of Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678 (2001), ICE must release aliens upon an evaluation of the Significant Likelihood of Removal in the Reasonably Foreseeable Future (SLRRFF).

Background:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currently Detained</th>
<th>Detained Final Order TOTAL</th>
<th>Detained Final Order CONVICTED CRIMINAL</th>
<th>Detained Final Order NON-CRIMINAL</th>
<th>Detained UNLINKED EVENTS</th>
<th>Detained GRAND TOTAL</th>
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<td>Grund Totals:</td>
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<table>
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<th>Currently Non-Detained</th>
<th>Non-Detained Final Order TOTAL</th>
<th>Non-Detained Final Order CONVICTED CRIMINAL</th>
<th>Non-Detained Final Order NON-CRIMINAL</th>
<th>Non-Detained Final Order ACTIVE</th>
<th>Non-Detained Final Order INACTIVE</th>
<th>Non-Detained GRAND TOTAL</th>
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</table>

Detention data is updated through 04/26/2014 (IDS v1.16 run date 04/26/2014; ID as of 04/26/2014).
Non-detained AOR is based upon the docket where the case is residing.

Release:
- **Humanitarian** – Release may be considered for an alien who has a severe medical condition and it would not be in the Government’s best interest to continue detention; who may be the sole care provider for dependent(s)
- **Court Order** – Release may be obligated for an alien who made a successful habeas corpus petition; who fell into a special class such as the Rodriguez decision; who had their case terminated either judicially or administratively and were no longer removable
- **Bond or Recognizance** – Release may occur if the Government or Courts grant the alien a bond that is guaranteed, depending on case specifics (i.e. pursuit of legal remedies, )
- **Zadvydas** - Federal case law, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and its interpreting regulations limit the amount of time ICE can continue to detain aliens after the issuance of a final order of removal. In 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678, limited the length of detention for any admitted alien subject to an administratively final order of removal to a period of time “reasonable” to effectuate his/her removal. Removal is dependent upon receipt of a travel document or acceptance issued by the country of origin. If a country denies issuance or unreasonably delays issuance, ICE may be obligated to release aliens who cannot be removed.
ICE's Daily News Briefing from the Office of Public Affairs

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ICE NEWS BRIEFING

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2014 8:00 AM EDT

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+ Tennessee Woman Sentenced To Probation In Minnesota Al-Shabab Case.
+ Woman Accused Of Hiding Terrorist Past Reaches Plea Deal In Detroit.
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+ CBS: California-Wildfires.
+ CBS: Turkey-Coal Mine Disaster.
+ CBS: Infrastructure Repairs.
+ CBS: Health-Obesity.
Leading the News:

**2013 RELEASE OF 36,000 CONVICTS COMPLICATES IMMIGRATION REFORM PUSH.** The Center for Immigration Studies’ report received more media coverage than previously, with both national and local media outlets covering the story. Coverage focused on prominent Republicans’ reactions to the report’s claim of over 36,000 releases from ICE custody, with some saying that this threatens the passage of immigration reform legislation.

On Fox News’ **Special Report** (5/14, 2.15M), Bret Baier reported that “the Obama administration’s release of thousands of criminals awaiting deportation” is being called “the worst jail break in American history,” and prompting critics to ask “why so many dangerous people are back on the streets.” Sen. Jeff Sessions: “These dangerous offenders should be kept in custody. They shouldn’t be released into the general population.” Jessica Vaughan of the Center for Immigration Studies was shown saying, “The American people should conclude that it is probably fool hardy to press ahead with a massive reform of immigration laws until they can be sure that the laws we have are being enforced with their safety in mind.” On Monday, Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) released a statement reading: “This would be considered the worst prison break in American history, except it was sanctioned by the President and perpetrated by our own immigration officials.”

CBS News (5/14, Slifer, 5.21M) reported that according to CIS, “a majority of the releases were not required by law and were discretionary.”

USA Today (5/15, Gomez, 5.82M) reports that as the Department of Homeland Security is “finalizing a review of its deportation practices to see how they can be conducted ‘more humanely,’ critics are using a report that found 36,007 convicted felons were released by immigration officials last year to call for an end to the review.” USA Today notes that in 2013, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement released 193 illegal immigrants “who had been convicted of homicide, 426 of sexual assault, 303 of kidnapping and more than 16,000 with drunken-driving records.”

Houston Community Newspapers (5/15, 8K) reports that Senator John Cornyn sent a letter to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson “expressing his serious concern over” the releases, asserting that they have “done great damage to” the goal of “achieving bipartisan border security and immigration reform.” Cornyn’s letter sets out 12 questions to which he would like “detailed responses.”

On its website, WSET-TV Lynchburg, VA (5/15, Abdi, 17K) quotes Rep. Bob Goodlatte saying, “We give foreign aid and help to other countries and then those countries turn around and refuse to take their own citizens back when they are being deported from the United States. So our government needs to take a much more aggressive stance about this.”
Breitbart (5/14, Tate, 356K) reports that ICE representatives in Texas contacted about the CIS report professed familiarity "but would not comment on it," nor would they "answer general questions regarding detention and release policies." ICE spokesman Greg Palmo was quoted saying, "We were given specific instructions not to comment on that report." The article says that the representatives "all provided the same press release...apparently drawn up by a press secretary in Washington, D.C."

Another Breitbart (5/14, May, 356K) quotes Rep. John Fleming (R-LA) saying, "ICE needs to recapture those criminals who pose a threat to American citizens, and refuse to carry out further releases that are at the administration's discretion."

Also covering this story were the Novato (CA) Patch (5/15, 998), the KHCW-TV Houston (5/14, 4K) website, the WFXG-TV Augusta, GA (5/15, 712) website, the American Thinker (5/15, Moran, 40K) "2014" blog, Newsmax (5/14, Jager, 486K), and the New American (5/15, Mass, 9K).

KXOF-TV Laredo, TX (5/14, 9:10 p.m. CDT, 877), KIAH-TV (5/14, 5:04 p.m. CDT, 17K), WSET-TV Lynchburg, VA (5/14, 5:14 p.m. EDT, 30K), and CLTV-TV Chicago (5/14, 2:21 p.m. CDT, 4K) broadcast this story.

Barr: Administration's Immigration Reform Proposals Not In "Good Faith." Former Congressman Bob Barr writes in Town Hall (5/14, Barr, 131 K) that "considering this Administration's verified track record of immigration failure, there is no way Republican members of Congress should view immigration 'reform' proposals emanating from Obama as being offered in 'good faith.'"

Washington Times Opposes Bringing Up "Amnesty." A Washington Times (5/14, Times, 455K) editorial says that "it would be a mistake for House Republicans to bring up amnesty" either after primary challenges in August or in a post-midterm lame-duck session.

Operational News:

THREE CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN PENNSYLVANIA. The Patriot-News (5/14, Arias, 397K) reports that Santiago Ortiz-Ortiz, Claudio Villa-Vera, and Jose Gonzalez-Sanchez have been charged with illegal immigration after their arrests in York and Franklin counties in Pennsylvania. A US Attorney’s Office press release states that the men were found to have been previously arrested and removed from the US. ICE ERO’s Philadelphia office investigated these cases.

FORMER LIBERIAN OFFICIAL ARRESTED AT NEWARK AIRPORT. WCAU-TV Philadelphia (5/14, 110K) continues coverage on its website that Jucontee Thomas Woewiyu, a former Liberian defense minister, was arrested Monday by HSI agents at Newark Liberty International Airport for allegedly lying about his past on a 2006 application for US citizenship. Woewiyu, who has been called a war criminal for his role in his government’s human rights violations, is accused of stating he "never engaged in political persecution or tried to overthrow a sitting government" on his application. The suspect is scheduled to be arraigned and have a detention hearing tomorrow and his lawyer says Woewiyu is innocent. The case is being investigated by HSI, an ICE center focused on human rights violations and war crimes, and other agencies.

12 ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED "BUSTOUT" SCHEME IN CALIFORNIA. The Pacific Palisades (CA) Patch (5/14, 191) reports that 12 people have been arrested, and three others wanted, for alleged participation in "a large-scale, bank account 'bustout' scheme that victimized major financial institutions across Southern California." The arrests resulted from "Operation Check Kang" conducted by FBI and IRS criminal investigation agents, as well as the Pomona,
California, police department. HSI was listed among the agencies that rendered assistance to the investigation.

**HSI COMPLAINT ALLEGES TEXAS MAN OPERATED STASH HOUSE.** The McAllen (TX) Monitor (5/15, 149K) reports that Marcos Antonio Zamorano has been charged with human smuggling in connection with "a house in Weslaco where immigrants who entered the country illegally had been held for ransom and threatened with having their fingers cut off and fed to them." According to court records, HSI agents arriving at the house were met by immigrants who told them "horror stories about their captivity," including threats of murder and insufficient feeding. The agents' criminal complaint against Zamorano alleged that he "had crossed and held about 68 people over a six-month period," using money couriers to collect transfers for ransoms, and that he "worked for a Reynosa woman named 'Lolita' and received $150 per person he held."

**THREE SENTENCED FOR DRUG SMUGGLING IN TEXAS.** The Laredo (TX) Morning Times (5/14, Balli, 35K) reports that three men have been sentenced for "smuggling about 380 pounds of marijuana." The drugs were valued at over $300,000. The men were arrested after HSI and Webb County (TX) sheriff's deputies surveilled a suspected drug drop-off location in North Laredo, Texas.

**CONTINUING COVERAGE OF KOREAN MAN'S DEPORTATION AFTER HUMAN SMUGGLING CONVICTION.** KUOW-FM Seattle (5/14, Lerner, 15K) continues coverage on its website of Sung Hoon Ha, who has been deported to South Korea for "operating a human smuggling ring in Washington state." The article says that ICE arrested Ha just after meeting up "with a woman at the Tulalip casino parking lot" north of Seattle in August. ICE special agent Todd Rignel, who works on human trafficking and smuggling cases in the Puget Sound region, is quoted saying, "The problem is not as significant as you would see between Mexico and the United States but over the past few years, hundreds of immigrants have been arrested by Border Patrol agents attempting to illegally enter Washington state from the lower mainland of British Columbia." Rignel added, "Once the smuggling event is over and the fees are paid, it's done... Trafficking is exploitation-based which involves force, fraud or coercion."

**PRIEST IN PUERTO RICO FACES CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CHARGES.** The CNN (5/15, Romo, 77.95M) website reports on the arrest of Israel Berrios Berrios, a "Roman Catholic priest in Puerto Rico," for alleged sexual abuse of an altar bay. Puerto Rico-based HSI special agent Angel Melendez is cited saying that Berrios gained the trust of the boy's mother over the years, and by 2008, he "was already considered part of (the alleged victim's) family" and elicited permission for the boy to accompany Berrios on a cruise to the Bahamas. The article states that this case is the first time that "Federal authorities have prosecuted a priest in a pedophilia case in Puerto Rico," though Monsignor Ruben Gonzalez, bishop of Berrios' diocese, "fears there are other victims."

**INDIAN NATIONAL DEPORTED AFTER CHILD MOLESTATION CONVICTION.** The AP (5/14) reports that Leo Charles Koppala, an Indian national convicted of child molestation while working as a priest in Minnesota, has been deported to India, according to an ICE announced. Koppala pleaded guilty to "second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a victim younger than 13." Scott Baniecke, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations field office director for St. Paul, Minnesota, was quoted saying, "Koppala held a position of trust in the Catholic Church and the community. He broke that trust...We sincerely hope that his permanent removal from the United States will help the healing process for the victim and the victim's family."

KEYC-TV Mankato, MN (5/14, 6:05 p.m. CDT, 11K) and KTTC-TV Rochester, MN (5/14, 5:05 p.m. CDT, 11K) broadcast this story.

**TWO PENNSYLVANIA MEN FACE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES.** The Carlisle (PA) Sentinel (5/14, 41K) reports that Col. Robert J. Rice of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, has been indicted on child pornography possession and distribution. Rice was identified as former director of the DA
Support Branch at the Center for Strategic Leadership at the U.S. Army War College. He was reportedly charged by Cumberland County officials in April 2013 for suspected child pornography possession, based on evidence provided by his wife. The *Patriot-News* (5/14, Malawsky, 397K) reports that HSI and the US Army Criminal Investigative Division assisted with the investigation. WHP-TV Harrisburg, PA (5/14, 1K) and WPMT-TV Harrisburg, PA (5/14, 41K) also report this story on their websites. The *Shippensburg News-Chronicle* (5/15, 14K) reports that Zackary Adam Knight, also of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was charged with child pornography and “abusive sexual contact with a child under the age of 12.”

**CONTINUING COVERAGE OF WASHINGTON MAN’S CHILD PORNOGRAPHY SENTENCE.**

In continuing coverage, the *Bellingham Herald* (5/14, Kraemer, 163K) reports that Alton V. Morehead of Pasco, Washington, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for child pornography production. The article cites court documents which say that an HSI agent “discovered a profile on a photo hosting website in May 2012 that contained multiple risqué photos of children.” The email address associated with the profile was then traced to Morehead. Brad Bench, special agent in charge of HSI Seattle, is quoted saying, “This is another example of what we see all too often, a trader of child pornography himself exploiting children to produce illicit images...Every day, HSI special agents pursue individuals who prey on children for their self-gratification...This significant sentence (for Morehead) comes as a result of such an investigation.”

**Policy and Issues News:**

**DEPORTED VETERANS’ EXPERIENCES DISCUSSED.** The *CNN* (5/15, Caldwell, 77.95M) website recounts the experience of Howard Dean Bailey, a Navy veteran deported to Jamaica, noting that he is “one of more than 23,000 permanent legal residents” deported in 2012, though the number of deported veterans is unknown. The article cites Banished Veterans founder Hector Barajas as saying that “as many as 30,000 former service members have been deported since 1996,” though other groups cite lower figures. Vietnam Veterans of America policy and government affairs executive director Rick Weidman “draws a line at helping violent criminals” but contends that “to deport an individual after they put their lives on the line, 98 percent of the American people have not done that.” ICE spokeswoman Nicole Navas is quoted saying, “ICE respects the service and sacrifice of those in military service, and is very deliberate in its review of cases involving veterans...ICE exercises prosecutorial discretion for members of the armed forces who have honorably served our country on a case-by-case basis when appropriate.”

**SALT LAKE TRIBUNE WEIGHS IN ON NEED FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM.** An editorial in the *Salt Lake Tribune* (5/15, 470K) reports that undocumented immigrants face a “common” dilemma in which they are targeted by criminals “knowing they can’t report it to police,” while laws requiring local law enforcement to check the residency status of individuals involved in investigations “just make it more difficult to gather evidence against the criminals.” The editorial says that the situation “points out the dangers of congressional inaction to reform the current broken immigration system.” The editorial claims that a recent investigation into “a man suspected of sexually abusing young boys and forcing them to distribute drugs by threatening their families” was successful because of trust between immigrants and local authorities. The editorial likens the current state of immigration laws to Prohibition because “they create an underground in which innocent people are victimized because of bad laws,” and calls Congressional inaction “an unconscionable dereliction of duty.”

**ILLEGAL ORDERED TO LEAVE COUNTRY TAKES REFUGE IN ARIZONA CHURCH.** The *Washington Times* (5/14, Chumley, 455K) reports Daniel Neyoy Ruiz, an illegal immigrant in Arizona who was ordered to leave the US by yesterday, has taken refuge in a Tucson church with his wife and son and plans to stay there until ICE agrees to close his case. Neyoy Ruiz was pulled over by Arizona police in 2011 and was turned over to immigration officials after they discovered he was in the country illegally. He was ordered to leave the country and subsequently lost a number of appeals. According to AP, an ICE spokeswoman said the agency is currently reviewing Neyoy Ruiz’s case.
Reuters (5/14, Ingram) reports leaders from Southside Presbyterian Church, where Neyoy Ruiz is staying, were pioneers in a movement to give sanctuary to Central American refugees in the US in the 1980s.

The Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (5/14, Ingram, 1K) reports “ICE officials did not respond to multiple phone calls and emails seeking comment on the case” as of yesterday. Neyoy Ruiz’s lawyer, Margo Cowan, has asked ICE to close her client’s case, saying it “should have received prosecutorial discretion long ago. According to the Obama administration, he is an ideal candidate for administrative closure.”

KPNX-TV Phoenix (5/14, 5:10 p.m. MST, 54K) and KVOA-TV Tucson, AZ (5/14, 10:12 p.m. MST, 48K) broadcast this story.

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF ANTI-DETIENER PROTEST, IMMIGRATION AUDIT. In continuing coverage, The Oregonian (5/14, Castillo, 992K) recounted several immigration-related stories, including a protest last week at the sheriff’s office of Washington County, Oregon. Protesters consisted of undocumented immigrants, allies, and activists. The protest “came in response to the recent decisions by most Oregon sheriffs to stop honoring” ICE detainer requests. The article also mentioned a recent ICE audit of Crunch Pak, an apple packaging plant in Washington state, noting that “hundreds of workers” may be laid off after discrepancies in the company’s payroll were found.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY AMENDS ICE DETAINER POLICY. The Lehigh Valley (PA) Express Times (5/14, McEvoy, 189K) reports that commissioners of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania passed a resolution amending the county’s policy for responding to ICE detainer requests. The county will reportedly “now advise ICE of a date and time when the suspect will no longer be detained,” and will release suspects “unless they receive a court order telling them not to do so.” The county’s move comes after a US citizen was detained under suspicion of being undocumented, the article says, though litigation concerns were also cited in the county’s move. Commissioner Scott Ott was quoted saying, “I don’t care about the money; we detained an American citizen...I feel complicit in that. I don’t want to be part of that, and I don’t think anybody on this board wants to be part of that, ever again.”

The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (5/14, 339K) quotes county corrections director Ed Sweeney criticizing ICE “for dumping the liability of the detainers on counties,” saying, “[ICE doesn’t] want to pony up for the liability that we face when they make an error.”

SENATE DEMOCRATS WARN WINDOW FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM CLOSING. Politico (5/15, Everett, Kim, 73K) reports Democratic Senators Charles Schumer (New York) and Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nevada) called on House Republicans yesterday to pass immigration reform, “warning the window for a new law this year is rapidly closing.” In speeches on the Senate floor, Schumer defined the window as “between early June and the August recess” and said if the House doesn’t vote on the matter, “it will not pass until 2017 at the earliest.” Reid called House Republicans “extremists” for delaying a vote and said the Senate’s passed-immigration bill “will have absolutely no meaning unless the House takes it up.” Politico notes lawmakers and immigration advocacy groups “still see a realistic window” after GOP primaries “that Congress could finish immigration reform before the year becomes consumed in campaign politics.”

The Hill (5/15, Marcos, 237K) reports in its “Floor Action” blog that Schumer “blasted the House GOP” during his speech, saying the leadership needs to decide if “they stand with the majority of the American people, and supposedly the majority of their conference, or if they’re really going to let Steve King dictate the policy of the Republican party on immigration.” He suggested that King “wants the House to do nothing” on reform and is currently “winning” while “American is losing.” Schumer also asserted that “Republicans have completely abdicated their responsibility to fix our broken immigration system” and that if they truly have concerns about President Obama...
enforcing laws passed, “let’s pass a bill now and delay implementation to 2017.”

A separate story on The Hill’s (5/15, Cox, 237K) “Floor Action” blog says Reid claimed the House has “done absolutely nothing” in the 321 days since the Senate passed an immigration reform bill, adding that illegal immigrants “have lived in fear for the last 46 weeks … all while House Republicans have twiddled their thumbs.”

TEA PARTY LEADER ENDORSES IMMIGRATION REFORM. The AP (5/14) reports Sal Russo, a co-founder of Tea Party Express, endorsed immigration reform legislation yesterday that includes measures to provide legal statuses to those currently in the country illegally. Russo called on the House to take action on reform, saying “conservatives should be at the forefront of immigration legislation to ensure it doesn’t just reflect the interests of... liberal do-gooder reformers.” AP says the Tea Party leader’s comments are notable because many conservatives in the Republican party have been opposed to reform, while many members of the GOP establishment have backed the action.

Politico (5/15, Kim, 73K) reports Russo made his comments in an op-ed in Roll Call (5/15, Russo, Subscription Publication, 76K). He said conservatives should support legalizing illegals as long as they meet certain requirements, including “penalties, criminal background checks, learning English, understanding the Constitution, and being ‘committed to our basic freedoms.’”

The Washington Times (5/15, Dinan, 455K) reports Russo said he doesn’t want “to dictate the outlines of a deal and didn’t embrace a specific type of legalization,” but rather that conservatives need “to gain a voice in the debate.” He said it is in conservatives’ “interest to change the broken immigration system” and that many Republicans have realized “that blocking ... reform is not a good idea.” The Times says Russo’s comments add “fuel to the push for Republicans to agree to a bill this year” and notes that according to polling data by the Partnership for a New American Economy, “a majority of voters who sympathize with the tea party would be open to granting legal status to illegal immigrants, with strict conditions attached.”

Roll Call (5/14, Dumain, 76K) reports in its “218” blog that Russo’s statement “could taint the ideological purity of the Tea Party Express” and might prompt candidates the publication has endorses “to distance themselves from the group.”

Conservative Leaders Call For Reform Legislation By August. The Hill (5/14, Berman, 237K) reports Russo, Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, Al Cardenas, chairman of the American Conservative Union, and Steve Case, former AOL chairman, participated in a conference call hosted by the Partnership for a New American Economy yesterday that focused on “prodding House Republicans to bring [immigration reform] legislation to the floor before Congress breaks for its August recess.”

The Dallas Morning News (5/15, Gillman, 1.18M) reports about the conference call as well, adding that Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson and Texas Association of Business president Bill Hammond are also among those calling for reform action in Congress. The Morning news notes that some conservative “resistance remains,” with Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of Tea Party Patriots, calling yesterday for secure borders and saying “There is already a legal path to citizenship for those wishing to come to the United States,” adding that illegal immigrants who “get off that path... should not be given any sort of amnesty.”

Group Says Immigration Reform Momentum Increasing “Among Conservatives.” According to Congressional Quarterly (5/14, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 967), Partnership for a New American Economy aims to prove that momentum for immigration reform is increasing “even among conservatives.” The group held “the first in a series of monthly conference calls” featuring figures of the conservative movement to support immigration reform. The speakers called the President’s “threat to supersede Congress” “not helpful,” but emphasized that even this “would not derail the push for action in the House.” Russo is quoted saying, “I don’t think Democrats are
Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

the ones that are moving” on immigration reform, and that “I think Republicans are far more equipped to take action.” The conference call was “timed with two separate announcements designed to...neutralize the issue for congressional Republicans who fear” that a pro-reform stance hurts their re-election chances in November, the article says.

HERITAGE COMES OUT AGAINST ENLIST ACT. Roll Call (5/15, Eldridge, 76K) reports in its “218” blog that the Heritage Foundation announced yesterday that it will work to make sure the National Defense Authorization Act is not passed if US Rep. Jeff Denham’s (R-California) ENLIST Act is added as an amendment. Heritage CEO Michael A. Needham said ENLIST “creates radical and perverse incentives that will have a negative impact on our military and our immigration system” and said the proposal amounted to “amnesty.” Additionally, the organization’s James Jay Carafano, VP for foreign and defense policy studies, said the amendment destroys “the credibility of the NDAA” and “is a slap in the face to those who want to come here and play by the rules.”

The Washington Times (5/15, Dinan, 455K) reports that the proposal “has drawn fire from veterans groups, which say it would inject a thorny partisan issue into the defense debate.” Carafano of the Heritage Foundation is quoted saying “The Enlist Act is unnecessary for national security [and] makes a mockery of U.S. immigration law...” Congressional Quarterly (5/14, Eldridge, Subscription Publication, 967) also reports this story.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE IN FAVOR OF CALIFORNIA’S UNDOCUMENTED LICENSE DESIGN. An editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle (5/15, 3.33M) discusses DHS’ decision that California’s proposed design for undocumented driver’s licenses “doesn’t go far enough” to distinguish them from normal licenses. The editorial says that the most important reason for the design is that “assigning undocumented immigrants licenses that scream “undocumented” would leave them open to unnecessary harassment and exploitation.” The editorial claims that training Federal employees to scan California’s licenses “should not be all that hard” and that “the purpose of the license is about public safety--not stigmatization.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT’S IMMIGRATION REFORM REMARKS. CBS’ DC (5/14) continues coverage of President Obama’s remarks in a meeting with “the country’s top law enforcement officials” in favor of immigration reform. The President contended that immigration reform “would allow law enforcement to focus on its primary mission, which is keeping our communities safe.” The President also said, “Their kids are going to school with our kids. Most of them are not making trouble; most of them are not causing crimes.” The article noted that the meeting coincided with the Center for Immigration Studies report.

CALIFORNIA COUNTY’S DETAINER POLICY CHANGE DISCUSSED. The Salinas Californian (5/14, 36K) reports on Monterey County (California) and its decision to no longer honor ICE detainer requests “in the absence of probable cause.” The article says that sheriff’s deputies in the county “no longer take part in ICE sweeps and may participate in ICE-initiated enforcement only by special request and in circumstances involving verified criminal violations.” County Sheriff Scott Miller is quoted saying, “Based on the Oregon decision, I doubt there will be many, if any, county in California that will continue with the ICE requests for holds as we have historically...The specter of large court-ordered fines is probably enough to motivate most counties into policy changes.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF REVENGE PORN. WDSU-TV New Orleans (5/14, Kim, 74K) featured a video version of the second part of the station’s two-part story on revenge porn. ICE spokesman Bryan Cox is quoted saying, “to criminalize this action that was consensual that the consenting adult engaged in is a really slipper slope dangerous argument to say what can we do on the criminal side.”

COLORADO JAIL TO NO LONGER HONOR DETAINER REQUESTS. The Denver Post (5/14, Lofholm, 940K) reports that Aurora Detention Center in Colorado will no longer honor detainer
requests once inmates are eligible for release on other charges, in the wake of court rulings and decisions by Colorado counties and elsewhere that the requests do not meet legal standards. Gary Cure, assistant director of the County Sheriffs of Colorado organization, advised that sheriffs and county attorneys plan to meet with ICE representatives to attempt to formulate a uniform policy for the state. The agency's statement is quoted saying that it would continue to cooperate with law enforcement partners across Colorado. ACLU Colorado director Mark Silverstein claims that ICE is now issuing an "I-200 form," saying that it is a warrant; Silverstein says that this form not legally binding because it was not issued with a judge's approval.

CALIFORNIA COUNTY TO NO LONGER HONOR DETAINERS. The Watsonville (CA) Register-Pajaronian (5/14, Guild, 5K) continues coverage of the decision in Santa Cruz County, California, to no longer honor detainer requests. The article says that the requests "came thanks to Secure Communities."

IMPERIAL COUNTY EMPLOYEES FIGHTING TO KEEP DETENTION CENTER OPEN. KYMA-TV Yuma, AZ (5/14, 10:05 p.m. MST, 10K) and KECY-TV Yuma, AZ (5/14, 10:00 p.m. MST, 5K) continued coverage of efforts by ICE employees in Imperial County, California to keep a detention center in the county open. The report said that union representatives returning from Washington, DC are "to the public that this detention center needs to stay here in the imperial valley," though a rally for their cause had a "disappointing" turnout. The report added that DHS officials are contemplating "possibly making the center a place for unattended minors who get caught crossing the border."

In Brief:

CBP SEIZES MARIJUANA IN ARIZONA. The Arizona Daily Star (5/13, Matas, 389K) reports CBP agents seized 221 pounds of marijuana, worth about $110,000, at the Douglas Port of Entry in Arizona Friday. After selecting a van for a secondary inspection, agents discovered 157 packages of the drug hidden inside the vehicle. The driver, Julian Obeso-Acosta of Mexico, was arrested and referred to ICE's HSI for further processing.

KTVK-TV Phoenix (5/12, Hoey, 88K) reported the story on its website as well.

KENTUCKY JUDGE SUSPENDED FOR "UNDIGNIFIED AND DISCOURTEOUS TREATMENT." The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (5/14, 468K) reports that Rebecca Ward, chief judge of Bullitt District Court in Kentucky, has been suspended for 30 days for "undignified and discourteous treatment' of persons she dealt with in her official capacity." Among the allegations is that Ward "held individuals for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency without legal authority." Ward reportedly did not contest the proceedings "and agreed to the suspension."

BICYCLE TOUR HONORS FALLEN OFFICERS IN NEW JERSEY. The Shore (NJ) News Today (5/14, Marra) reports law enforcement officials from several agencies participated in the Police Unity Tour last Saturday, a bicycle riding event that honors Cape May County, New Jersey police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Representatives included HSI Special Agent Pete Chartier and officers from other Federal, state, and local agencies.

MEXICAN MAN ARRESTED FOR MONEY LAUNDERING. KSAT-TV San Antonio (5/14, 91K) reports on its website that Jose Aguilar Pesada has been arrested by authorities on a money laundering charge. After San Antonio, Texas Police pulled over Pesada last March, they initially thought they smelled heroin in his car but only found $5,000 in cash. He told officers that he had entered the country illegally from Mexico and was detained and turned over to ICE custody, where he eventually confessed to smuggling drugs. KSAT-TV San Antonio (5/14, 12:04 p.m. CDT, 41K) also broadcast this story.
Top DHS News:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF AWARD GIVEN TO CHICAGO TSA EMPLOYEE. The Hill (5/15, Laing, 237K) continues coverage of the award of “Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson’s Award for Valor” to Chicago-based TSA employee Eddie Palacios, who assisted in the rescue of a passenger who fell onto the tracks of the city’s subway system while off duty. Palacios reportedly “credited his TSA training” with the instinct to help, saying, “I wasn’t even thinking about putting myself in danger because I work at TSA... They taught us a lot of things to do and how to act in situations, not to put ourselves in harm or put other people in harm.” A Chicago Tribune article reportedly cited DHS spokesman Peter Boogaard saying that Palacios had told a supervisor that he was late for work because “somebody needed help at the train station, so I helped them.”

On its website, WMAQ-TV Chicago (5/15, 97K) quotes the Secretary saying at the awards ceremony, “Today we highlight the character and integrity of our people within DHS, exemplified by ten individuals across the Department who have responded selflessly, concerned not for themselves, but with doing whatever they could to help others.” The article quoted Palacios describing his actions as, “It was nothing really... At the TSA they teach us sensitivity. They teach us how to respond to certain situations.”

WGN-TV Chicago (5/14, 50K) included a video depicting Palacios’ actions on its website.

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS CREDITED FOR SAVING TEXAS WOMAN’S LIFE. KXAS-TV Dallas (5/15, 155K) reports on its website that Brenda Quirolo of Denison, Texas credits Secret Service agents with saving her life. Quirolo experienced a “massive heart attack” while visiting Washington, DC; Secret Service agents at the scene “used a defibrillator and administered CPR” before Quirolo was rushed to the hospital. The article cites Quirolo saying that the agents visited her in the hospital before she returned to Texas, and were subsequently given DHS’ Award for Valor.

KENTUCKY SUES FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS OVER SEIZURE OF HEMP SEEDS. In an article appearing in USA Today, the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (5/15, Hall, 468K) reports Kentucky’s Agriculture Department filed a lawsuit against the DEA, CBP, and DOJ yesterday seeking the “release of imported hemp seeds that the federal government has detained.” James Comer, the state’s Agriculture Commissioner, said that despite his department “doing exactly what the federal law says,” the government continues to hold the seeds. Comer said every time state officials have talked with the DEA, it would be a different person with a different interpretation of the law. The Courier-Journal says the “Agriculture Department wants to distribute the seeds for use in pilot projects that would be Kentucky’s first hemp crop in decades.”

The AP (5/15) reports Attorney General Holder is also named as a defendant in the lawsuit and the DOJ did not immediately comment on the matter. State officials said they need to get the 250-pounds worth of Italian-imported seeds “in the ground for the spring season and each day they are held up jeopardizes the yield.” The hemp research would be conducted by six Kentucky universities on land supplied by private farmers and universities. AP says the latest Federal Farm Bill “allows state agriculture departments to designate hemp pilot projects for research in states... that allow hemp growing.” Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) also called for the release of the seeds, calling the seizure an “outrage” and saying “DEA is using finite taxpayer dollars to impound legal industrial hemp seeds.”

The Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (5/14, Patton, 395K) reports Comer had negotiated with DEA Tuesday “to clear the way for the state to get the hemp seeds with an expedited import permit,” but reconsidered after reading the particulars of the agency’s offer. DEA asked the state to obtain a “controlled substances” import permit, something Comer said is unneeded under the new Federal Farm Bill and “would set a precedent for other states.” The Herald-Leaders says one project involving private growers is expected to plant seeds obtained elsewhere Friday and it is unclear if authorities plant to intervene in that event. The DEA said in a statement that “only state
departments of agriculture or institutions of higher education may grow hemp" under the law.

WDRB-TV Louisville, KY (5/15, 167K) and WLKY-TV Louisville, KY (5/15, Vanderhoff, 52K) report the story on their website as well.

GLOBAL ENTRY CENTER OPENS IN GUAM. The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (5/15, Daleno, 61K) reports CBP opened a Global Entry Program enrollment center at the A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport on Tuesday. Before the opening, the nearest center where mandatory face-to-face interviews could take place was in Hawaii. Brian J. Humphrey, CBP director of field operations in San Francisco, said the new center “provides a very convenient location for frequent international travelers to complete their Global Entry application.” Global Entry allows qualified travelers to receive “expedited service when re-entering the United States via customs and immigration.”

BORDER PATROL ARRESTS ALMOST TWO DOZEN IN A WEEK IN ARIZONA. The AP (5/15) reports US Border Patrol agents in Southern Arizona made 20 arrests and seized over $1 million worth of drugs over the last week. In one incident near Tombstone, agents arrested two US citizens after discovering about 100 bricks of marijuana hidden inside their vehicle. Another seizure of methamphetamine, worth about $13,000, occurred when agents in the Tucson area found the narcotics hidden in a car's baby seat. Additionally, the Patrol arrested 15 people believed to be illegal immigrants near Kupt last Thursday and also seized about 1,900 pounds of marijuana.

LAS VEGAS PERFORMERS STAR IN TSA VIDEO. USA Today (5/14, 5.82M) includes on its website one of a series of videos featuring Las Vegas performers to be played at TSA checkpoints at Las Vegas' airport. The intent of the videos “is to help ease customers through security.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF SENATOR'S LETTER TO TSA ADMINISTRATOR. The Hill (5/15, Laing, 237K) continues coverage of Sen. Barbara Boxer's letter to TSA Administrator John Pistole about lapses in airport security that enabled “a teenaged stowaway to fly from San Jose to Hawaii last month.” Boxer wrote that she was “shocked” to find that the TSA “found San Jose International Airport to be in full compliance with the TSA-approved Airport Security plan” three weeks before the incident. Boxer also wrote, “it’s also clear that a layered defense is critical to preventing such breaches from happening again.” The letter follows testimony by Pistole at a Senate hearing which cited the costs of layered security as a prohibitive factor for some airports; Boxer reportedly used the example of Palm Springs International Airport's adoption of layered security to say that “the costs do not have to be prohibitive.” Finally, Boxer asked in the letter, “is TSA currently taking steps to improve Airport Security Plans, and what are those steps?”

WILDFIRES HAVE “EXPLODED” ACROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. The extensive wildfires in southern California drew significant coverage on Wednesday’s evening newscasts, which all lead with the story and covered the situation at length.

In its lead story, NBC Nightly News (5/14, lead story, 3:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported on “an emergency in the West,” noting “100-degree temperatures, three percent humidity, give or take, and 50-mile an hour winds.” Fires “have exploded” in Southern California “galloping across the land, jumping across canyons faster than firefighters can run and fueled by some of the worst possible conditions. Tonight entire neighborhoods and lives have been put on hold, traffic’s been diverted and the marines landed on the beach in hovercraft to fight a fire on their base.”

In its lead story, ABC World News (5/14, lead story, 3:35, Sawyer) reported that “17 million people in two states have been given an urgent red flag warning about the risk of fire where they live. Some families are taking stock of the wreckage. Others fighting the fire with the garden hoses.” ABC (Vega) provides extensive details on the efforts of locals to combat fires.
In its lead story, the CBS Evening News (5/14, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “A drought, a heat wave and strong winds are the elements for the disaster unfolding tonight in Southern California.” CBS says that wildfires “are burning out of control in San Diego County.” The piece focuses on the fire in Carlsbad, which has destroyed “at least” 30 homes.

The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 2, 1:15, Pelley, 5.08M) ran a second story. After receiving input from a local reporter detailing conditions, CBS (Pelley) adds, “Heat and drought have brought an early start to the wildfire season this year. Nearly all of the counties in California have now officially declared that fire season has begun, which allows them to hire more firefighters.”

The Times of San Diego (5/14) reports California Governor Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency “late Wednesday” and a fire management assistance grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency “will reimburse the majority of firefighting costs for responding local, state and tribal agencies at the blaze.” According to California Office of Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilar ducci, “we welcome FEMA’s approval of Governor Brown’s request for assistance” as “fires like the poinsettia Fire can put a strain on resources.”

The Los Angeles Times (5/15, Perry, Rocha, Cowan, 3.46M) reports the fires have “forced evacuations of schools, businesses, homes, a mobile-home park and Cal State San Marcos” and has stretched “firefighting resources almost to the breaking point.” The article notes that the Poinsettia fire in Carlsbad has burned “several hundred acres” and was “the most destructive of the blazes.” According to Carlsbad Fire Chief Michael Davis, the firefighters have “days of work to be done.” As of Wednesday, the Miguelito fire has been contained to 50 percent, according to firefighters.

The AP (5/14) reports the causes of the “various fires” were under investigation. According to the article, “one blaze spread from a burning vehicle on coastal Interstate 5 to roadside brush near the northwest corner of Pendleton.”

USA Today (5/15, Welch, Bacon, 5.82M) reports the “rash of fires and extreme conditions were unusual for this time of year.”

Reuters (5/15), the Washington Post (5/15, 4.22M), and the U-T San Diego (5/14, 648K) also reported on the fires.

FORMER OWNER OF FAILED MEXICAN AIRLINE REQUESTS US ASYLUM. The Wall Street Journal (5/15, Harrup, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that Gaston Azcarraga, former owner of former Mexican flagship airline Mexicana, has requested political asylum in the US, according to Mexican authorities. Azcarraga is wanted in Mexico on fraud charges connected to the airline’s collapse.

The AP (5/15) cites Mexican Assistant Attorney General Mariana Benitez as saying that after the US notified Mexico of Azcarraga’s presence in the former country, Mexico requested his extradition “but U.S. authorities must first rule on his asylum request.”

HOUSE LEGISLATION AIDS TO MAKE VISA PROGRAM PERMANENT. The Hill (5/15, Marcos, 237K) reports in its “Floor Action” blog that bipartisan legislation to permanently extend the EB-5 visa program for immigrant investors has been introduced by US Reps. Aaron Schock (R-Illinois) and Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii). The visa program is available to “immigrants who make U.S. investments of at least $1 million, or $500,000 in rural areas” and who create “ten or more full-time jobs within two years” as a result of the investments. Currently, up to 10,000 of the visas are issued each year and the program is set to expire in 2015. Schock said the bill “underscores the importance of an incremental approach to immigration reform” and Gabbard touted the economic benefits of the visa program.

COAST GUARD’S HIGHEST-RANKING BLACK OFFICER RETIRES. The Washington Post
(5/15, Shapiro, 4.22M) reports on the retirement of Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown from the Coast Guard, identifying him as “the highest-ranking black officer in the history of the sea service.” Commandant Adm. Robert J. Papp Jr. credited Brown with playing “a crucial role in developing the careers of minorities in” the service, saying, “While we still have a long way to go, I credit Manson Brown for speaking truth to power.” The article says Brown described dealing with an instance of racism early in his career from a subordinate, and also says that he “was recognized for his inspirational leadership and zeal” for the rest of his career. The article goes on to recount Brown’s career and the influence on his achievements of “the legacy forged by the first black officers in the early years of the Coast Guard.”

SENATE CONFIRMS NEXT COMMANDANT.  Congressional Quarterly (5/14, Subscription Publication, 967) reports that the Senate has officially confirmed Vice Adm. Paul Zukunft to replace Adm. Robert J. Papp Jr. as the new commandant of the Coast Guard. Zukunft “is best known for his work as federal on-scene coordinator for response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill,” the article says. The article adds that “the swift approval of his nomination comes as no surprise” given lawmakers’ “widespread praise.”

COAST GUARD RELEASES REPORT ON US BOATING ACCIDENTS.  The AP features a number of reports about US Coast Guard statistics released yesterday regarding recreational boating accidents in the US. The report found that 560 people died across the nation in 2013 as a result of the accidents, which is down from 651 deaths in 2012. The study also found that “alcohol use was the leading known contributing factor in fatal U.S. boating accidents” and that “operator inattention or lack of experience, improper lookout, excessive speed and machinery failure” were factors that also played a part. Florida had the highest amount of deaths in 2013, followed by California and then Texas.

The AP (5/15) reports that 11 people died in accidents in Virginia last year, down from 15 deaths in 2012. The statistics showed a decline in total accidents in the state as well, which fell from 89 in 2012 to 64 in 2013.

The AP (5/15) says three people died as a result of accidents in West Virginia last year, down from four in 2012. Additionally, the total number of accident declined to 16 in 2013 from 19 a year earlier.

The AP (5/15) reports that Texas’ boating deaths declined to 31 individuals last year, one less than the number in 2012.

RETAILERS FORM CYBER INTELLIGENCE SHARING CENTER.  The Los Angeles Times (5/15, Hsu, 3.46M) reports that the Retail Industry Leaders Assn. has teamed up with “retail heavyweights” JC Penney, Gap, Nike, and Walgreens, among others, to launch a cyber intelligence-sharing center. DHS, the Secret Service, and the FBI “will also be involved.” Phyllis Schneck, deputy undersecretary for cybersecurity for NPPD, is quoted saying, “We have seen a sharp increase in the number of malicious actors attempting to access personal information or compromise the systems we all rely on, in the retail industry and elsewhere.”

The AP (5/15) quotes Secret Service assistant director for investigations Paul Morrissey saying in a statement, “The Secret Service actively supports information sharing initiatives such as the Retail Cyber Intelligence Sharing Center, announced today by RILA.” The agency indicated that it is committed to promoting public and private partnerships “through its 33 nationwide Electric Crimes Task Forces and two international crime task groups,” the article says.

HACKERS TURNING TO “RANSOMWARE” ATTACKS.  USA Today (5/15, Leger, 5.82M) says that hackers are using a “new, more sophisticated generation” of “ransomware” such as CryptoLocker, and are “now organized into crime syndicates” that attack entire companies, rather than individual consumers. The article says that the attacks frustrate both computer experts and law enforcement, “who have busted few of the underground rings that specialize in these
attacks." FBI Washington field office criminal division cyber branch assistant special agent in charge Nick Savage is quoted saying, "The tools are being continuously engineered to be more malicious, more harmful," and that criminals target larger victims for more money. The article recounts several attacks and law enforcement efforts, including US CERT's alert on Cryptolocker in November.

**COBURN GRILLS OFFICIALS OVER DELAY IN ANTI- TERROR PLAN FOR CHEMICAL PLANTS.** The Hill (5/14, Goad, 237K) reported that in the more than seven years since DHS "enacted chemical facility anti-terrorism standards meant to stave off attacks at plants that house explosive and volatile substances," the department "has approved only a fraction of the required security plans as it struggles to clear a backlog of thousands of site-specific proposals." During a hearing of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Wednesday, Sen. Tom Coburn, the panel's top Republican "grilled officials on the backlog, noting that only around 750 plans have been approved and roughly 3,200 are still pending." NPPD undersecretary Suzanne Spaulding said in prepared testimony, "The improvements that have been made have accelerated the pace of approvals and we are continuing to identify and explore options to enhance the program," adding, "We recognize the projected timeframe for all approvals must be reduced.”

**Coburn Questions Multiple Credential Checks For CFATS.** *Congressional Quarterly* (5/15, Subscription Publication, 967) reports that Sen. Tom Coburn questioned why the CFATS program "requires some workers to go through multiple credential checks to get security approval under different department programs." Coburn said that TWIC cards "should be adequate" to allow transportation workers entry into "high-risk areas of chemical facilities." Coburn also asked whether DHS is trying to identify chemical facilities "that have only modified their operations to avoid regulation, rather than actually reducing risk." Spaulding is quoted replying, "We are aware that there are other regulatory regimes that are complimentary to ours that we believe limit the prospect that risk has merely been shifted with regard to storage and transportation of hazardous materials, for example... But we are looking at and continue to work and develop effective and granular metrics to make sure that we are in fact enhancing security in America with regard to high-risk chemical facilities.”

**WHO RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT MERS, BUT DOES NOT DECLARE EMERGENCY.** NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 3, 2:15, Williams, 7.86M) reported near the top of its Wednesday broadcast that the World Health Organization's concerns about Middle East Respiratory Syndrome have "increased significantly, and for a second day now, US air travelers are being alerted with signs posted at major airports." NBC (Snyderman) added that "the CDC is on a heightened state of alert after two confirmed cases of MERS, one in Indiana, one in Florida." There have now been 571 confirmed cases in 18 countries worldwide, with 171 deaths.

The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 7, 0:35, Pelley, 5.08M) reports tests on two Florida hospital workers came back negative Wednesday, with 18 more results still pending. The Wall Street Journal (5/15, McKay, Knickmeyer, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that while the WHO called for urgent measures, it did not declare an international public health emergency.

**WPost Urges Against “Complacency.**" The Washington Post (5/15, 4.22M) says in an editorial that though the WHO "declared that the disease has not yet reached the point of a public health emergency of international concern," that "should not lead to a sense of complacency." The Post says MERS could spread to the US quickly, and "the best defense today is a deeper understanding of the virus and its behavior.”

**TSA Posts MERS Warnings At US Airports.** In continuing coverage, the Chicago Tribune (5/15, 2.3M) reports that the TSA is posting MERS warning signs at 22 major airports in the US, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's request. The article discusses the two cases of the MERS virus exhibited by US travelers, both of whom had traveled to Saudi Arabia. The Denver Post (5/15, Gibbons, 940K) also reports this story.
JURY HEARS CLOSING ARGUMENTS AT ISLAMIC CLERIC’S TERROR TRIAL. The AP (5/15) reports from New York that a Federal prosecutor “warned jurors at a terrorism trial Wednesday not to be fooled by an Egyptian-born imam’s calm demeanor on the witness stand as he defended himself against charges that he conspired to support al-Qaida and to aid kidnappers in Yemen who took tourists hostage in 1998. ‘He knows how to work a crowd,’ Assistant U.S. Attorney Ian McGinley said in closing arguments at the trial of Mustafa Kamel Mustafa, 55, who is charged with sending men to start an al-Qaida training camp in Bly, Oregon, at the turn of the century and sending men to Afghanistan training camps.” Defense attorney Jeremy Schneider “in his summation told jurors to put emotions about terrorism aside so they can realize the weakness of the government’s evidence, presented over the past month. ‘The vast majority of the evidence is his words, not his deeds,’ Schneider said, alluding to the numerous videotapes and audio tapes offered as evidence.”

Bloomberg News (5/14, Hurtado, 2.76M) reports that McGinley told jurors that Mustafa, also known as Abu Hamza al-Masri, “lied when he testified that he was a peacemaker whose call for jihad wasn’t meant to promote violence.” McGinley told jurors that Mustafa “deceived them during the three days he testified in his defense. ‘Oregon, Afghanistan, Yemen – these were the defendant’s choices,’ McGinley said. ‘Yet when he testified in this courtroom, he ran from all those choices and decisions that were at the core of his devotion to jihad. He ran, saying he was just misunderstood.’”

The New York Times (5/15, Weiser, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Schneider “disputed what the government said was evidence that” Mustafa “intended to create the Oregon training camp and had sent followers to train there and in Afghanistan,” and as “for the kidnappings,” Schneider “echoed” Mustafa’s testimony “that he had no knowledge of the plan and had served merely as a ‘mouthpiece’ for the militants; and that he had tried, after learning of the abductions, to resolve the situation without violence.”

The New York Daily News (5/15, Beekman, 4.36M) reports that Schneider “wondered aloud if” Mustafa “would be able to get a fair trial in front of a New York jury in the shadows of the World Trade Center. ‘He wants you to believe he was misunderstood, that his men were free agents, that it was everyone else’s fault,’” McGinley said.

AFP (5/15) reports that McGinley said the evidence against Mustafa “was ‘simply overwhelming.’”

Newsday (5/15, Riley, 1.5M) reports that jury deliberations are scheduled to start today.

The Wall Street Journal (5/15, Levinson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) and Reuters (5/15, Ax) also report on the trial.

FBI AGENTS DESCRIBE INTERVIEWS WITH TSARNAEV’S FRIENDS IN SECOND DAY OF TESTIMONY. The Boston Globe (5/14, Wen, 1.62M) reports that the second day of pre-trial hearings for two friends of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev featured “intense scrutiny” of the behavior of FBI agents who questioned the young men. Robert G. Stahl, an attorney for one of the two young men, skeptically asked FBI agent John Walker why he had kept the young man, Dias Kadyrbayev, handcuffed and shirtless during what Walker had described as an interview with a “witness.” Walker explained that Kadyrbayev had been restrained by New Bedford police against his own recommendation. A second FBI agent, Farbod Azad, testified later Wednesday about his interviews with the young men, describing them as “voluntary,” casual and friendly. Azad explained that he reminded both men that they were not obligated to answer questions and could stop the conversation completely or skip topics.

The AP (5/15, Sutherland) explains that both young men signed consent forms before being interviewed. FBI Special Agent Farbod Azad explained in court Tuesday that the two men were read their rights and were told they were not under arrest. Dias Kadyrbayev, one of the young
men, signed consent for the FBI to search his car, apartment and computer, according to
documents shown in court. His attorney claims, however, that "his client was interviewed
involuntarily and his apartment illegally searched."

Reuters (5/15, Maione) reports that FBI Special Agent John Walker explained that authorities
believed at the time of the search that the bombing suspect was hiding in the apartment, based
on what they later learned was inaccurate information. FBI Special Agent Farbod Azad’s
testimony was also noted.

USA Today (5/15, Macdonald, 5.82M) reports that the FBI had not obtained a search warrant
before entering the apartment, and handcuffing the two men. The men were then initially
questioned in unmarked cars, but later agreed to be questioned at the State Police barracks.
After questioning at the barracks, the two men slept in a conference room for "a while," while FBI
Special Agent Walker and his team searched their apartment and officials with the US Attorney's
Office decided whether there was probably cause to arrest the two.

Boston Globe Reveals Identity, "Stormy" Record Of FBI Agent Who Shot Ibragim
Todashev. The Boston Globe (5/14, Sacchetti, 1.62M) featured a 2,400 word report on the
Boston FBI agent who fatally shot Ibragim Todashev, a Chechen man interviewed by law
enforcement officials about his relationship with Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan
Tsarnaev. The agent, whom the Globe identifies as Aaron McFarlane, had a "brief and troubled"
history while working with the Oakland Police Department in California, including two police
brutality lawsuits and four internal affairs investigations. The Globe explains that it learned the
agent’s identity by removing “improperly created redactions” from an electronic copy of a report
by Florida prosecutor Jeffrey L. Ashton on the shooting incident. The Globe interviewed lawyers
in California who represented plaintiff’s in cases against McFarlane in California, who expressed
“shock” that the FBI hired the former officer, as well as Barry Donelan, president of the Oakland
Police Officers’ Association, who described McFarlane as “a very good police officer.” The FBI’s
Boston Office explained in a statement that “Publishing the alleged name of the Agent involved in
this shooting incident serves no public interest or service, except to foster continued media
scrutiny. The personal safety of the Agent continues to be of concern to the Boston Division, and
publishing the Agent’s name potentially places the Agent and his family at risk for reprisal.”

The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (5/14, 850K) briefly notes the Globe’s report on its website.

WOFL-TV Orlando, FL (5/15, Bristow, 26K) reports on its website that the Coalition on American­
Islamic Relations sent letters to Florida State Attorney Jeffrey Ashton, the FBI and the US
Department of Justice asking if they knew about McFarlane’s background and noting that
McFarlane’s background was not mentioned in Ashton’s or the Justice Department’s reports on
the shooting. The station notes that McFarlane worked for the Oakland Police Department for four
years, during which time two lawsuits against him were settled with payouts to victims and he was
accused of falsifying reports, lying under oath and “roughing up” suspects. CAIR Florida Director
Hassan Shibley said that these details raise two questions. “One, it makes us question if he
engaged in any civil rights abuse in the hours preceding to the killing of Todashev. Secondly, it
makes us question the narrative of what’s in the state attorneys report, because at this point,
knowing both agents involved have had a history of being deceitful of falsifying evidence and
abusing civil rights, it makes us wonder if any of their testimony provided to State Attorney’s
Office is believable or credibility.”

WMFE-FM Orlando, FL (5/15, Kiley, 8K) also briefly noted CAIR’s reaction to the details of
McFarlane’s background.

Reuters (5/15, Liston) notes that McFarlane invoked his constitutional right not to answer
questions under oath while serving as a witness in a police corruption case.

TENNESSEE WOMAN SENTENCED TO PROBATION IN MINNESOTA AL-SHABAB CASE.
The AP (5/15) reports from Minneapolis that Saynab Hussein, “who lied to a grand jury about raising money for men who left the state to join a terrorist group in Somalia was sentenced Wednesday to three years of probation and ordered to perform community service.” Hussein, 24, of Nashville, TN, former of Minnesota, “showed remorse during Wednesday’s sentencing hearing” in a Minneapolis Federal court. She pleaded guilty in August to one count of perjury “in connection with the government’s long-running investigation into recruiting and financing for al-Shabab, a terrorist group with links to al-Qaida.” US District Judge Michael Davis “ordered Hussein to perform 100 hours of community service each year she’s on probation – educating the Somali community about the threat of terrorism and the U.S. government’s role in helping stabilize the community.”

WOMAN ACCUSED OF HIDING TERRORIST PAST REACHES PLEA DEAL IN DETROIT. Politico (5/15, Gerstein, 73K) reports in its “Under The Radar” blog that Rasmieh Odeh, a Palestinian woman “who lived in the U.S. for nearly two decades before being accused of failing to reveal her conviction in Israel for the 1969 bombings of a supermarket and the British Consulate in Jerusalem looks set to enter a guilty plea next week in federal court in Detroit.” Odeh was indicted in October “on charges that when she applied for residence and citizenship in the U.S. she concealed her membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, her involvement in the 1969 bombings and the fact that she’d spent time in Israeli prisons.” US District Judge Paul Borman in Detroit on Wednesday “canceled a status conference set for this Friday and set a plea hearing for next Wednesday.”

FEINSTEIN SEEKS FASTER DECLASSIFICATION OF ENHANCED INTERROGATION REPORT. NPR (5/15, Welna, 519K) reports in its “It’s All Politics” blog that Senate Intelligence Committee chair Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) is hoping to speed up the declassification of the panel’s enhanced interrogation report. When asked when the CIA’s review of the report would be complete, she said, “I was told by the White House chief of staff [Denis McDonough] that it’s probably not until July,” adding, “I’m in discussion with Director [of National Intelligence James] Clapper to see if we can’t move that up.” When asked whether she was comfortable that the CIA was responsible for making the final decisions, Feinstein said, “Not particularly, no,” adding, “but I’m comfortable with Director Clapper’s oversight.”

NATIONAL 9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM TO OPEN THURSDAY. All three broadcast networks ran lengthy features on Thursday’s ceremonial opening of the National September 11 Memorial Museum, combining for nearly 12 minutes of coverage, with NBC alone running a five-minute story. All three looked back on the 2001 attacks and on some of the mementos and artifacts from that day that are on display. ABC World News (5/14, story 5, 4:00, Sawyer) called it “the hallowed ground of memory and renewal,” while the CBS Evening News (5/14, story 12, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) said the museum captures “a single day in the life of America [that] is frozen in time.” NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 5, 5:00, Williams, 7.86M) reported that when President Obama dedicates the museum Thursday, “visitors are in for what one writer called a ‘punch to the gut.’”

UK APPROVES LEGISLATION ALLOWING TERROR SUSPECTS TO BE STRIPPED OF CITIZENSHIP. The New York Times (5/15, Bennhold, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Britain’s House of Lords has approved legislation allowing the government “to strip terrorism suspects of their citizenship even if it renders them stateless, taking the country’s already sweeping powers to revoke nationality a step further.” The “clause in a new immigration bill removes a previous restriction on leaving individuals without citizenship.” The Times notes that the rule “will broaden these so-called deprivation powers to include Britons who have no second nationality, provided that they were naturalized as adults.”

YEMEN MOVES FORWARD WITH REHAB CENTER FOR GUANTANAMO DETAINEES. Reuters (5/15, Gobani) reports that Yemen announced that it is planning formally look into building a secure rehabilitation center for Islamist militants, marking a significant step forward for the project, which could speed up the release of its citizens from the Guantanamo detention center, 56 of whom are currently detained there. The announcement, which came in a
presidential decree carried by state media on Wednesday, said that a committee had been established to advance the project, but did not say whether funds had been earmarked.

**SENATE WORKING ON CISPA COUNTERPART LEGISLATION.** *The Hill* (5/15, Sass, 237K) reports that Senator Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, is working on the chamber’s counterpart to the House’s Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act. The White House says that it has threatened to veto CISPA due to inadequate privacy protections, but has encourage Congress to pass cyber information-sharing legislation.

**PRIVATE DATA COLLECTION MAY PROVE MORE INTRUSIVE THAN GOVERNMENT.** Politico (5/14, Gerstein, Simon, 73K) says that “private industry is prying far more deeply into your life” than the National Security Agency. A Senate report is cited saying that private companies “collect, mine and sell as many as 75,000 individual data points” per consumers and are “poised to scoop up volumes more” due to the increased prevalence of connected devices. The publication says that there is a “deep reluctance in DC” to curb “corporate cybersnooping,” leading to a growing oversight gap between the private and government sectors. The article says that many Republicans are opposed in principle to tightening regulation, while Democrats fear alienating Silicon Valley supporters if they push for regulation.

**TWO MEN INDICTED FOR TRYING TO HACK INTO LANL SYSTEMS, OTHER ENTITIES.** The *AP* (5/15) reports that the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Tulsa, Okla. “have indicted two men they say conspired” with a “a group called Team Digital” in order to “hack into computer systems at more than 30 public and private organizations,” with the “apparent goal” being to steal identities and damage computers. The AP notes that entities targeted included the U.S. Navy, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

**Network TV News Coverage:**

**ABC: CALIFORNIA-WILDFIRES.** *ABC World News* (5/14, lead story, 3:35, Sawyer) reported, “A good evening to you on this Wednesday night. As we come on the air 17 million people in two states have been given an urgent red flag warning about the risk of fire where they live. Some families are taking stock of the wreckage. Others fighting the fire with the garden hoses. And for some, look and listen. That is the war of a wildfire in Carlsbad, outside San Diego, and that is where we find ABC’s Cecilia Vega. Cecilia?” ABC (Vega) added, “Diane, good evening to you. What a day it has been. The firefighters just put the fire out at this house here. You can see this is a battle they did not win. Take a look at this. Smoke here still burning, still smoldering. Flames in the back, back there. What these firefighters are up against out here – extremely hot temperatures, really high gust of winds making for a treacherous day to fight a fire. The ‘Golden State’ ablaze.” Unidentified Speaker: “Oh my God. Oh my God.” Vega: “Is Carlsbad, California, firefighters and the people whose homes they are trying to save, on the losing end of a raging battle.” Mark Miller, Cal Fire: “I’ve been doing this 35 years and this is some of the most radical firefighting I’ve seen.” Vega: “The skies here, apocalyptic. 15,000 evacuation notices issued, homes destroyed, torched in a matter of minutes. These flames are so hot and they are moving so quickly. This is the challenge. You can see this brush going up in seconds. In fact, I think we should get out of here. Guys, it’s not safe. Listen to the whipping wind. A firefighter’s worst enemy. The crews here can’t keep up. This is what we’re dealing with and these flames – they just keep shooting up. One after the next after the next. And the fires creating sights like this tornado smoke that seemed to defy physics. In a single day, in a 50 mile radius, three major Southern California fires burning fueled by record-breaking heat. From the air you can see the plumes smoke including a fast moving brush fire forcing evacuations on Camp Pendleton, the largest marine training facility on the west coast. And scatterings of smaller fires. The major freeway between LA and San Diego shut down as crews rushed to put out sparks from a truck. In Long Beach, palm trees burning. Residents dumping water from pools to put out the flames. Further south in San Diego where nearly 1,600 acres went up in flames yesterday, homeowners returning and on high alert. Firefighters in their back yards as they continue to battle hot spots. The biggest challenge is what?” Chris Mattarollo, North County Fire Protection District: “Basically,
the winds and it's a high pressure system that comes into the area. It's not typical for this time of year. But that's Southern California now. The fire season is all year around." Vega: "And this is what we're seeing out here this evening, a field completely torched, burned land as far as the eye can see. And again, take a look at this. This house completely destroyed. This was the garage. But this is what I want you to see. The home right next door to it, completely unscathed. That's what this fire did. Hot spots fueled by these hot spots jumping from house to house to house, neighborhood to neighborhood. The owner of this home telling me, Diane, he is lucky he made it out alive."

ABC: KARL ROVE-HILLARY CLINTON’S HEALTH. ABC World News (5/14, story 3, 1:50, Sawyer) reported, "And now back here at home. A kind of counter-point today about former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and insinuation by a Republican about her health. Today her husband, the former president, fired back at Republican power player Karl Rove and ABC's Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl tells us about it." ABC (Karl) added, "Hillary Clinton was all smiles today, totally ignoring her political opponents, and leaving it to her husband to take on Republican strategist Karl Rove who had suggested Mrs. Clinton may have a serious brain injury." Bill Clinton: "Now they say she's really got brain damage. If she does, then I must be in really tough shape because she's still quicker than I am." Karl: "Rove has accused Mrs. Clinton of hiding the extent of her health trouble." Karl Rove: "I didn’t say she had brain damage. She had a serious health episode. This will be an issue in the 2016 race whether she likes it or not." Karl: "This much is not in dispute. Mrs. Clinton was not seen in public for nearly a month as Secretary of State beginning in December of 2012 when she suffered from a virus, a concussion caused by a fall and a blood clot. The Clinton team downplayed her condition." Victoria Nuland, State Department Spokesman: "She is still under the weather. She does not have a public schedule today." Karl: "They did not reveal she suffered from a concussion until days after it happened. When she returned to work she wore special glasses to deal with vision. She acknowledged she had not fully recovered yet." Hillary Clinton: "I still have lingering effects, but the doctors told me that will all recede." Karl: "Now the Hillary Clinton’s spokesman says she is 100 percent recovered, 100 percent healthy, and she is about to be out in public in a big way, Diane. She has a new book coming out next month. You can expect a national book tour that will look a lot like a grueling presidential campaign."

ABC: TURKEY-COAL MINE DISASTER. ABC World News (5/14, story 2, 1:35) reported, "And now big news overseas in Turkey where grief and fury are combined tonight. At least 274 miners have died and hundreds more missing. ABC's Alex Marquardt is there to take us inside a desperate search for any survivors beneath the Earth." ABC (Marquardt) added, "The anguished faces of the families and friends of the miners pressed up against a chain link fence, yearning for a glimmer of hope. In the crowd, 30-year-old Ilyas Yurekli told us he has several friends in the mine below but said he still hasn't lost hope they'll be found alive. Cameras below the surface show rescuers slowly making their way in their search as tonight we learn more about how this tragedy happened. The almost 800 men were underground more than usual because of a shift change, many of them almost 1,400 feet deep, when an electrical failure caused an explosion and sparked a fire. Most died from carbon monoxide poisoning, others unable to escape in the mine's elevators as the gas spread. Tonight with more than 270 dead this is now the world's worst mining disaster in nearly 40 years. Violent protests erupted today against the mining company and the government. The White House tonight is offering assistance to Turkey. But with no survivors being pulled to safety since this morning, the outcome is looking increasingly bleak. The dozens of miners whose fates are still unknown. Diane?"

ABC: NTSB-TIRE SAFETY. ABC World News (5/14, story 4, 2:50, Sawyer) reported, "And tonight we have word that the National Transportation Safety Board has launched a major investigation into tire safety. An issue our own Brian Ross has been tracking for years. Tires that were supposed to be taken off the road that can be a kind of time bomb for the family car. What if your tires are older than you know? Brian joined forces with ABC stations across the country to bring us this undercover investigation." ABC (Ross) added, "Despite a series of recalls, there could be millions of unsafe tires on the road. That's what Alabama business executive Carolyn
Thorne discovered too late. Paralyzed for life after mechanics installed a recalled tire that one week later blew apart after losing its tread.” Carolyn Thorne, Accident Victim: “I heard a popping sound and then the car just started vibrating.” Ross: “In Florida an undetected recalled tire is blamed by families for the accident earlier this year that killed two church leaders. As these test videos show, even skilled drivers knowing they are about to lose a tire can’t keep control when it happens. And now our ABC News investigation has found that a badly flawed government recall system has kept motorists and retailers in the dark about a hidden danger.” Donald Karol, NTSB Office of Highway Safety Director: “There’s supposed to be a process in place to make sure they know. In many cases they don’t.” Ross: “They’re still being sold. Reporters at KGO-TV in San Francisco were able to buy these tires under recall from last year for a dangerous defect. In Atlanta reporters at WSB-TV actually bought one of the Firestone tires recalled 14 years ago after dozens of deaths.” Unidentified Speaker: “It’s not one of those recalls, is it?” Unidentified Speaker: “Nope.” Ross: “The store’s manager later said he did not know the tire had been recalled. But even the tire industry concedes it is a problem.” Unidentified Speaker: “We don’t want to see recalled tires sold.” Ross: “Yet they are.” Unidentified Speaker: “Yet they are.” Ross: “In addition to recall tires, our investigation also found tires for sale that was as much as 10 to 15 years old. There is no legal age limit. But the big three automakers recommend tires older than six years should be replaced. For consumers to find out how old they are they have to crack a kind of code the tire industry uses showing the production date and these four digits. Not month and year, but week and year.” Sean Kane, Tire Safety Consultant: “That’s the date code for the 13th week of 2003.” Ross: “Now the tire industry says it thinks that’s easy for consumers to learn how to read and that, in any case, they say there’s no need to worry about the age of tires because there’s no evidence older tires present a danger. But now that new Federal investigation will look into all that and we’ll probably know in about a year.”

**ABC: 9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM.** ABC World News (5/14, story 5, 4:00, Sawyer) reported, “And now, we head tonight to the hallowed ground of memory and renewal right here in New York. The new World Trade Center piercing the New York skyline and there at the base, the new September 11th Memorial Museum where you walk into all the disbelief and horror. The time capsule of that day American will never forget. The museum opens tomorrow. But tonight a preview as ABC’s David Muir takes us right inside with him. David?″ ABC (Muir) added, “Diane, good evening and what you are looking at is the last column that became, as you remember, such a symbol of the first responders who raced to the scene in the days and weeks that followed. The numbers sprayed onto the side of the column representing those who were lost. As we walked down into the museum the time there on the wall – 8:30 a.m. It was still a beautiful morning. Then everything changed. This was ‘Good Morning America’ shortly after the first plane hit.” Unidentified Speaker: “There’s been some sort of explosion at the World Trade Center.” Unidentified Speaker: “Obviously a major fire there.” Muir: “As you being to descend seven stories below ground, the first thing you hear, the voices.” Unidentified Speaker: “On the day of September 11, 2001.” Muir: “Everyday Americans remembering where they were, their own words lighting up the walls here.” Unidentified Speaker: “We were actually in a meeting when someone barged in and said, ‘Oh my God...’″ Muir: “Minute by minute, it is all tracked on a map. Those flights, the moment they turned, when the hijackers take control. And as you walk through the museum, beside right there, the survivor stairs.” Joe Daniels, 9/11 Memorial President: “Literally hundreds of people used this staircase as an escape route on 9/11 when the attacks were taking place. Running down these stairs to safety was a lifeline.” Muir: “Those stairs weighed 58 tons – the entire museum built around them. And around the corner, big red – the fire truck, ladder three. So many remember their brave captain, Paddy Brown.” Unidentified Speaker: “I’m on the 35th floor. Just relay to the command post. We’re trying to get up.” Muir: “That captain and 10 of his men, lost. There is the bike rack here. The bicycles still covered in dust. All of the planes remembered here. These are parts from Flight 77 pulled from the Pentagon. So was this clock, frozen at 9:37. A melted rolodex, someone’s phone. In one of the rooms we discovered a watch found in the field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania it was Todd Beamers, one of the heroes who took back that flight. On his watch, the date, the 11th. And there’s Florence Jones too who barely escaped. She took off her shoes to get out faster. She once told ‘World News’ she had them in a box under her bed. Now, she’s given them to the museum. Howard Lutnick who lost his
brother and more than 650 employees at Cantor Fitzgerald. The only reason he wasn’t there – it was his son’s first day of kindergarten.” Howard Lutnick: “So my wife and I took that first picture right outside of his school. His hair is a little wet behind the ears. He’s got his backpack on.” Muir: “His son now graduating high school. And inside here you’ll find other message of hope. The NASA commander who saw it and listened to what was said.” Frank Culbertson, NASA Commander: “I know it’s very difficult for everybody in America right now. But the country still looks good and for New Yorkers, your city still looks great from up here.” Muir: “Diane, it’s simply stunning what they’ve been able to preserve here in the museum and what you’re looking at behind me here is one of the original retaining walls around the entire World Trade Center site, around both of those towers. The President will be in this room tomorrow to honor the work that’s been done on this museum, to honor the lives lost, and, of course, to mark the resiliency of this country so many years later. Diane?”

**ABC: WEATHER-LIGHTNING STRIKES.** ABC World News (5/14, story 6, 1:40, Sawyer) reported, “And next tonight. It’s all around us. Spring and summer are peak seasons for lightning storms across the country. About 400 Americans hit by lightning every year, sometimes in the most unlikely places. ABC’s Gio Benitez reminds us where lightning can strike even though you thought you were safe.” ABC (Benitez) added, “Watch this just released dash-cam video. An SUV on a Minnesota highway, struck by lightning and in flames. A woman trapped inside, the locks on her car melted.” Unidentified Speaker: “Help her out! Help her out!” Benitez: “Amazingly, Anna Smith escaped with just scratches.” Anna Smith, Rescued From Burning Car: “There was no way I could unlock anything. Windows weren’t working, nothing.” Benitez: “Cars are designed to divert lightning around the shell of the car and down to the ground. And while many think rubber car tires protect against lightning strikes, well experts say that’s just a myth. Spring brings severe weather and that has meant a lot of lightning strikes this season. I saw the power of lightning firsthand covering storms in Alabama. So how can you protect yourself? One thing we know for sure, this is one of the worst places to be. It’s a beautiful day right now, but during a lightning storm, being the tallest object in an open field, well it makes you more likely to be hit. You also want to stay off that land line phone. Believe it or not, up to five percent of lightning strike victims were on the phone at the time. So use your cell and if you’re driving, pull over. Anna Smith knows that firsthand now. She’s lucky to be alive. Minutes after her rescue her car exploded. Gio Benitez, ABC News, New York.”

**ABC: UK-ROYALS-HACKED VOICEMAILS.** ABC World News (5/14, story 7, 0:30, Sawyer) reported, “Our ‘Instant Index’ tonight begins with a new revelation about the royals. We knew their private voicemails were hacked by tabloid journalists, but we did not know the fast extent until now. An editor at a shuttered British tabloid revealed he hacked into the voicemails of the young royals, Prince Harry, nine times, Prince William, 35 times, and Duchess Kate, 155 times beginning five years before the royal wedding. Even on Christmas Eve and Christmas day.”

**ABC: WASHINGTON MONUMENT-ELEVATOR ISSUE.** ABC World News (5/14, story 8, 0:40, Sawyer) reported, “And after that triumphant reopening of the Washington monument, all the fanfare, a kind of nevermind moment. Without warning, the elevator stopped working. Eighteen people stuck inside about 20 feet up. Eventually they made it out when the elevator inch ed back to the ground floor. But 61 people were still stranded on the observation deck 500 feet up and they had to walk back down 897 steps and one of them was an 86-year-old grandma. They were tweeting as they came down. ...And, by the way, After 92 minutes, the elevator was fixed. The tourists went back up.”

**CBS: CALIFORNIA-WILDFIRES.** The CBS Evening News (5/14, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “Good evening. A drought, a heat wave and strong winds are the elements for the disaster unfolding tonight in Southern California. Wildfires are burning out of control in San Diego County. This is Carlsbad. The city sent notices today to 11,000 homes and businesses ordering people to get out. At least 30 homes have been destroyed. The Carlsbad fire is one of four in the county. Another is threatening homes at Camp Pendleton. CBS News Correspondent Carter Evans is on the fire line in Carlsbad. Carter, what have you seen?” CBS (Evans) added, “Scott it’s
more than five hours after this fire began and it is still going strong. It’s erratic too. Just a few minutes ago this hillside behind erupted in flames. Now firefighters are moving in to keep them from spreading. The fire began mid-morning in the brush outside Carlsbad. By noon it had moved into the upper middle class neighborhoods of this coastal town. The only thing in its way were firefighters moving from house to house. Wind gusts of 50 miles per hour blew the flames over streets. This was Greg’s home for nearly 50 years.” Unidentified Speaker: “We’ve never had a problem with this before. Usually the fire department comes and takes care of it. But this time they were not as quick and efficient as they could be.” Evans: “Residents were ordered to leave immediately. Many only had time to grab what they could carry.” Unidentified Speaker: “We got to get them out of here right now. There’s fire over here. There’s fire over here. There’s fire everywhere. We’re surrounded right now.” Evans: “To give you an idea how fast this fire is moving this wall of flames raced up the hillside here in just the last few minutes. That’s jeopardizing this elementary school right over here. Firefighters haven’t even arrived. Fire crews were called in from across the region. But they’re tired. This is the second day in a row with temperatures near 100 degrees and low humidity. A fire yesterday in Rancho Bernardo forced thousands from their homes. Much of southern California is covered by a blanket of tinder dry vegetation after 27 months of severe drought. Cal Fire Chief Ray Chaney said last year’s fire season never ended.” Ray Chaney, Cal Fire Chief: “We never closed fire stations. We never closed air attack bases because the fuel conditions and the vegetation conditions and the weather conditions were such that we had fire conditions year-round.” Evans: “California has seen more than 1,300 fires since January. That’s twice as much as usual. And the driest months are still ahead. On this particular fire, there are 150 firefighters right now. And only about 100 acres have burned. But Scott, this fire has done significant damage because of where it’s located, in this densely populated community.” Pelley: “And Carter, what’s the weather forecast?” Evans: “Well, the good news is the wind is starting to die down a little bit right now and it is starting to cool off. But that record heat will continue through tomorrow.”

CBS: CALIFORNIA-WILDFIRES. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 2, 1:15, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “Also, in Carlsbad tonight is reporter Steve Price of our CBS San Diego affiliate KFMB. Steve, what has happened in that neighborhood where you are?” Steve Price, KFMB-TV Reporter: “Scott, it’s been a devastating day up here in the northern part of San Diego County. We have just been able to do nothing but sit and watch as one house after another goes up. We’ve seen parents running to schools to grab their kids. And it’s just been so tough for firefighters who can do nothing when the flames jump from canyon to canyon. You can tell they are having a tough time dealing with this as well. You might be able to hear helicopters in the area, they’re trying to make drops and do what they can. But the conditions out here so dry. In fact, we have been in several situations where we thought we were safe, all of a sudden ember gets into the wind up here, goes into some brush near us and we have had to run as well. So just a really tough day for the folks up here in the northern part of San Diego County.” Pelley: “A lot of damage but no serious injuries so far. Steve Price of KFMB. Thanks, Steve. Heat and drought have brought an early start to the wildfire season this year. Nearly all of the counties in California have now officially declared that fire season has begun, which allows them to hire more firefighters. We’ll have the very latest on the fires tomorrow morning on CBS ‘This Morning.’”

CBS: TURKEY-COAL MINE DISASTER. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 3, 2:55, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “In another major story tonight, 274 are known dead in a coal mine catastrophe in Turkey. Families rushed to the scene as rescue workers brought out the dead and searched for as many as 150 miners still missing after yesterday’s explosion and fire. Holly Williams reports from the mine near the town of Soma.” CBS (H. Williams) added, “At the entrance to the mine this morning there were cheers of jubilation as these men appeared after being trapped underground for nearly a day. But by the afternoon, a grim procession of stretchers carried one dead body after another. Every time a survivor or a body emerges from the mine shaft, the crowd here pushes forward to see if it is their family member or their friend. Many of the people here have been waiting for more than a day for news. [He] told us his 26-year-old brother... was one of the trapped miners. Do you think that your brother will be found alive? ‘No,’ he told us. ‘I’m not expecting that. I’m sure we’ve lost him.’ A line of ambulances stood by to rush survivors to the
hospital, But instead, they carried the dead to a makeshift morning. The Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited the mine and promised an investigation into what caused this disaster. But as the hours wore on, grief boiled over into anger. This man who said his nephew was trapped inside demanded answers now about what went wrong. Many in Turkey blame the government for what happened here and say safety standards in the country’s mines aren’t strict enough. Murat Gokmenoglu worked in a neighboring coal mine and told us he just spent 14 hours helping to carry bodies to the surface. You’re a miner. When you see this kind of accident do you feel frightened? Every time we go to work we’re gambling with our lives,’ he told us. ‘And every morning we say good-bye to our families as if it’s for the last time.’” Pelley: ”Holly Williams is joining us now. Holly, is there anything known about how the fire and explosion started to begin with?” Williams: ”Well, Scott, early reports said it was some kind of electrical fault. Now there is a mine operators say they don’t know what happened. But thousands of people who have been protesting in Istanbul tonight, that’s Turkey’s largest city, say the real problem is that the Turkish government is too close to the country’s mining companies and has allowed extremely lax safety standards.”

CBS: INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 4, 2:20, 5.08M) reported, “President Obama today challenged congress to rebuild America’s crumbling bridges and roadways. Standing in front of a 58-year-old span over the Hudson in New York, the President said more than 100,000 bridges are old enough to qualify for Medicare. Trouble is the funding to fix them is shrinking as our Transportation Correspondent Jeff Pegues found in Virginia.” Aubrey Lane, Virginia Transportation Secretary: ”This is just one of the bridges that we identified that we just had to deal with.” CBS (Pegues) added, ”Virginia’s Transportation Secretary Aubrey Lane says these battered railroad ties are all that’s left of this 80-year-old bridge near Charlottesville. It’s currently being replaced. And this – relics from the ‘30s.” Lane: ”Relics from the ‘30s. This bridge was first built in the ’30s. I guess it’s a testament of it lasted this long but it can’t last forever.” Pegues: ”The reconstruction of the bridge is expected it to cost $4 million. Virginia will pay half but the rest will come from the Federal highway trust fund. The fund is financed by revenue from the gas tax. But according to the Congressional Budget Office, spending from the fund has exceeded that revenue for more than a decade. Just last week the administration sent this letter to states warning that the Federal government will have to delay reimbursement beginning in late July. The fund could run out of money by the end of August. That couldn’t come at a worse time for the nation’s bridges and roads. Across the country more than one in nine bridges are rated as structurally deficient. And 32 percent of America’s major roads are in poor or mediocre condition. In Charlottesville construction on the new bridge began eight months ago. The biggest concern now is will they have the money to finish the job. If the checks start bouncing in August, is that a nightmare for the state?” Lane: ”Absolutely it’s a nightmare. The only thing we could take from that is if they’re not going to be there in the future.” Pegues: ”The Administration has proposed a $300 billion transportation bill and it includes revenue from business taxes and closing what the administration says are corporate tax loopholes. But Scott in an election year, a tax increase of any kind is tough to swallow for Republicans and Democrats.”

CBS: NIGERIA-KIDNAPPED GIRLS. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 5, 0:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, ”Today Nigeria’s president ruled out a swap of jailed Islamic terrorists for those kidnapped school girls. More than 200 girls were taken four weeks ago by the militant group Boko Haram. A video apparently showing some of them was released on Monday. US spy planes have joined the search.”

CBS: HEALTH-OBESITY. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, ”A new study just out today finds a strong link between obesity and breast cancer deaths. And with Americans growing heavier, researchers say obesity may soon replace tobacco as the number one risk factor for cancer. Here’s Vinita Nair.” CBS (Nair) added, ”Fifty-nine-year-old Karen Hackett was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2012.” Karen Hackett: ”So that first few months, you’re just in a daze. Then afterwards you get into like what do I want to do to be healthy for the rest of my life. So it was obvious that I should do something about my weight.” Nair: ”In
today’s study researchers fold 80,000 women like Hackett who’d been diagnosed with breast cancer. They found the risk of dying from the most common type increased by 34 percent for women who were obese before menopause. Dr. Clifford Hudis is president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. "That’s the novel finding here. We used to think that this association was really seen primarily in older women. Here it’s being seen in young women." Nair: “A new guide for cancer doctors and patients was released this week. It details the growing evidence obesity can drive tumor growth.” Hudis: “Being heavy may create a kind of rich environment for the promotion of growth of cancer.” Nair: “An obese person may have increased levels of insulin which can help certain cancer cells reproduce. Fat tissue can also produce excess estrogen which is a risk factor for both endometrial cancer and the most common type of breast cancer. Karen Hackett started eating better and exercising more. She lost 30 pounds.” Hackett: “The thing that you worry about the most is reoccurrence. And which isn’t that difficult to do.” Nair: “Cancer doctors have reason to be concerned about the growing problem of obesity. It’s estimated that by 2030 there will be half a million additional cancer cases linked to obesity.”

CBS: MERS VIRUS. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 7, 0:35, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “In Orlando, Florida, today, test results on two hospital employees came back negative for a rare virus known as MERS, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome. Results are pending for 18 other hospital workers. All had contact with a patient from Saudi Arabia who does have MERS. One of two confirmed cases so far in the United States. It’s turned up in 15 other countries as well. MERS is fatal in nearly a third of cases but doctors tell us it does not spread easily from person to person.”

CBS: VETERANS AFFAIRS-OVERMEDICATION SCANDAL. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 8, 2:50, 5.08M) reported, “Today a Federal investigation confirmed what we reported on this broadcast last year, that many veterans are being overmedicated in VA hospitals and some of the overdoses have been fatal. The Inspector General in the Department of Veterans Affairs discovered that the problem is wide spread and Jim Axelrod has our story.” CBS (Axelrod) added, “Lance Corporal Jeremy Brooking was just 19, a marine serving in Iraq, when this sniper’s bullet tore through his chest in 2007.” Jeremy Brooking: “I actually died twice. They brought me back to life.” Axelrod: “Doesn’t come any closer than that to us not sitting here talking right now.” Brooking: “No, sir.” Axelrod: “But Brooking says his real nightmare began when he got back home to Indiana. In your view, where did the most dangerous place on earth actually turn out to be?” Brooking: “The VA.” Axelrod: “The VA’s answer for his physical and mental trauma was drugs, lots of them.” Brooking: “Twenty-three different type of pills, easily over 100 different pills a day, most of those narcotics, anxiety meds and sleeping meds.” Axelrod: “How much were you sleeping?” Brooking: “Twenty-three out of 24 hours. I would wake up to eat, sleep and take more pills.” Axelrod: “He and his wife... begged the doctors to take him off the pills and try a different form of treatment. And what were they saying to you?” Brooking: “We don’t do that.” Axelrod: “What do you mean we don’t do that?” Brooking: “We don’t give people off narcotics. Our job is to write prescriptions.” Axelrod: “Today the VA’s Inspector General found 93 percent of long-term narcotics patients were also on a sedative called benzodiazepine. When mixed with narcotics the two drugs put patients at an increased risk of fatal overdose. Only nine percent of VA patients taking narcotics were seen by a pain clinic. And less than half of narcotics patients on multiple drugs had their medications reviewed by VA staff. A private doctor took Brooking off the VA’s two dozen medications and prescribed him just one, suboxone, which treats pain while fighting narcotic dependence.” Brooking: “I can’t count how many friends I’ve lost due to narcotics.” Axelrod: “You’ve lost more friends from the service here at home due to narcotics than you did in combat.” Brooking: “Yes, sir.” Axelrod: “Since we broke this story the VA says it has initiated some reforms and 40,000 fewer veterans are now being prescribed narcotics. The department also says more comprehensive pain management approaches are being implemented as VA hospitals around the country, Scott.”

CBS: CDC-TRUVADA. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 9, 0:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “The Centers for Disease Control made a recommendation today that could transform AIDS
evening prevention. The CDC said hundreds of thousands of Americans at risk of AIDS should take a
daily pill called Truvada. It has been shown to prevent HIV infections and many insurers already
cover it."

CBS: OSCAR PISTORIUS TRIAL. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M)
reported, “Today a South African judge ordered psychiatric tests for Oscar Pistorius which will
interrupt his murder trial maybe for months. A defense witness testified that the Pistorius has an
anxiety disorder that may have influenced his judgment when he shot his girlfriend to death.
Pistorius, a double amputee, ran in the Olympics wearing carbon fiber blades.”

CBS: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY-FUKUSHIMA TOUR. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 11,
0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “In Japan today US Ambassador Caroline Kennedy toured the
ruins of the Fukushima nuclear plant wearing a white protective suit. She was joined by her son,
Jack Schlossberg, who’s directly behind her. The plant was devastated by the earthquake and
tsunami three years ago. Cleanup could take decades. Ambassador Kennedy said that the US
will help anyway that it can.”

CBS: 9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM. The CBS Evening News (5/14, story 12, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M)
reported, “Finally tonight, in a new museum in Lower Manhattan a single day in the life of America
is frozen in time – September 11th, 2001. Tomorrow just across from where the twin towers once
stood President Obama will attend the ceremonial opening of the National September 11
Memorial Museum it Jeff Glor takes us in for an early look.” CBS (Glor) added, “From the moment
visitors first enter little is held back. Steel from the south tower that split open. A mangled fire
truck, a bloody shoe. And echoing in the halls of voices of those who died, left her husband a
message.” Lauryn Grandcolas: “I just love you. Please tell my family I love them too. Bye honey.”
Glor: “Alice Greenwald is the museum’s director.” Alice Greenwald: “We’re here to remind
ourselves that this could have been us. It could have been us that morning. And we have a moral
obligation to remember these people. Because all they did that day was get up and go to work in
a high-rise building in the New York. I do that every day.” Glor: “The museum dedicated to all
those who died in Washington, Pennsylvania and New York sits seven stories underground below
the tower footprints. Anthony Gardner lost his brother Harvey. Gardner worked hard to preserve
the box beam columns that mark exactly where the towers began.” Anthony Gardner: “We now
have a museum that tells our 9/11 story, our nation’s 9/11 story. It’s just going to have a
tremendous impact on people, I think, as they come through these spaces, these scared spaces.”
Glor: “There is the caverns on foundation hole sided by a concrete wall that held back the Hudson
River and never gave way and the last column – the final piece of wreckage removed from the
site. It’s now covered with tributes from first responders and families.” Greenwald: “This is
emotional stuff. If people aren’t sad here, we’ve done something wrong. But that isn’t the end of
the story. This is a museum about hope.” Glor: “Hope. Greenwald says, that only by bearing
witness can we imagine a way out of the unimaginable. Jeff Glor, CBS News, New York.”

NBC: CALIFORNIA-WILDFIRES. NBC Nightly News (5/14, lead story, 3:20, Williams, 7.86M)
reported, “Good evening and as we look to an emergency in the west tonight, consider these
numbers. 100-degree temperatures, three percent humidity, give or take, and 50-mile an hour
winds. As one fire commander in Carlsbad, California put it today, we’ve been dealt a bad hand.
As viewers watched today on live television, fires have exploded around them in Southern
California galloping across the land, jumping across canyons faster than firefighters can run and
fueled by some of the worst possible conditions. Tonight entire neighborhoods and lives have
been put on hold, traffic’s been diverted and the marines landed on the beach in hovercraft to
fight a fire on their base. We begin tonight in Southern California. NBC’s Joe Fryer is in Carlsbad.
Joe, good evening.” NBC (Fryer) added, “Good evening, Brian. A thick layer of smoke covers
Carlsbad and you can see they’re working to put out hot spots. A state fire official says about 30
homes may have burned, thousands of people have been evacuated and resources are stretched
thin because north of San Diego, there are at least five fires burning tonight. It didn’t take long for
the fast-moving flames to devour homes in Carlsbad, California. Efforts to protect this house
useless for one owner.” Unidentified Speaker: “I tried to make it as good as possible, but
naturally, who cares, right now. The house is gone.” Fryer: “The massive fire is forcing mandatory evacuations in houses, apartments and schools. It’s knocking out power and filling the air with smoke. Flames are popping up all across Carlsbad fueled by very dry brush and strong gusts of wind. At the high temps and low humidity, fire officials already knew a long day was on the horizon. Around the same time another fire, 25 miles away at Camp Pendleton where marines on a hovercraft joined the fight. All while crews continue battling a 1,600 acre fire that started yesterday in San Diego.” Ray Chaney, Cal Fire: “Weather conditions right now give us grave concern.” Fryer: “The San Diego fire wound through dry canyons, dancing dangerously close to homes, forcing thousands to evacuate.” Unidentified Speaker: “Our home is right where the fire started. We didn’t have a lot of time to prepare for anything, no warning.” Fryer: “With no buildings destroyed at this, evacuation orders were lifted but today many returned home to witness more close calls. San Diego’s fire chief says the wind-driven outbreaks are highly unusual for May. Are you getting nervous about what this fire season is going to be like?” Javier Mainar, San Diego Fire Dept.: “I think I’m perpetually nervous, as is every other fire service professional in Southern California.” Fryer: “The dry, hot, Santa Anna winds fueling this fires are not typical for this type of year.” Fritz Coleman, NBC4 Los Angeles Weathercaster: “These Santa Anna winds are way out of season. This is the second one we’ve had in two weeks. This is an October weather phenomenon. So I think we’re resetting the rules for this.” Fryer: “Instead of rain, there are only clouds of smoke with acres of fire and now homes lost. The Camp Pendleton fire is approaching a nuclear power plant, but that plant is not active at this time. Here in Carlsbad, firefighters say they are getting the upper hand. They’ve saved a number of homes. But they say there is still days of work ahead of them, Brian.”

NBC: TURKEY-COAL MINE DISASTER. NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 2, 2:30, 7.86M) reported, “News of a still developing story tonight overseas, a desperate effort to save hundreds of mine workers together trapped under ground after an explosion in Turkey. The death toll is close to 300. Some of the grief there turned to anger aimed at the government. Our Chief Foreign Correspondent Richard Engel is there tonight for us. Richard, good evening.” NBC (Engel) added, “Good evening, Brian. As you can see, there is not a lot of activity here and that is because the rescue effort is actually been suspended for the night. This mine is still on fire. The hope is by morning the flames will have died down enough to keep digging. But Brian, I must say, there is not a lot of hope here of finding any survivors. They emerged slowly, the dead carried out. The survivors, lucky to be alive. The explosion happened last night during a shift change, killing hundreds, cutting power down in the mine, the fire still burned. With toxic gas so thick, the security camera footage appears hazy. Rescuers pumped in fresh air and desperately tried to find anyone alive, but hope is fading, and relatives of the missing are demanding answers. ‘I don’t know what is happen,’ this miner’s wife says. ‘Is he wounded? Is he missing? I haven’t heard anything.’ The Prime Minister Erdogan rushed to the scene but seemed tone deaf to the tragedy. ‘Accidents happen,’ he said. He became the focus of relatives’ anger. ‘Murderer,’ they said. His car was surrounded by a kicking, rock throwing mob. After he was gone, protesters clashed with police. The anger quickly spread to other parts of Turkey. In Ankara, fires and tear gas. In Istanbul, riot police using water canyons and plastic bullets on crowds of protesters who demanded the prime minister step down. The mine disaster, perhaps the worst in this country’s history, is fueling a challenge to the government itself. Last night, Brian, people in this country were hopefully watching this mine. Now they’re watching the streets to see how violent the reaction will be to this horrible disaster.”

NBC: MERS VIRUS. NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 3, 2:15, Williams, 7.86M) reported, “The World Health Organization said today its concerns about this new MERS virus increased significantly and for a second day now, US air travelers are being alerted with signs posted at major airports. Tonight our team goes inside the emergency operation center at the Centers for Disease Control. We get our report tonight from our Chief Medical Editor Dr. Nancy Snyderman in Atlanta.” NBC (Snyderman) added, “The CDC is on a heightened state of alert after two confirmed cases of MERS, one in Indiana, one in Florida. The race is on to trace hundreds of people who may have been exposed.” Dr. Nicki Pesik, CDC Global Migration Task Force Lead: “This is detective work because we have to find information from a variety of sources, we have to
makes sure it’s accurate, and then we have to provide that information as rapidly as possible.”
Snyderman: “A package arrives, fluid samples from a patient and healthcare workers in Florida, a
special protocol sends this package right to the lab.” Nathan Fink, CDC Transshipping
Supervisor: “Basically a matter of ten minutes from it arriving at the campus to getting in the
hands of the laboratory.” Snyderman: “CDC teams are working around the clock, reaching out to
hospitals and state health departments on the alert for any potential hot spots. Is it fair to say
there is more still we don’t know than we do know?” Dr. Tom Frieden, CDC Director: “We’re
learning more every day. We’ve got a team in Saudi Arabia working with Saudis now to
understand better how it’s happening.” Snyderman: “The Netherlands today confirmed a case of
MERS, now in 18 countries around the world. With 571 confirmed cases, 171 people are dead,
most still in the Arabian Peninsula. For now, public health officials say the majority of cases are
from direct contact in hospitals. But still, there are concerns.” Frieden: “We’re not going to build a
moat around the US. We’re all connected by the air we breathe, water we drink, food we eat.”
Snyderman: “Middle East Respiratory Systems can mimic the symptoms of influenza, but flu
season is over. So anyone with a cough, fever, shortness of breath who has traveled outside of
the United States, particularly to the Middle East, should report to their physician and be
screened for the MERS virus. Brian?”

NBC: VETERANS AFFAIRS SCANDAL. NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 4, 2:00, 7.86M)
reported, “We are learning a lot more tonight about a growing scandal involving patient waiting
lists at this nation’s VA hospitals. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the retired four star army
general, Eric Shinseki is expected to testify about it tomorrow in Congress. We get our report
tonight from NBC’s Kelly O’Donnell in Phoenix.” NBC (O’Donnell) added, “A marathon four-hour
gathering of veterans….” Unidentified Speaker: “We don’t even trust the VA. We’re scared.”
O’Donnell: “…stretched late into Tuesday night.” Unidentified Speaker: “You can’t do veterans
like this. You can’t treat veterans like this.” O’Donnell: “Just the second day on the job, for new
boss at the Phoenix VA medical center, Steven Young, who faced deep anger over the patient
waiting list scandal. Is this fixable?” Steven Young: “I think everything is fixable. It’s just going to
take energy. It’s going to take focus and that’s exactly what we want to do.” O’Donnell: “In a new
development, NBC News reviewed a 2010 internal memo where VA officials ordered immediate
action to stop local VA hospital staffers from falsifying appointment dates to make patient wait
times seem shorter. The memo shows that senior officials knew of a number of schemes used by
local VAs to report dramatically shorter wait times to headquarters where appointments were
tracked. Retired marine Troy...scheduled patients at the Phoenix VA for about one year. He says
he was trained on the VA's electronic appointment system, but told by supervisors to only use
paper.” Unidentified Speaker: “That was how they taught us and I thought that was how it was
supposed to be done and that was it.” O’Donnell: “Procedure?” Unidentified Speaker: “Yeah.”
O’Donnell: “But [he] says he now believes that old-school paper pushing was meant to keep
Washington from knowing how long it really took for patients to see doctors.” Unidentified
Speaker: “If we don’t use the electronic wait list then it can’t be tracked.” O’Donnell: “Today the
Veterans Administration is not commenting, pending the outcome of an Inspector General’s

NBC: NATIONAL 9/11 MUSEUM. NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 5, 5:00, Williams, 7.86M)
reported, “Tomorrow here in New York, President Obama will dedicate the National 9/11
Museum. Visitors are in for what one writer called punch to the gut, and after getting a preview of
our own, we can confirm that. Unlike other museums, there are boxes of tissues located
throughout the exhibits and visitors will indeed need them. It’s almost overwhelming just like that
day way and museum visitors should be prepared for how powerful it all is all over again. It’s a
story, a remembrance that starts at 8:46 a.m., the first impact when the world ended for so many
people. It’s taken over a decade and while a tall new building now towers over this site, the
remembrance takes place below, the twin memorial pools at ground level and the new museum
underground, seven stories down. Alice Greenwald is the women charge of this gargantuan, yet
delicate project. Come in and we’re met with a powerful visual. Our guided-tour started with the
first thing you see, a battered and rusted remnant of the old structure, the parts of the exterior
spine of the World Trade Center shaped like tuning forks, known as tridents. It’s now a towering
and striking remembrance." Alice Greenwald: "We were able to put the piece back together based on the original construction stamps that were still on the steel." Williams: "Preparations for President Obama’s visit tomorrow are going on alongside what is perhaps the most striking feature at the museum. At the bottom, at bedrock, the wall build for the foundation of the World Trade Center designed to hold back the Hudson River back when this was a construction site in the 1960s. The wall suffered cracks and leaks after the impact of the attack, but it held. Had this wall not held, we would be talking about something different in lower Manhattan." Greenwald: "A much greater tragedy." Williams: "And this is about holding, the country held. And then there are the exhibits, all artifacts, big and small, the megaphone made famous by the President standing with a fireman on the pile of rubble." George W. Bush: "And the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon."

Williams: "The window from an airliner, the so-called survivor stairs where so many people ran to escape that day, the massive broadcast antenna from the roof. See ladder three. And a barely recognizable artifact from a fire department that lost 343 of its bravest in one day." Greenwald: "Every one of the firefighters who rode on this truck to the World Trade Center, who responded that day perished." Williams: "Some high teams are so personal – from the tactile mementos to the more hunting. The recorded voices of the victims mostly on voice mails, leaving behind their last words and donated by the families. Among them, Brian Sweeney on board Flight 175 out of Boston and fearing the worst calling home with an incredible, almost calm in his voice." Unidentified Speaker: "This is Brian – listen, I’m on an airplane that’s been hijacked. If things don’t go well, and it’s not looking good, I just want you to know I absolutely love you." Williams: "His widow Julie... is proud to have donated what is now her last memory of her husband." Unidentified Speaker: "This might sound odd to some people but I’m glad I didn’t answer the phone because I have his voice and his message and his calmness and his thoughts and his love for me and his love for his family forever." Williams: "How often do you cry?"

Greenwald: "Such a good question. You know, I think we do steel ourselves, those of us who work on this day in or day out and then every once in awhile you see something or you listen to some of the audio and you are back in that place." Williams: "It’s all here, they are all here, the nearly 3,000 people who died in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. A remembrance so bracing and powerful there are exit doors along the way for those who don’t wish to continue. This is a tough experience.” Greenwald: "It is a tough experience. It’s a museum about loss. It’s a museum about pain. It’s a museum about terror. It’s museum about history. But it’s also about the resilience that we have in ourselves as, not just as individual human beings, but as a society to rebuild, to recover, to renew, to go forward, and to always remember as we do so." Williams: "It is indeed a tough experience. The President will get a private tour tomorrow and, at first, only members of victims’ families and first responders will be allowed to tour the new museum before it opens to the general public starting next week.”

**NBC: KARL ROVE-HILLARY CLINTON’S HEALTH.** NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 6, 1:35, Williams, 7.86M) reported, "Shades of the old political warrior Bill Clinton were on display today, firing back at Karl Rove after comments Rove made about Hillary Clinton’s health using the phrase brain damage while questioning whether she suffers any lingering effects from the concussion she suffered after a fall back in 2012." Bill Clinton: "First they said she faked her concussion and now they say she’s auditioning for a part on the ‘Walking Dead.’ I mean, you know, whatever it takes. Look, she works out every week. She is strong. She’s doing great. As far as I can tell, she’s in better shape than I am. She certainly seems to have more stamina and there’s nothing to it. I didn’t even – I was sort of dumbfounded. They went to all this trouble to say that she had staged what was a terrible concussion that required six months of very serious work to get over. Something she never lowballed with the American people, never tried to pretend didn’t happen. Now they say she’s really got brain damage. If she does, I must be in really tough shape because she’s still quicker than I am.” Williams: "Former president predicted the attacks on his wife were just starting and he added you just can’t be too upset about it. Of course, following his own advice is something else entirely.”

**NBC: CHRIS CHRISTIE.** NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 7, 0:25, Williams, 7.86M) reported, "Chris Christie talked about his future today. The New Jersey governor confirmed he is thinking about running for president. As for the ongoing dual investigations over last year’s lane closures
at the GW Bridge in New York, Christie told a conference in Washington he predicts the controversy, quote, 'will be a footnote' by the time the 2016 presidential campaign arrives.”

**NBC: UK-ROYALS-HACKED VOICEMAILS.** NBC Nightly News (5/14, story 8, 0:30, Williams, 7.86M) reported, “In Great Britain, the phone hacking trial continues. Today a man named Clive Goodman testified. He's the former royal family editor for 'News of the World.' He said that before he was arrested, he hacked the cell phone of Kate Middleton 155 times, starting back in '05 when she was, quote, 'a figure of increasing importance.' He said he hacked into Prince William’s voicemails 35 times and Prince Harry's nine times. Rupert Murdoch has since shut down the ‘News of the World.'”

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Daily Close of Business Report

May 12, 2014

Compiled by:

- Notable:

ERO – National: Center for Immigration Studies’ (CIS) report on detainee releases, The Washington Times, Fox national, La Opinion and Breitbart news

PAO received multiple requests for comment on the CIS report issued today allegedly that ICE released thousands of criminals. Working with DIHS on statement. (B. Gonzalez)

- ERO – National: ICE removals, Bloomberg

Reporter contacted PAO that he is doing an editorial on what the United States and Central America can do to cope with the increase in criminal removals. The editorial will reflect the impact of criminal removals on already improvised countries. As part of the editorial the reporter would like to include a chart showing the increase. He has obtained the FY13 overall percentage of criminal removals and is requesting the criminal removals for Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.
Enforcement and Removal Operations

ERO – Baltimore: Illegal re-entry charged with rape, NBC DC affiliate

NBC DC is airing a story tonight on an illegal re-entry charged with rape of Hyattsville, Md., who is in state custody on rape charges. The State Attorney’s Office told reporter that the man fled the country at one point and was facing deportation prior to the rape charge. NBC wanted to verify if the rape suspect is an illegal re-entry, country of origin and when ICE learned he illegally re-entered. ERO officers were also denied access to interview the alien at police station last Friday due to Montgomery County prohibitions against immigration enforcement. PAO provided reporter ERO BAL FOO approved and privacy cleared statement.

ERO – Baltimore: Detainee interview request, Baltimore Sun

Reporter sent request to ERO Baltimore FOO to interview an El Salvadoran who now is in ICE custody at the Howard County Detention Center in Maryland. Reporter spoke to his attorney, who said his case is pending before the BIA based on his prior renunciation of the gang in El Salvador. Reporter asked if ICE takes a position on whether renunciation of gang membership should be a qualified reason for withholding/asylum. Based on reporters’ questions, PAO will be referring reporter to contact EOIR PAO. PAO is coordinating with ERO on response to detainee interview request.

ERO – Miami: Status of an Argentinian national held at Krome, Univision affiliate

Assignment editor called to get information regarding the case of an Argentinian national being held at Krome. PAO is working a response.

ERO – Atlanta: Detention center tour requests, CNN Spanish, Telemundo Atlanta

Reporters requested tours of the Stewart Detention Center: CNN Spanish in conjunction with an old ACLU report condemning the facility and Telemundo in reference to consular visits with detainees. PAO is coordinating the requests with ERO Atlanta.

ERO – San Francisco: Detainers, Santa Rosa Press Democrat; Santa Cruz Sentinel
Reporters are seeking response to local law enforcement decisions to stop honoring detainers, in light of the Oregon lawsuit. PAO is providing previously cleared response.

ERO – San Francisco: Detainee inquiry, *San Francisco Telemundo affiliate*

Reporter has inquired about Guatemalan national who is being held at IGSA Contra Costa County Jail in California. The reporter says the family and his lawyers have contacted her because he has been held for 14 months. They believe this is unfair and that he should be entitled to a bond hearing. PAO has drafted a statement for clearance saying he is a previous deportee and therefore not entitled to a bond hearing.

ERO – Los Angeles: Status inquiry, *OC Weekly*

Reporter contacted PAO seeking immigration status information on who is being held. PAO is coordinating with ERO for information.

ERO – Rio Grande Valley: Release of illegal immigrants, *ABC local*

Reporter filed a request asking ICE about the release of dozens of illegal immigrants due to overcrowding and if ICE is providing money to illegal immigrants upon their release. PAO is working with local SNA ERO regarding request. Item is pending.

ERO – Houston: Detainee interview, *Telemundo*

PAO received a request from Telemundo to interview who is in ICE custody at the Houston Contract Detention Facility. PAO is currently preparing documents for vetting through HQ.

General

General – Miami: Cuban migrants ashore, *NBC Affiliate*

Assignment editor called on Sunday regarding a group of Cuban migrants that came ashore in the Florida Keys. PAO referred the call to CBP.
General – Miami: Request to film at Miami International Airport, Al-Jazeera Network

Bureau manager called requested to film the quarantine room for any passenger suspected of being ill with any significant diseases. PAO referred the call to CBP.

Homeland Security Investigations

HSI – National: Driver’s license application process for international students, International Student Voice magazine

PAO repurposed a Study in the States website blog post about the application process for international students who want to obtain a driver’s license while studying in the United States and pitched it to publications geared to international students. International Student Voice magazine is posting a story on this topic on its website Monday afternoon.

HSI – National: TCO, Associated Press

AP requested seizure stats on money and assets related to TCO designation. Reporter also requested any enforcement taken (arrests, charges filed) on members since designation. PAO told reporter that HSI continues its efforts to work with financial institutions to identify and seize assets derived from the illicit activities of TCO. PAO is checking with HSI’s National Gang Unit if there are any stats to provide.

HSI – Miami: Child exploitation series, Univision affiliate

Members of DSAC and SA were interviewed by a reporter from the Univision affiliate for a special sweeps story regarding all facets of child exploitation case. We discussed latest trends what HSI is doing to combat the problem and how parents can protect their children. PAO staffed the interviews.

HSI – Seoul: Profile on Attaché, S. Korean press

The HSI Attaché Seoul was featured as the “person of the day” on Korea’s 2nd largest Internet portal Daum following an article that ran in Yonhap (Korean newswire) on HSI and the return of the royal seals. Attaché got ambushed by more than a dozen reporters after leaving partnering agency and responded to questions accordingly and focused on HSI’s role concerning repatriations, waived off questions concerning ongoing LA
investigation into cultural property and how the seals left Korea. Reporters also asked why they never hear about the FBI doing anything in Korea.

HSI – London/San Jose: Chat logs between UC agent and child predator, BBC

Last January, BBC reporter interviewed HSI Attaché London on the case of [redacted] who was sentenced to five years in prison in the UK for child exploitation related charges. Reporter is focusing story on how HSI worked closely with CEOP and Dorset Police to bring [redacted] to justice. Reporter interviewed last week the Dorset Police commanding officer that made the arrest and prepared prosecution. Reporter requested the chat logs between HSI San Jose UC and the defendant. PAO advised reporter that after a further review, it was determined for operational investigative concerns, we will not be releasing the chat log.

HSI – Harrisburg: Arrest of child predator, news release

USAO EDPA issued a news release announcing HSI Harrisburg’s arrest of [redacted] on charges of child pornography possession and abusive sexual contact with a child under the age of 12. PAO is flipping press release for website.

HSI – Baltimore: Meth dealer sentenced, News release

PAO flipped for web USAO Md. joint HSI news release announcing today’s sentencing of [redacted] to 10 years in prison, followed by five years of supervised release, for conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

HSI – NY: Painting returned to government of Brazil, Globo TV

Brazilian reporter requested video images from last Friday’s presser. PAO referred reporter to Manhattan US Attorney’s office if any video was taken of speakers’ remarks.

HSI – Little Rock, Ark.: Air Force pilot child pornography arrest, news release

PAO flipped a USAO release following the indictment of an Arkansas-based U.S. Air Force captain on child pornography distribution charges following an HSI investigation.
HSI – Miami: Drug trafficker extradited, news release

PAO flipped a news release from the USAO regarding the extradition of the notorious drug kingpin who is responsible for smuggling upwards of 27,000 kilos of cocaine into the country.

HSI – Orlando: Heroin seizures at Orlando International Airport, ABC affiliate

Reporter called and asked for statistics for the amount of heroin seized at Orlando International Airport over the last few years. PAO is working with ASAC Orlando office to see what we can provide.


Reporter called to request an interview with HSI San Juan SAC Melendez to discuss the latest trends in drug trafficking in the Caribbean, mainly Puerto Rico. Reporter has reached out to CBP, DEA, FBI and Puerto Rico Police Department. PAO is coordinating with local HSI and other partners and will contact the reporter once the interview is approved by HQ.


Reporters seeking information on an abandoned panga discovered this morning at Pescadero State Beach, north of Santa Cruz, Calif. PAO is providing preliminary information to reporters.

HSI – Sacramento: Predator, news release

PAO is coordinating with USA on news release announcing the sentencing of a California State University professor. Release will include quote from HSI.

HSI – Seattle: I-9 audit inquiry, Associated Press

AP reporter requested comment Saturday on a report that unauthorized workers have been recently fired from Crunch Pak, an eastern Washington sliced fruit packing
company. HSI is currently conducting an audit at the facility however no enforcement action has occurred. PAO advised the reporter HSI is not able to confirm an audit until and unless there is an enforcement action.


PAO coordinated news release between CBP and HSI regarding a 2,107-lb. marijuana seizure at the Ysleta Port of Entry cargo facility this weekend. Drugs were concealed in farm equipment.

- **Strategic Communications**

**Internet:** *New!* ICE's top 5 news stories for the week ending May 9, 2014

- SEVP report provides snapshot of international students studying in US *(Read more)*
- ICE San Antonio deports Salvadoran woman suspected of extortion *(Read more)*
- Mass shooting in 2013 averted by Houston HSI special agent *(Read more)*
- Owner of English language school sentenced for immigration fraud *(Read more)*
- Minnesota man charged with immigration fraud for failing to disclose his crimes and military service in Bosnia during the Bosnian conflict *(Read more)*

**Social Media:** Read new stories on ICE’s Facebook page and Twitter feed.

**Intranet:** *New!* HSI special agents honored for contributions to child safety at National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Congressional Breakfast *(Read more)*.

*New!* Inside ICE: ICE employees participating in John Hopkins University program present findings to senior leadership *(Read more)*.

*New!* Inside ICE: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the first federal law enforcement agency to be awarded accreditation for a leadership training program by the FLETA Board *(Read more)*.

*New!* View today’s Employee Spotlight, which highlights the updates to Inside ICE, an employee centric feature section on inSight.
View today’s Did You Know, which informs ICE employees about the Basic ICE PowerPoint Presentation, and includes facts and information about the agency.

**Operations Anticipated/Scheduled Interviews and Events**

**Tuesday, May 13** – An official signing-in ceremony will be held in Brussels to welcome Switzerland as the newest member of the Virtual Global Taskforce. The event will be open to press.

**Tuesday, May 13** – Seattle PAO plans on issuing a news release on the removal of [REDACTED] to South Korea. He is being removed following his federal prosecution for running a Washington state human smuggling operation busted by HSI.

**Tuesday, May 13** – HSI San Juan anticipates the arrest of a former priest on child exploitation charges. The event will attract media attention as it will be linked to the ongoing sex scandal in the local Catholic Church.

**Tuesday, May 13** – CBP anticipates issuing a news release which will contain a quote from **CBP Commissioner Kerlikowske and ICE Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas S. Winkowski** announcing a Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA) signing with Uruguay. Uruguay Customs agreed to the text of the CMAA Friday and plans to sign the agreement tomorrow in Washington, D.C. as a deliverable of the President of Uruguay’s visit with President Obama today. CBP Commissioner Kerlikowske will sign the CMAA on behalf of the United States (for ICE and CBP) and the Uruguay Minister of Foreign Affairs Luis Almagro will sign on behalf of Uruguay and Uruguay Customs.

**Tuesday, May 13** – HSI Houston DSAC will provide a human smuggling overview to the San Antonio Express. The paper is interested in the transportation infrastructure, atrocities and the prevalence of Houston in this illicit activity.

**Wednesday, May 14** – **Buffalo DSAC** will record the Project iGuardian PSA at the Clear Channel Studios in Schenectady. The media company operates four-area stations across multiple formats and will add the PSA to their programing.
Wednesday, May 14 – PAO anticipates issuing a news release which will contain a quote by **ICE Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas S. Winkowski** announcing the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the Civilian National Police (PNC) of El Salvador. The purpose of this MOC is sharing immigration and/or criminal history record information concerning Salvadoran nationals who are found to be subject to removal utilizing the Criminal History Information Sharing (CHIS) initiative. CHIS is a DHS-led information sharing initiative between the U.S. government and its international partners.

Thursday, May 15 – OPA anticipates issuing a news release announcing the High Profile Removal, to India, of a former Catholic priest convicted of sexually assaulting a child under the age of 13. The news release contains a quote from **St. Paul FOD Scott Baniecke**.

###ICE###
Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Newark, NJ

O: 973-776
C: 973-445

Sent Date: 2014/05/12 17:51:38
Delivered Date: 2014/05/12 17:51:41
Generator: Microsoft Word 14 (filtered medium)
The following is more accurate.

Quick turnaround: please advise on accuracy. If not, please amend as appropriate.
Also, is doing a package on this as well.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 04:49 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media Inquiry 36,007 criminal aliens released

All- Alan Gomez, with USA Today and also The Hill are now asking about this.

We added one more line to below. If no concerns, will send in 20.

STAFFOMNT
New changes below in red.
Ok - recommend below change (highlighted) so we can get back to reporters on this. Ok?

I defer to others more knowledgeable than I, but the court decisions I had in mind were

...
From: [b](b)[(6)(c)
To: [b](b)[(6)(c)
Cc: [b](b)[(6)(b)(7)(c)

Subject: RE: Media Inquiry 36,007 criminal aliens released

Edits below. [b](b)[(6)(7) do you know answer to question in red? Thank you.

(b)(5)

BACKGROUND

(b)(5)
Yes, looks good.

Better?
BACKGROUND

From: [b](6),(b)(7)(C)
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 1:27 PM
To: [b](6),(b)(7)(C)
Cc: [b](6),(b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry 36,007 criminal aliens released

2014-ICLI-00005.000070
Few edits below. Any other thoughts? Thank you.

From: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 12:48 PM
To: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry 36,007 criminal aliens released

Adding 100.

From: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 12:47 PM
To: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry 36,007 criminal aliens released

Got it. See draft response below. *Any comments or concerns?*
So I sort of misremembered. There is a Goodlatte response letter that does break down these crimes by number but that’s still in review. There is also the attached Smith letter that has the crimes but not by number. I defer to [redacted] on any further questions about what has and hasn’t gone out but it looks to me like what I’ve attached is the latest correspondence on the subject.
Thank you. Wash Times has already posted.

I'm pulling the response now. It was a Goodlatte/Smith letter. I'm sure they passed the response outside of Congress. Based on what I remember of the response, the below looks correct.

Can you let us know if there is a DHS response to Congress? That will help us as we draft response to media inquiries.

See CIS release below:
Aliens with Serious Criminal Convictions Freed from Detention

36,007 convicted criminal aliens return to American neighborhoods

WASHINGTON, DC (May 12, 2014) — A new report from the Center for Immigration Studies reports a threat to public safety by the release of 36,007 criminal illegal aliens in 2013 who were being processed for deportation, but were not detained while awaiting the final disposition of their cases, or afterwards.

Based on data from statistics compiled by ICE in response to congressional inquiries, the report reveals that thousands of these convictions were for violent or serious crime, including 193 homicide convictions, 426 sexual assault convictions, 303 kidnapping convictions, and 1,075 aggravated assault convictions as well as more than 16,000 drunk or drugged driving convictions. The 36,007 criminal aliens were released on bond, order of recognizance (unsupervised), order of supervision, alternatives to detention, and parole (a form of legal status).


These releases are in addition to the 68,000 cases of criminal aliens that ICE officers declined to bring immigration charges against in 2013. The trend of releasing those who are a danger to our communities calls into question the administration’s seriousness in setting priorities and enforcing the nation’s immigration laws.

“I was astonished at not only the huge number of convicted criminals who were freed from ICE custody last year – an average of almost 100 a day -- but also at the large number of very serious crimes they had committed. In light of these numbers, it will be hard to justify further relaxation of enforcement or reductions in detention capacity, as the administration has sought,” said Jessica Vaughan, the Center’s Director of Policy Studies. “Congress should resist further action on immigration reform until the public can be assured that enforcement is more robust and that ICE can better deal with its criminal alien caseload without setting them free in our communities.”
We are starting to get requests (Washington Times, Breitbart, Fox) on an "internal document" that ICE released 36,007 criminal aliens last year convicted of such things as homicide, sexual assault and kidnapping.

Reporters say that this document was prepared in response to a Congressional inquiry. Has ICE and/or DHS responded the House Judiciary's April 11 letter requesting more information about the criminal aliens released into back into the United States?


Do we have copy of response?

Reporters have said that they cannot share said internal document, nor tell us the source.

Here is a break down of the crimes from the document:

Traffic Offense-Traffic Offense 17,228

Traffic Offense-Driving Under Influence Liquor 15,635 Dangerous Drugs 9,187 Larceny 5,055 Immigration 3,958 Obstructing Judiciary, Congress, Legislature, etc.3,245 General Crimes (including "crimes against person," "property crimes," "morals-decency crimes," and "public order crimes.") 2,867 Assault 2,691 Public Peace 2,608 Burglary 2,510 Fraudulent Activities 2,394 Obstructing the Police 2,104 Weapon Offenses 1,724 Domestic Violence 1,317 Battery 1,267 Invasion of Privacy 1,249 Forgery 1,216 Stolen Vehicle 1,160 Stolen Property 1,131 Family Offenses 1,099 Assault – Aggravated