
From: Weinstein, Jason
To: Spencer, Lashawna
Sent: 5/5/2011 9:54:12 PM
Subject: RE: AG News Brief Summary Thursday May 5, 2011

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Breuer's Office Linked To Gunwalking Probe. [CBS News](#) (5/5) reports on its website, "Congressional investigators have just released documents in the so-called gunwalking scandal at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). This in advance of a Senate hearing in which Attorney General Eric Holder will testify." CBS continues, "One document indicates a Holder Asst. Attorney General, Lanny Breuer, authorized a wiretap in the controversial gun trafficking case headquartered in Phoenix." At a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) "asked Holder who authorized Fast and Furious. 'What about the Asst. Attorney General of the Criminal Division, Lanny Breuer? Did he authorize it?' Issa asked Holder. 'I'm not sure,' answered Holder."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Perez, 2.02M) reports that the wiretap approval was signed by Kenneth Blanco, one of Breuer's deputies.

[Main Justice](#) (5/5, Ramonas) reports that the Justice Department "is disputing claims that a DOJ document" shows Breuer "knew about and played a role in a controversial Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives gun smuggling program." DOJ officials said the Criminal Division of Enforcement Operations "receives thousands of applications each year related to law enforcement investigations," and the applications "are typically approved by Deputy Assistant Attorneys General except for roving wiretaps, which require the approval of the Assistant Attorney General. DOJ spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer said wiretap application reviews are 'a narrow assessment of whether a legal basis exists to support a surveillance request that ultimately goes before a judge for decision.'"

Memo Says Probe Supplied Suspect Buyers With 1,300 Guns. [Fox News](#) (5/5, La Jeunesse) reports, "An internal memo from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives shows that US officials allowed criminals to buy 1,318 guns worth nearly \$1 million, even after they suspected the buyers were working for Mexican drug cartels, and that the agency's effort to stop the guns had 'yielded little or no results.' That memo came to light Wednesday at a Senate Judiciary Hearing and provided by Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa. The ATF memo shows a list of 15 suspects, all later indicted, who bought guns on behalf of Mexican cartels."

Sony Claims PSN Breach Occurred During "Anonymous" DDoS Attack. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/5, Li, 657K) reports, "The Justice Department has opened an investigation into the security breach at Sony Corp., in which two separate attacks over the last month shut down Sony's PlayStation network and an online-gaming unit. The federal probe comes as Sony said Wednesday that its network might have been breached while it was defending itself from denial-of-service attacks by Anonymous, a loosely connected group of Internet activists who have successfully brought down the websites of other big corporations and was retaliating against Sony for bringing a civil suit against a hacker in federal court in San Francisco. ... Federal prosecutors in San Diego are working with FBI agents to look into the alleged hacking crimes."

On its "Technology" blog, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/5, Li, 657K) also reports that "in a letter to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's panel on commerce, manufacturing and trade, Sony said that it discovered a file planted on one of its servers named 'Anonymous' with the words 'We are Legion,' the tagline for the group that has brought down the websites of big corporations such as Visa, the letter said. Sony's network may have been breached while it was defending itself against a denial-of-service attack from Anonymous, Sony said." [BBC News](#) (5/5) reports that "Anonymous" denies "being involved in the data theft."

The AP (5/5), Wall Street Journal (5/5, Sherr, Schatz, Subscription Publication, 2.02M) and Reuters (5/5) also reports on the Sony's allegations.

Bloomberg News (5/5, Engleman, Riddell) reports that Sony "defended its decision to wait six days to warn customers about an attack on its online entertainment networks last month that exposed their personal information. The company, which has been criticized by US lawmakers for not informing users more quickly, said today it waited because it did not want to 'cause confusion' by 'announcing partial or tentative information,' according to a letter sent to US lawmakers. ... Sony declined to appear today at a US House subcommittee hearing on data theft and sent the letter in response to questions from committee Chairwoman Mary Bono Mack, a California Republican, and G.K. Butterfield, a North Carolina Democrat who is the panel's ranking minority member. Lawmakers have been frustrated at the time it took Sony to warn its customers."

NBC News (5/5) also reports on the Sony's response to claims of undue delay.

Holder Confirms DOJ Probe Into PSN Breach. Bloomberg News (5/5, Freifeld, Riley) reports that Sony "was subpoenaed by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman over data breaches of its PlayStation Network and Sony Online unit, and representations made to customers, a person familiar with the probe said." According to FBI San Diego Special Agent Darrell Foxworth, the FBI "is investigating the matter."

Reuters (5/5, Vicini, Pelofsky) also reports on Holder's testimony regarding the PSN breach.

The AP (5/5), Financial Times (5/5, Menn, Subscription Publication, 448K), and Washington Post (5/5, Tsukayama, 572K) report generally on the hearing.

Federal Prosecutors Defend Case Against Suspected Russian Weapons Smuggler. The AP (5/5, Neumeister) reports, "The US government has defended the prosecution of a former Soviet military officer, revealing evidence it says shows he knew plenty about the world's largest cocaine supplier when he agreed to supply it with weapons to fight Americans." Federal prosecutors in Manhattan "described the evidence in papers filed late Monday in the case against Viktor Bout, who was extradited last year from Thailand to face charges he agreed to supply weapons to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, also known as FARC. Bout's lawyers asked a judge last month to toss out charges against him, saying he was threatened by US agents in Thailand after he was arrested there in March 2008 and was brought to the United States for trial even though he had never been to the country before."

US Break Up Four-State Prostitution Ring Using Women Smuggled From Latin America. The AP (5/5) reports from Indianapolis, "Nineteen people have been arrested in connection with a violent Latin American prostitution ring that smuggled women into the US to work in brothels across the Midwest and as far away as Florida and New York, federal prosecutors said Wednesday." The AP continues, "Federal, state and local authorities arrested the 19 people in Indiana, Michigan and Illinois on Tuesday on federal racketeering and conspiracy charges, Deputy US Attorney Brad Shepard said during a news conference. Investigators have found no evidence that any of the 19 were in the US legally, he said."

WXIN-TV Indianapolis, IN (5/5) reports on its website, "FBI agents and Metro Police spent the better part of Wednesday evening at the Stratford Apartments on the city's west side. ... Federal prosecutors said the ring catered to the Hispanic community, charging \$40-50 dollars for 10-20 minutes. The women forced into service were moved from brothel to brothel; state to state on a weekly basis."

WISH-TV Indianapolis, IN (5/5) reports that "the group apparently operated by distributing business cards with advertisements and phone numbers for auto repair or western wear stores. The cards were known within the Hispanic community as containing contact numbers for arranging appointments with prostitutes."

KRCR-TV Redding, CA (5/5) notes on its website that "three SWAT teams from the Chico Police Department, Butte County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) were involved in the operation."

Also reporting on the bush are the Indianapolis Star (5/5, Ritchie, 180K), WRTV-TV Indianapolis, IN (5/5), Grand Rapids (MI) Press (5/5, Tunison, 109K), and WWMT-TV Grand Rapids, MI (5/5).

ATF Anti-Gang Sting Nets 19 Arrests. The San Francisco (CA) Examiner (5/5, 140K) reports, "Federal authorities say 19 people have been arrested for alleged firearms and drug crimes in an anti-gang sting that involved a Venice tattoo parlor run by undercover agents." The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives "said Wednesday that 'Operation Villainz Ink' targeted alleged members of the Venice 13 gang, which operates in Venice and the Culver City area. ATF spokesman Chris Hoffman says the tattoo parlor attracted a number of suspected gang members who allegedly sold illegal narcotics and committed firearms violations."

Wisconsin Lawmakers Take Up Concealed Carry Bills. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (5/5, Marley, 202K) reports GOP lawmakers in Wisconsin "are moving quickly on bills to allow people to carry concealed weapons without any training and, in one bill, without obtaining a state permit." Wisconsin and Illinois "are the only states that do not allow people to carry concealed weapons," and with Republicans "now controlling the Legislature and governor's office, a concealed weapons bill is expected to easily pass this session."

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