Dear Todd,

Today, extremist violence erupted at the U.S. Capitol Building.

As ADL has said again and again, extremists must be taken at their word. First there was volatile rhetoric online, then explicit calls to violence and now people are acting on those calls in the nation’s capital and flagrantly breaking the law. It must end now.

The President has promoted sedition and incited violence. People assaulting law enforcement officers or breaching government buildings must be arrested and held accountable.
More than anything, what is happening right now at the Capitol is a direct result of the fear and disinformation that has been spewed consistently from the Oval Office. President Trump failed to meaningfully call for an end to this violence and unrest that he has sowed. His campaign of disinformation is a clear and present danger to our democracy.

Social media companies should suspend his accounts ASAP as they would do for anyone else advocating disinformation and promoting violence. It's time.

The extremist violence at the Capitol is undemocratic and a direct result of leaders, including President Trump enabling dangerous conspiracy theories at the highest levels. Those behind this attack on our democracy need to be held accountable.

This collection of dangerous protests is the latest major pro-Trump event in D.C. since the election on November 3. Some of the previous protests, including at the November 14 “Million MAGA March” in DC and at rallies on December 12, featured extremists in attendance and violence. Those included incidents in which black churches were vandalized, individuals were assaulted and a degree of chaos ensued. A range of extremist individuals and groups have promoted the events, and some have announced that they will attend, including white supremacist and antisemitic agitators.

Please check in for our latest updates via ADL on Twitter here.

We call on our political leaders, and all Americans, to condemn this criminal and undemocratic attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Thank you for standing with us.

Jonathan Greenblatt
CEO and National Director
ADL
From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Subject: SITREP WASHINGTON DC
To: Cooper, Laura
Sent: January 6, 2021 4:56 PM (UTC-05:00)

OPE reports to our partners the following:

On January 6, 2021 Washington DC became the scene of a number of individual protest gatherings. United States Park Police reported a total of four permitted First Amendment events attracting an unknown number of participants.

At approximately 11:30 AM a large number of persons gathered in the Ellipse area and listened to a speech by POTUS.

At the conclusion of the speech a huge number of persons moved on foot down Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues to the area of the United States Capitol.

At approximately 2:30 PM a large group of protestors moved onto the grounds of the Capitol, some of whom eventually breached several doors and windows and gained entry to, and throughout, the building.

At the present time several hundred protestors remain in the Capitol.

Members of Congress and Staff were removed to positions of safety.

At the present time a coordinated police response consisting of members of the United States Capitol Police, United States Park Police, Metropolitan DC Police, Metro North Police, HSI, Federal Protective Service, US Marshals Service, FBI and Virginia State Troopers are beginning to clear the Capitol.

Although the District of Columbia National Guard was earlier deployed in a limited capacity to assist with traffic control, the request made by the city to deploy National Guard Members to the United States Capitol is still under consideration by DOD.

Open source reporting indicates a woman was shot and seriously injured in the downtown area prior to the action at the Capitol but no details are known with regard to that incident.

We have received reports that the State Capitols of Kansas and Georgia have been breached. We have been able to verify that the report from Kansas is false and that remains the site of otherwise peaceful protests.

Details on the potential breach in Georgia are being determined.

Details are still coming in but we anticipate communicating to our partners a SITREP with better detail within the next 90 minutes.
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Although no crowd estimate has been made by the USPP it is evident that a huge number of people remain in the Federal mall area, Penn Quarter neighborhood and downtown District of Columbia.
From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Subject: FW: SITREP WASHINGTON DC
To: Terrence M. Cunningham; Vince Talucci; Jonathan F. Thompson; Grever, Louis (ASCIA); Wagner, Kimberly
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:05 PM (UTC-05:00)

From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 4:56 PM
To: Cooper, Laura
Subject: SITREP WASHINGTON DC

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From: Laura Cooper
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - RE: SITREP WASHINGTON DC
To: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:07 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thank you!

From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Laura Cooper
Subject: SITREP WASHINGTON DC

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From: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FBI Unlawful Protest Activity in Washington, DC
To: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FBI Unlawful Protest Activity in Washington, DC
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:15 PM (UTC-05:00)

A new file has been posted by J in the

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FBI Unlawful Protest Activity in Washington, DC

Summary

Federal Bureau of Investigation

06 January 2020

The FBI continues to monitor the unlawful protests currently occurring in Washington, DC

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PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.
To view this community, visit
To stop these alerts, visit:
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Although no crowd estimate has been made by the USPP it is evident that a huge number of people remain in the Federal mall area, Penn Quarter neighborhood and downtown District of Columbia.
Good afternoon,

The following information is sent on behalf of FBI Assistant Director George P. Beach in advance of a SITREP expected later this evening:

On January 6, 2021 Washington, DC became the scene of a number of individual protest gatherings. United States Park Police reported a total of four permitted First Amendment events attracting an unknown number of participants.

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We received reports that the State Capitols of Kansas and Georgia were breached, and verified that the report from Kansas is false and remains the site of otherwise peaceful protests. Details on the potential breach in Georgia are being determined.

The DC Mayor has enacted a citywide curfew beginning at 6:00 PM and ending at 6:00 AM tomorrow, January 7, 2021.

We anticipate communicating to our partners a SITREP later this evening.

Thank you.
From: Jonathan F. Thompson
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Re: SITREP WASHINGTON DC
To: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI); Cunningham, Terry (IACP); Talucci, Vince; Grever, Louis (ASCIA); Wagner, Kimberly
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:52 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thank you, have sent broadly to members.

J

Please forgive any typos, errors or tonal shortcomings as this message is being sent from my phone.

Jonathan Thompson

From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 5:05:14 PM
To: Cunningham, Terry (IACP); Talucci, Vince; Grever, Louis (ASCIA); Wagner, Kimberly <KWagner@mcsheriffs.com>
Subject: FW: SITREP WASHINGTON DC

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NATIONAL ISSUES

Air Threat: OPA — A local TV station asked about a possible aviation threat against the U.S. Capitol. The inquiry was prompted by a CBS News report about a possible threat in retaliation for last year’s death of Iranian Gen. Soleimani. OPA provided the following: “The FBI has no comment. However, the FBI takes all threats of violence to public safety seriously.”

Tindall: OPA/AT — Vice News sought FBI comment about an FBI Atlanta subject indicted in September for lying about discussing potential attacks on both U.S. citizens and water and electrical infrastructure. Nicholas Tindall is awaiting trial, so OPA declined comment.

PPE Disruption Sentencing, fbi.gov: OPA — A disgruntled former employee of a medical equipment packaging company was sentenced for hacking into the company’s computer systems and disrupting the shipment of personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The case is out of FBI Atlanta. Link to fbi.gov story: https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/hacker-who-disrupted-ppe-shipments-sentenced-010621

U.S. CAPITOL VIOLENCE

Several field offices received inquiries related to the civil unrest and violence at the U.S. Capitol today.

Baltimore — Received inquiries from local press asking if Baltimore deployed personnel to help U.S. Capitol Police with the unrest. PAS provided the approved holding statement: “The FBI has been deployed to assist our U.S. Capitol Police partners as requested in protection of federal property and public safety.”

Boston — Several reporters asked what FBI Boston is doing in light of today’s events in Washington and if there are any related threats to our area. PAO advised that FBI Boston is monitoring the situation and at this point in time we don’t have any intelligence about related threats to our area of responsibility, but we urge the public to remain vigilant and report to law enforcement if they see or hear anything suspicious.

El Paso — Media asked if FB El Paso is assisting the El Paso Police Department with local security during today’s pro-Trump rallies. PAO provided the following NPO statement about civil unrest: “The FBI respects those who are exercising their First Amendment rights, including the right to peacefully protest. The FBI does not conduct surveillance based solely on First Amendment protected activity. The FBI continues to remain steadfast in our mission to protect the American people and uphold the U.S. Constitution. The FBI is supporting our state, local, and federal law enforcement partners with maintaining public safety by focusing our efforts on identifying, investigating, and disrupting individuals that are inciting violence and engaging in criminal activity.”

Indianapolis — Received several media inquiries after reports the Indiana Statehouse was being evacuated due to the protests in D.C. at the Capitol. PAO declined to comment.
Los Angeles — In response to inquiries from local media about whether there are local threats based on the event at the Capitol, FBI Los Angeles issued the following statement, which is subject to change depending on any developments in the region: “While the FBI continually works with our partners to monitor potential threats, there is no known credible threat to the Los Angeles region at this time. As always, the FBI relies on the public to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the FBI or their local law enforcement agency.”

Philadelphia — The CBS affiliate asked whether, in light of today’s events in Washington, any additional security measures were implemented to protect the federal building and courthouse here. PAO advised that the Federal Protective Service is responsible for securing federal facilities and provided contact information for FPS public affairs.

Seattle — In consultation with OPA, responded to an inquiry from the ABC affiliate asking if the FBI is preparing for any response in the Seattle region to the electoral vote count and reports of rallies in the state capital. “The FBI remains steadfast in our mission to protect the American people and uphold the U.S. Constitution. We routinely work with our state, local, and federal partners to maintain public safety in the communities we serve, while respecting citizens’ constitutional rights and civil liberties. As always, individuals are encouraged to peacefully exercise their First Amendment rights, but when those activities cross over into violence, the FBI is prepared to respond swiftly. For any inquiries related to events in Washington, D.C., or at the Capitol, please contact npo@fbi.gov.”

Washington Field — In response to activity at the U.S. Capitol and reports of suspicious devices, Washington Field released the following two statements. Suspicious Devices: “Along with our law enforcement partners, FBI Washington Field Office responded to reports of suspicious devices. Two suspected explosive devices were rendered safe by the FBI and our law enforcement partners. The investigation is ongoing.” FBI Response to U.S. Capitol: “The FBI has been deployed to assist our U.S. Capitol Police partners as requested in protection of federal property and public safety.”

OTHER LOCAL STORIES

Anchorage — SAC Britt provided a quote for a press release from the USAO—District of Alaska announcing that the U.S. government collected $7 million in Iranian assets for the victims of terrorism fund. Britt: “The FBI will aggressively pursue those who aid terrorist financiers and those who abuse the U.S. financial system in the process. Due to the collaborative effort put forth by the FBI and our partners, it is with great satisfaction that a portion of these successfully forfeited funds will go to American victims of international state-sponsored terrorism.”

Anchorage — A local newspaper asked if FBI Anchorage received a letter from a state senator requesting an investigation into election-related crimes in Alaska. PAS responded: “The FBI acknowledges receipt of a letter from state Sen. Mike Shower concerning allegations of election crimes in Alaska. As a general matter, allegations of criminal conduct are reviewed by the FBI for their merit, with consideration of any applicable federal laws. Such a review does not necessarily result in the opening of an investigation but, when warranted, we take any actions appropriate to the matter, such as seeking further information or referring the matter to a partner agency.”

Boston — SAC Bonavolonta provided a quote for a press release from the USAO—District of New Hampshire announcing today’s guilty plea by Troy Cote to fentanyl trafficking. Bonavolonta: “This group’s constant churn of drug transactions kept their customers in Manchester awash in deadly fentanyl and cocaine. Shutting them down makes the community safer, and with today’s guilty plea—Troy Cote is out of business. Investigations like this illustrate the continuing impact our Safe Streets Gang Task Force has on illegal drug trafficking organizations that prey on our communities amid the opioid epidemic.”
Cleveland — SAC Smith participated in a joint ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the new Strike Force facility that will house over 207 law enforcement from several local, state and federal agencies. Smith spoke at the opening ceremony press conference and summarized the Strike Force’s combined 20-month effort. Smith also provided a quote for the joint press release: “Cleveland is one of the largest Strike Forces in the nation. The need for such a capability comes as a response to a persistent and growing crime rate, but it also serves as a bulwark and a predictive unit to address the new threats we see ahead. This Strike Force represents the best of our combined efforts—law enforcement resources working violence, drugs, gangs, car jackings, and armed robberies—TOGETHER—under one roof. We know this unanimity of purpose and unity of effort, will only enhance our efforts to combat, disrupt and dismantle criminal activity.”

Houston — PAO Garza did an on-camera interview in Spanish with Univision’s nationally syndicated show Politica Ya about money mules.

Los Angeles — The San Gabriel Valley Tribune asked if the remains of a missing Los Angeles County man were found in Arizona. Los Angeles confirmed that agents are assisting police in California and Arizona in connection with the missing man, Shane Rollman, but referred inquiries about the recovered remains to authorities in Arizona.

New Haven — Received multiple local media inquiries about an FBI agent-involved shooting in Hartford earlier this morning. The subject was approached by members of the Safe Streets Task Force when the gunfire began. An agent on the Task Force and TFOs returned fire, striking and killing the subject at the scene. The investigation is ongoing and an initial brief statement was delivered by Connecticut State Police with no specific mention of FBI. SAC Sundberg will participate in presser at a later date.

Philadelphia — SAC Driscall provided a quote for a press release from the USAO-Eastern District of Pennsylvania announcing that two North Carolina men have been charged in connection with the armed robbery of a Lancaster County dog breeder. Five French bulldog puppies valued at approximately $24,000 were taken by force. Driscoll: “This wasn’t just some dognapping caper, it was a violent armed robbery that saw the victim menaced at gunpoint. We’re glad the FBI and our partners could help safely recover the pups, and determined to see the perpetrators held accountable.”

Philadelphia — A Philadelphia Inquirer reporter writing about a cyber predator asked if FBI Philadelphia has seen a rise in reported attempts by such predators to target children online during the COVID-19 pandemic. PAO provided a quote from VCAC SSA confirming this, pointed the reporter to resources for parents and caregivers on FBI.gov, and suggested contacting NCMEC for additional context.

Pittsburgh — WPXI interviewed ASAC Olson about COVID vaccine fraud. He talked about the signs of potential scams, where to report fraud, and stressed not giving out personal information to anyone without verifying their legitimacy.

Salt Lake City — A local radio station asked if the FBI is aware of and/or investigating after social media video shows Sen. Mitt Romney being heckled at the Salt Lake International Airport and on a flight to D.C., where fellow passengers chanted “traitor.” PAO advised we are aware of media reports but declined further comment.

Tampa — A local TV reporter interviewed SSA Givens about romance scams and how people may be more vulnerable to the scheme during the pandemic. Givens explained how to spot scams and why it’s important for victims to report the crime. Givens also provided IC3 stats and information.

***
Please send all Horizon submissions to [with “Horizon” in the Subject line, and press releases to [ ]

All correspondence contained in this email, to include all names and associated contact information, may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
From: Vince Talucci
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Re: SITREP WASHINGTON DC
To: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 6:24 PM (UTC-05:00)

Shared. Thanks, George this is crazy.

On Jan 6, 2021, at 5:05 PM, Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI) wrote:

---

From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 4:56 PM
To: Cooper, Laura
Subject: SITREP WASHINGTON DC

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Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fw:
To: Beach, George P.
Cc: 
Sent: January 6, 2021 6:24 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thank you we will safeguard, and this is very informative.
Sir, see below.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: 
Date: Jan 6, 2021 6:25 PM
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fw
To: Hurley, James B. Jr. (OPE) (FBI) , Jim
Cc: This was nice to see.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fw
To: 
Cc: 
Sent: January 6, 2021 6:27 PM (UTC-05:00)
Thanks Greatly appreciated.
George Beach here. Can I brief this to our people here at the FBI Joint Command Post?
A few updates.....and statutes added.
From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 3:32 PM

Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fw:

George Beach here. Can I brief this to our people here at the FBI Joint Command Post?

-
From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fw:  
To:  
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:27 PM (UTC-05:00)  

Thanks, I briefed it verbal only.

On Jan 6, 2021 7:24 PM, [name] wrote:
Sorry for the delayed response. I'm glad you called. I was in a meeting. Sure, feel free to brief as you need.

From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 3:32 PM  
To:  
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fw:

George Beach here. Can I brief this to our people here at the FBI Joint Command Post?
A few minor tweaks/edits. Please review the following and then have the Ops Center send everything to the division. Well done.
The following is being sent at the request of SAC Vorndran:

BACKGROUND: As many of you are aware, violent protests have been reported at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Additionally, there have been reports of attempts to breach state capitol buildings in Georgia and (perhaps) Kansas. Later tonight there will be a Critical Incident Conference Call with all field office SACs to gather a collective picture of acts of violence throughout the country, and to set forth a comprehensive plan. More information and intelligence is likely to evolve over the next 24 hours.

CURRENT SITUATION: There have not been any violent protests reported in the New Orleans AOR at this time. FBI New Orleans has been in contact with the Louisiana State Police regarding their protection of the Louisiana State Capitol.

RESPONSE:

FBI ROLE:

We are positioning ourselves to investigate these matters rapidly should they arise. Our office will not be engaged in the monitoring of people exercising their constitutionally protected rights for peaceful assembly and protest.

The purpose of the standby mode is to be able to be in a position to rapidly investigate various federal violations, should they occur. These violations include, but are not limited to (statute guidance attached).

This means our role begins when we learn of intelligence suggesting a federal crime is about to be committed, or has been committed, or an arrest is made by a state or local partner and where we believe a federal crime has been committed.

RESPONSIBILITIES UPON ACTIVATION:
FBHQ AND REPORTING OF PVCA INCIDENTS:

All PVCA incidents or resource deployments for incidents should be promptly reported to ASAC. ASAC will further disseminate information as appropriate to field office personnel and SIOC. Note that field offices have been requested to report any PVCA matters to ASAC.

DOCUMENTATION: In order to track, organize and coordinate incoming incidents relating to potential violent events on January 6 in regard to certifying the 2020 Presidential Election results, the following tag has been created for use within .

Please direct any questions or concerns to ASAC.

Applicable Statutes attached below.
From: CL
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fw:
To: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:40 PM (UTC-05:00)
Sounds good

From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 4:26 PM
To: 
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fw:

Thanks I briefed it verbal only.

On Jan 6, 2021 7:24 PM, wrote:
Sorry for the delayed response. I'm glad you called. I was in a meeting. Sure, feel free to brief as you need.

From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 3:32 PM
To: 
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fw:

George Beach here. Can I brief this to our people here at the FBI Joint Command Post?

FBI(21cv558)-584
Just fyi on an earlier matter:

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: [Redacted]
Date: Jan 6, 2021 7:41 PM
Subject: FW: 01/06/2021 1800 SITREP
To: "Byrd, Rachel A. (WMDD) (FBI)"
Cc:
Hi Rachel,

Just FYSA.

Thanks!

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 7:28 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: 01/06/2021 1800 SITREP

FYI... Issue seems to have been resolved.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 7:19 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: 01/06/2021 1800 SITREP

Forwarded for your situational awareness.
Law enforcement and partner agencies continue to mobilize necessary resources to address the dynamic situation at the Capitol and throughout the larger DC-area. Efforts to safely evacuate all individuals at the US Capitol and clear the grounds continue to evolve rapidly precluding exact estimates pertaining to crowd size and movement.

IOC INTELLIGENCE:

(U//FOUO) As of 1655,

(U//FOUO) Update: As of 1700,

OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

(U//FOUO) Curfew will remain in effect in the District of Columbia until 0600. MPD has begun enforcing curfew violations.

UPDATES:
No significant updates as of 1800 hours.

PENDING TARGETS OR SUBJECTS OF INVESTIGATIVE INTEREST:

No significant updates as of 1800 hours.

PLANNED EVENTS:

This document is meant as a summary of significant investigative highlights and NOT as a comprehensive review of the investigation. The information contained in this communication is NOT to be incorporated into any formal or informal written document without the authorization of a Special Agent in Charge, Washington Field Office. Unauthorized use of this information may jeopardize sensitive national security investigations, result in the possible identification and/or physical harm of human sources, or create undue notification into the FBI’s interest of the intended target.

The FBI has received information indicating the possibility that protest activity may occur outside or around U.S. Government property and facilities into January 2021, and that individuals or groups may exploit this otherwise protected activity to commit or incite civil disorder, riot, or other criminal violations. Transmittal of this report informs appropriate personnel who must account for the safety and security of facilities and personnel. As an individual or groups ability to conduct lawful protests and seek redress from government is a right guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, no investigative activity is to be initiated solely based on such protected conduct unless some indication of criminal or terrorist activity is present.
Thank you for all of your recent help. Can you print the below and a few others I'm going to send you?

Thank you,
Bryan

---

**Bryan Vorndran**
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
New Orleans Division
Yes Sir. I will get them printed first thing.

On Jan 6, 2021 8:09 PM, "Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)" wrote:

Thank you for all of your recent help. Can you print the below and a few others I'm going to send you?

Thank you,
Bryan

Bryan Vorndran
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
New Orleans Division
From: Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] 
To: | |  
Sent: January 6, 2021 9:14 PM (UTC-05:00)  
Thank you.

From: Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:12 PM  
To: Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)  
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL EMAIL]  
Yes Sir. I will get them printed first thing.

---

On Jan 6, 2021 8:09 PM, "Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)" wrote:

Thank you for all of your recent help. Can you print the below and a few others I'm going to send you?

Thank you,
Bryan

Bryan Vorndran  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
New Orleans Division  
[Cell]  
[Desk]
All - As discussed on the 1800 NC3 transition, below is the WF-CTD-DI TSIN which will go out to field DT PCORs and CollMCs.

It has been coord through all applicable parties including OGC, and is at DI presently. Pat

--------- Forwarded message -------
From: "Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 6, 2021 9:22 PM
Subject: Fwd: RE: FOR COORD: FBI WF TSIN DRAFT --US CAPITOL
To: "Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)"
Cc:
I provided the team with your approval. This is the final version that will go to DT PCORs and FO CollMCs this evening via UNet.

Kevin

--------- Forwarded message -------
From:
Date: Jan 6, 2021 9:16 PM
Subject: RE: FOR COORD: FBI WF TSIN DRAFT --US CAPITOL
To: "Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI)"
Cc:
All-
Please see TSIN draft below revised to include edits from OGC, and the DI. WF File number is now inserted.
From: Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 9:06 PM
To: Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI)
Cc: 
Subject: FOR COORD: FBI WF TSIN DRAFT -- US CAPITOL


On Jan 6, 2021 8:54 PM, wrote:
Case number is


On Jan 6, 2021 8:32 PM, wrote:
TSIN DRAFT for review by all recipients

In response, please include the full list of recipients on any edits.

CTD will forward the final version to DI UC

Thank you,
Supervisory Intelligence Analyst
Good evening,

Please find attached the 6 January 2021 National Crisis Coordination Center SITREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

Please note that this document is Unclassified/Law Enforcement Sensitive (U/LES) and should be shared accordingly with law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners.

Thank you.
Thank you.

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 9:38 PM, "Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

All - As discussed on the 1800 NC3 transition, below is the WF-CTD-DI TSIN which will go out to field DT PCORs and ColIMCs.

It has been coord through all applicable parties including OGC, and is at DI presently. Pat

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 6, 2021 9:22 PM
Subject: Fwd: RE: FOR COORD: FBI WF TSIN DRAFT --US CAPITOL
To: "Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)"
Cc:

I provided the team with your approval. This is the final version that will go to DT PCORs and FO ColIMCs this evening via UNet.

Kevin

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From:
Date: Jan 6, 2021 9:16 PM
Subject: RE: FOR COORD: FBI WF TSIN DRAFT --US CAPITOL
To: "Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI)"
Cc:

All-
Please see TSIN draft below revised to include edits from OGC, and the DI. WF File number is now inserted.

------------------------------
From: Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 9:06 PM
To: FBI WF TSIN DRAFT --US CAPITOL
Cc:
Subject: FOR COORD: FBI WF TSIN DRAFT --US CAPITOL
On Jan 6, 2021 8:54 PM, [Name] wrote:

Case number is [Case Number]

On Jan 6, 2021 8:32 PM, [Name] wrote:

TSIN DRAFT for review by all recipients

In response, please include the full list of recipients on any edits.

CTD will forward the final version to [Name]

Thank you,
Good evening,

Please find attached the 6 January 2021 National Crisis Coordination Center external SITREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests. This U/LES product has been shared broadly by OPE with SLTT law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners.

Thank you.
From: FBI WFO/CTD Time Sensitive Information Need (TSIN) - US Capitol Forcible Entry and Destruction of US Government Property

Subject: FBI WFO/CTD Time Sensitive Information Need (TSIN) - US Capitol Forcible Entry and Destruction of US Government Property

To: Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI); Moore, Jennifer L. (WF) (FBI); Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI);

Cc: Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI); Hardiman, Kellie M. (DI) (FBI); Lewis, Kwame (DI) (FBI);

Moore, Jennifer L. (WF) (FBI)

Sent: January 6, 2021 10:11 PM (UTC-05:00)

(U) Good Evening,

(U/POLY) Questions should be directed to the POCs listed in the TSIN below.

Regards,

UC
Desk
Cell:

(U) Executive Summary/Background

(U) Executive Summary

(U) Details
(U) On 6 January 2021, demonstrators who had taken part in the “Stop the Steal” rally forcibly entered the US Capitol during a joint session of Congress held to certify Electoral College results from the November 2020 Presidential Election.

(U//FOUO) The following information needs are directed to all FBI Field Offices:

(U) Potential criminal activity exhibited by certain members of a group(s) referenced herein does not negate nor is it a comment on the constitutional rights of the group itself or its members to exercise their rights under the First Amendment. The FBI does not investigate, collect, or maintain information on U.S. persons solely for the purpose of monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment.
From: [Redacted]
Subject: Fwd: FBI WFO/CTD Time Sensitive Information Need (TSIN) - US Capitol Forcible Entry and Destruction of US Government Property
To: Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)
Cc: [Redacted]
Sent: January 6, 2021 10:24 PM (UTC-05:00)

Bryan

For your awareness. Pushed the below to our folks. We have pushed out two immediate IIRs yesterday and today from [Redacted]. This is simply passage of request Buwide for specific needs.

---

Forwarded message

From: [Redacted]
Date: Jan 6, 2021 9:16 PM
Subject: Fwd: FBI WFO/CTD Time Sensitive Information Need (TSIN) - US Capitol Forcible Entry and Destruction of US Government Property
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Reference our recent reporting. Please see the below for further focus.

---

Forwarded message

From: [Redacted]
Date: Jan 6, 2021 9:11 PM
Subject: FBI WFO/CTD Time Sensitive Information Need (TSIN) - US Capitol Forcible Entry and Destruction of US Government Property
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)

Moore, Jennifer L. (WF) (FBI)
"Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI)"
"Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI)"
"Hardiman, Kellie M. (DI) (FBI)"
"Lewis, Kwame (DI) (FBI)"
"Moore, Jennifer L. (WF) (FBI)"

(U) Good Evening.

---
(U/FOUO) Questions should be directed to the POCs listed in the TSIN below.

Regards,

__________________________

Desk;

Cell:

---

(U) Executive Summary/Background

(U) Executive Summary

(U) Details

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From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Request from Sen. McConnell - ASAP
To: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI); Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI)
Cc: Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI); Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 10:57 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thank you.

Regards,
John

From: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:52 PM
To: D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Cc: Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI); Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Request from Sen. McConnell - ASAP

Copy, Sir.

Thanks to all.

Jill C. Tyson
Assistant Director
FBI Office of Congressional Affairs

On Jan 6, 2021 10:41 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:

Standby...

Regards,
John
DD Bowdich, EAD Brown, ADIC D’Antuono:

Tonight I have been in comms with the national security advisors for Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McCarthy. All are grateful for the agents we have sent to the Capitol complex to help.

My cell

Thanks.
-JCT

Jill C. Tyson
Assistant Director
FBI Office of Congressional Affairs
Thank you sir. This is most appreciated.
From: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Request from Sen. McConnell - ASAP
To: D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Cc: Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI); Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 11:12 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thanks John

On Jan 6, 2021 10:57 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:

Jill,

Thank you.

Regards,

John

From: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:37 PM
To: D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
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Assistant Director
FBI Office of Congressional Affairs

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Standby...

Regards,

John

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Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:37 PM
To: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI), Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI), D’Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI), Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI), Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI), Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI)
Cc: Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI), Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Request from Sen. McConnell - ASAP

DD Bowdich, EAD Brown, ADIC D’Antuono:

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My cell

Thanks.

-JCT

Jill C. Tyson
Assistant Director
FBI Office of Congressional Affairs
Glad we could help.

From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:02:39 PM

Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Thank you sir. This is most appreciated.

-
This was a crazy day.

Not a typical day in DC.

On Jan 6, 2021 11:22 PM, wrote:

Glad we could help

From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:02:39 PM

Thank you sir. This is most appreciated.
Oh no kidding. Yeah, historic, and tragic. Glad you and your guys stayed safe. Unfortunately, I don't think the worse is over yet.

This was a crazy day
Not a typical day in DC.

On Jan 6, 2021 11:22 PM, wrote: Glad we could help

Thank you sir. This is most appreciated.
Thank you, EAD Brown. And boss for the call.

On Jan 6, 2021 11:12 PM, "Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI)" wrote:

Thanks John

On Jan 6, 2021 10:57 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:

jill,

Thank you.

Regards,

John

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Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:52 PM
To: D’Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI); Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Cc: Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI); Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Request from Sen. McConnell - ASAP

Copy, Sir.

Thanks to all.

Jill C. Tyson
Assistant Director
Standby...

Regards,

John

Cell

(Desk)

From: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:37 PM
To: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI), Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI), D’Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI)
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Tonight I have been in comms with the national security advisors for Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McCarthy. All are grateful for the agents we have sent to the Capitol complex to help.

My cell

Thanks.

-JCT

Jill C. Tyson
Assistant Director
FBI Office of Congressional Affairs
Good morning everyone,

I will also forward their email on SIPR.

Thanks,

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:11 PM 
To: 

Subject: FBI WFO/CTD Time Sensitive Information Need (TSIN) - US Capitol Forcible Entry and Destruction of US Government Property

(U) Good Evening,

(U//FOUO) Questions should be directed to the POCs listed in the TSIN below.

Regards,
Executive Summary/Background

Executive Summary

Details

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monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment.
This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

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

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

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**Contact Information:** Please contact us any time at 703-483-6100 or [ ]

Use of this email address will automatically result in your message being delivered to everyone involved with your service, including senior management. Thank you.
Trump Supporters Storm Capitol Building, Halting Count Of Electoral Vote. The AP (1/6, Mascaro, Jalonick) reports, “Angry supporters” of President Trump “stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in a chaotic protest aimed at thwarting a peaceful transfer of power, forcing lawmakers to be rushed from the building and interrupting challenges to Joe Biden's Electoral College victory.” The President “issued a restrained call for peace well after the melee was underway but did not urge supporters to disperse. Earlier he had egged them on to march to Capitol Hill.”

USA Today (1/6, Yancey-Bragg, Bacon, Carless, 12.7M) reports, “At a rally about an hour before the protesters broke through police lines at the Capitol, Trump had urged them to go to the building.” The AP (1/6) reports Trump issued a video message “more than two hours after protesters began storming the Capitol. ... Trump opened his video, saying, ‘I know your pain. I know your hurt. But you have to go home now.’ ... He also said, ‘we can’t play into the hands of these people. We have to have peace. So go home. We love you.’”

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (1/6, 1.46M) reports the video “was posted on [Trump’s] Twitter page, but Twitter has now opted to block all engagement with the president’s page, which prohibits shares, likes and comments on his posts.”

The Boston Globe (1/6, 1.04M) reports, “President-elect Joe Biden called on President Trump to go on national television and ‘demand an end to this siege.’” Biden “said he was ‘genuinely shocked and saddened’ that the US had ‘come to such a dark moment.’” House Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer said in a joint statement, “We are calling on President Trump to demand that all protestors leave the U.S. Capitol and Capitol Grounds immediately.”

USA Today (1/6, King, Gropp, Wu, 12.7M) reports Vice President Pence urged the group to leave the Capitol. Pence tweeted, “The violence and destruction taking place at the US Capitol Must Stop and it Must Stop Now. Anyone involved must respect Law Enforcement officers and immediately leave the building.” Pence “said that while every American has the right to protest peacefully, ‘this attack on our Capitol will not be tolerated and those involved will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.’”

The New York Daily News (1/6, Sommerfeldt, 2.51M) reports, “Before Pence was abruptly shuttled out of the chamber, he had informed Congress that he would not attempt to single-handedly throw out electoral votes certified for Biden, indirectly rebuffing Trump’s demand that he do so. As his supporters stormed the building, Trump started attacking his vice president over Twitter.” Trump tweeted, “Mike Pence didn’t have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution, giving States a chance to certify a corrected set of facts, not the fraudulent or inaccurate ones which they were asked to previously certify. USA demands the truth!”

Reuters (1/6, Zengerle, Landay) reports police “with drawn guns and teargas...sought to clear” the Capitol. Members of the Senate and House “were evacuated after pro-Trump protesters surged through the halls of Congress, forcing both chambers to suspend deliberations.” The New York Post (1/6, Nelson, Bowden, Fels, 7.45M) reports, “One reporter tweeted that a protester made it all the way to the dais of the Senate chamber, and declared: ‘Trump won that election.”

The Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) says “a day that began with thousands of President Trump’s supporters in Washington for demonstrations turned violent as many in attendance saw Wednesday as a last stand for Trump.” The New York Times (1/6, Fandos, Cochrane, Thrush, 20.6M) reports, “Around 2:15 p.m., as the House and Senate debated a move by a faction of Republicans to overturn the election results, security rushed Vice President Mike Pence out of the Senate chamber and the Capitol building was placed on lockdown. ... A woman, who seemed to be part of the group that stormed the Capitol, can be seen in a video posted on social media being shot inside the building. She was in critical condition with a wound to the neck.”

The Arizona Republic (1/6, 1.05M) reports, “Both chambers of Congress went into lockdown as a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol buildings. The scene descended into chaos.” The Dallas Morning News (1/6, 772K) reports, “Pence was whisked out of the Senate, which abruptly went into recess and was then evacuated. One protester later sat at the rostrum where Pence had been presiding. Another defiantly posed” in Pelosi’s office. The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA) told reporters, “We were down in the basement and navigated the tunnels and there was confusion as to where they wanted us. We’re here, we’re being safe.”

The Hill (1/6, Byrnes, Marcos, 5.69M) reports under the headline “Pro-Trump Mob Overruns Capitol, Forcing Evacuation” that “the House and Senate were less than an hour into debating the first GOP objection to a state that Biden won – Arizona – when they were forced to abruptly recess as mostly maskless people crowded into the hallways around each chamber.” McClatchy (1/6, 29K) reports under the headline “Rioters Encouraged By President Trump Smash Through Police Lines To Occupy U.S. Capitol,” while the Philadelphia Inquirer (1/6, Terruso, Tamari, Seidman) calls the incident an “attempted
Political (1/6, Ferris, Beavers, Zanona, 6.73M) reports under the headline "Hill Erupts Into Chaos After Rioters Storm Capitol" that "pro-Donald Trump rioters stormed the Capitol Wednesday afternoon."

Political (1/6, Ferris, Beavers, Zanona, 6.73M) reports, "Leading Trump-world figures are denouncing the violent occupation of the U.S. Capitol and imploring [Trump] to do the same." Former White House communications director Alyssa Farah "urged him on Wednesday afternoon to ‘condemn’ his supporters who stormed the Capitol." Former chief of staff Mick Mulvaney tweeted, "The President’s tweet is not enough. He can stop this now and needs to do exactly that. Tell these folks to go home." Kellyanne Conway tweeted, "STOP. Just STOP. Peace. Law and Order. Safety for All." The Hill (1/6, Pois, 5.69M) reports Ivanka Trump, "in a now-deleted tweet," wrote, "American Patriots – any security breach or disrespect to our law enforcement is unacceptable. The violence must stop immediately. Please be peaceful."

Peter Baker of the New York Times (1/6, 20.6M) writes, "In a remarkable scene evocative of coups and uprisings associated with authoritarian countries around the world, the Capitol was put on lockdown as tear gas was deployed inside the citadel of American democracy and police officers guarding the House chamber drew their pistols in an armed standoff. ... The extraordinary invasion of the Capitol came shortly after Mr. Trump egged on his admirers at a rally to march to the headquarters of Congress to protest its acceptance of the results of the election that he lost, even suggesting that he would join them, although he did not."

The Los Angeles Times (1/6, 3.37M) editorializes, "Force edged toward insurrection at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday as a mob thousands strong – egged on by President Trump – breached barriers and forced their way into the halls of Congress. ... At what point does this get called an attempted coup? It has often been said that if the United States were to succumb, it would be because of an attack from within, not an assault by terrorists or by a foreign adversary. And indeed, democracy is under actual, physical assault. ... The responsibility for this day of unconscionable attacks by Americans on the heart of our elective system belongs to Trump. But his enablers have much to answer for as well, and much to regret."

US Attorneys Condemn Capitol Riot While Wray Remains Mum. ABC News (1/6, Barr, Malin, 2.44M) reports, "Outgoing U.S. attorneys from around the country decried Wednesday’s storming of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., with some pledging to charge any from their state who may be found to have violated federal laws." ABC News adds, "At least 12 have thus far come out publicly to say they would charge those involved if they came from their jurisdictions. Former U.S. attorney Zachary Terwilliger, a President Donald Trump appointee set to soon depart from his position leading the office the Eastern District of Virginia, called what happened at the Capitol a ‘tragedy.’ The FBI "in a statement said they are helping their law enforcement partners, but thus far there has been no statement from FBI Director Christopher Wray himself."

FBI Seeks Tips On Identifying Rioters. NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports, "The FBI on Wednesday evening put out a call for information related to the mob that stormed the Capitol. ‘The FBI is seeking information that will assist in identifying individuals who are actively instigating violence in Washington, DC,’ the agency said in an announcement. ‘The FBI is accepting tips and digital media depicting rioting and violence in the U.S. Capitol Building and surrounding area in Washington, DC, on January 6, 2021.’" NBC News adds, "Only a handful of people were arrested during the unrest Wednesday."

US Capitol Security Under Scrutiny. ABC News (1/6, Levine, 2.44M) reports, "Political leaders demanded late Wednesday to know why law enforcement did not better fortify the United States Capitol after extremist groups for days chattered online about their plans to react violently to the final formal step of certifying President Donald Trump’s 2020 election defeat. ‘How did so many rioters get into this building from so many directions? How was it breached?’ ‘Based on the fairly straightforward intelligence that thousands of angry people were going to come and show their presence – including groups prone to violence – law enforcement was totally ill-prepared to handle today’s incident,’ said ABC News contributor Brad Garrett, a former FBI special agent. ‘This was a phenomenal law enforcement failure.’"

Newsweek (1/7, 2.67M) reports, "They knew it could happen. They feared that Donald Trump would pull a ‘Samson,’ bringing down the whole house on top of him in the two weeks before he left the White House. Officials from the FBI, the Secret Service, Homeland Security, the District of Columbia government, the Pentagon, the National Guard, and the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region who spoke to Newsweek last weekend on condition of anonymity, all talked about the potential for protesters and militias and paramilitary goons – egged on by the president – to storm Capitol Hill and even the Capitol building itself." Newsweek adds, "A half-dozen sources spoke openly about this very scenario: that the mob would take over the ‘People’s House’ and that somehow the system would break down."

In his column for the Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M), David Ignatius writes, "As Justice and Defense department officials planned for the turnout that was coming Wednesday, they knew that pro-Trump protesters – including some violent extremists – might try to storm the U.S. Capitol as lawmakers prepared to certify the election of Joe Biden. So why weren’t they better prepared for the catastrophic assault that took place?" Ignatius adds, "That’s the riddle at the center of Wednesday’s spasm of violent anarchy: Officials saw the mob coming but weren’t ready or able to stop it — and they allowed hundreds to invade the
Capitol, threaten lawmakers and, for a time, foment a coup inside the most precious symbol of U.S. democracy. Senior officials believed that the force they were assembling of 6,000 to 8,000 police and law enforcement officers—drawn from the D.C. police, the Capitol Police, the FBI and various federal agencies—would be sufficient to contain the protests."

CNN (1/6, Perez, Polantz, Mattingly, Salama, Alvarez, 89.21M) reports, "The chaotic federal response to the Trump rally Wednesday, which was overwhelmed by rioters who stormed the US Capitol, stood in sharp contrast to the heavily-armed presence of thousands of federal authorities during summer protests in Washington, DC, following the police killing of George Floyd." CNN adds, "Mobs broke through police barricades and rampaged through the Capitol, vandalizing offices and prompting the evacuation of lawmakers just after 2 p.m. ET Wednesday. 'Everything. Everything went wrong,' one Capitol Police officer on the scene said." According to CNN, "The law enforcement response that allowed a typically heavily secured federal landmark to fall under attack, with rioters breaking through windows and into lawmakers’ offices and gathering places, came from a hesitant federal bureaucracy after early assurances from DC and Capitol law enforcement agencies."

The Daily Beast (1/6, Rohrlich, 933K) reports, "Police were ill-prepared and made fateful mistakes that allowed a pro-Trump protest to morph into an unprecedented and protracted sacking of the Capitol on Wednesday, experts told The Daily Beast. They said the mob’s breach of the building, after President Trump exhorted them to "fight like hell" to overturn the election, could have been avoided with some basic policing protocols— and heads should roll for the deadly debacle." The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Viswanatha, Gurman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also reports.

Justice Department, Federal Court System Were Hacked By Russians. The Washington Post (1/6, Nakashima, 10.52M) reports that the Justice Department "has become the latest known victim of Russian hackers, who are engaged in an ongoing campaign of cyberespionage that has afflicted federal agencies and the private sector." A DOJ spokesman on Wednesday "said that the department’s Office of the Chief Information Officer, which handles network security, learned on Dec. 24 of malicious activity linked to the hacking campaign. The intrusions into other federal agencies and technology firms were discovered earlier last month, and in the Justice Department’s case involved its unclassified Office 365 email system, spokesman Marc Raimondi said."

Reuters (1/6, Satter) reports that DOJ "has more than 100,000 employees across a series of law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the U.S. Marshals Service." The DOJ statement also said "that the Justice Department had no indication any classified systems were impacted." However, "winning access to as many as thousands of email inboxes from the nation’s premier law enforcement organization could still provide an intelligence bonanza for foreign hackers."

Politico (1/6, Geller, 8.73M) quotes Raimondi as saying in a statement, "At this point, the number of potentially accessed [Microsoft Office] mailboxes appears limited to around 3-percent and we have no indication that any classified systems were impacted."

The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that it is unclear which and how many DOJ employees “had their internal communications exposed in the operation.”

The AP (1/6, Tucker, Bajak) reports “the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts informed federal judicial bodies across the nation that the courts’ nationwide case management system was breached. That potentially gave the hackers access to sealed court documents, whose contents are highly sensitive.”

Similar coverage is provided by The Hill (1/6, 5.69M), Newsweek (1/6, Garrett, 2.67M), Voice of America (1/6, Farivar, 85K), The Guardian (UK) (1/6, 5.53M), the Washington (DC) Times (1/6, Lovalle, 626K), the Washington (DC) Examiner (1/6, Dunleavy, 888K), CNBC (1/6, Feiner, 7.34M), and Law360 (1/6, Subscription Publication, 9K).

Trump Administration Formally Accuses Russia Of “likely” Hacking US Government Agencies. The Washington Post (1/6, Riley, 10.52M) reports, "The Trump administration formally accused Russia of ‘likely’ being behind the most devastating hack of U.S. government agencies in years." This statement, made jointly by four agencies in charge of intelligence and cybersecurity, is the first time the U.S. government has linked Russia to the hack that also affected critical companies that were also clients of network management system SolarWinds. The statement indicated "it found less than 10 federal agencies had internal computer systems infiltrated in the breach; known victims include the federal departments of State, Treasury, Homeland Security, Commerce and Energy."

Meanwhile, an editorial about the hacks in the San Francisco Chronicle (1/6, 2.44M) says, "The apparent reach of Russian cyber sleuthing is hitting new levels with Washington stumbling to contain it. The evidence is coming in a post mortem look at a hack of top government agencies that’s turning up as a much bigger intrusion into Washington’s computer links." According to the editorial, "The probes burrowed into the likes of the Treasury Department, Homeland Security and National Institutes of Health," which is "a reach that touches vital areas such as financial controls, border security and health research, including work on the viral pandemic."
Rob Knake writes in *Foreign Affairs* (1/6, 522K) that as the investigation into the SolarWinds breach continues, investigators will likely find that Russia “easily evaded US cybersdefenses” due to a lack of execution of the US’ cyberstrategy, not in the strategy itself. The editorial board of the *Christian Science Monitor* (1/6, 234K) writes that security “has lagged behind,” and the “biggest change coming out of the SolarWinds debacle is likely to be a new insistence that security take a top priority.” The Monitor says the “software used by government often overlaps with that in use in the private sector,” so new “security standards for software the government procures could increase security for products that all Americans use.”

**Officials Investigating JetBrains’ Role In Russian Hack.** The *New York Times* (1/6, Perrotth, Sanger, Barnes, 20.6M) reports US intel agencies and private cybersecurity investigators “are examining the role of a widely used software company, JetBrains, in the far-reaching Russian hacking of federal agencies, private corporations and United States infrastructure, according to officials and executives briefed on the inquiry.” Officials are examining whether the company, “founded by three Russian engineers in the Czech Republic with research labs in Russia, was breached and used as a pathway for hackers to insert back doors into the software of an untold number of technology companies.” JetBrains “is used by developers at 300,000 businesses. One of them is SolarWinds, the company based in Austin, Texas, whose network management software played a central role in allowing hackers into government and private networks.”

**Two Louisville Officers Fired Over Police Raid That Led To Breonna Taylor’s Death.** The *AP* (1/6, Lowan) reports that “two more officers involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor have been fired.” Former Detectives Myles Cosgrove and Joshua Jaynes were served dismissal letters on Tuesday. The dismissals “follow that of officer Brett Hankison, who was fired in September after being indicted by a grand jury on charges of endangering Taylor’s neighbors by firing bullets that went through her home and into an adjacent apartment.” However, “none of the three white officers who fired into [Taylor’s] home were charged by a grand jury in her death.”

- CNN (1/6, Vera, Setty, 89.21M) reports on its website the River City Fraternal Order of Police, the union for Louisville police, said there is “no evidence” that policies “were violated to the extent that warranted termination.”
- WHAS-TV Louisville, KY (1/6, Weiter, 182K) reports Cosgrove and Jaynes sent emails to other officers saying they were forced out “due to political pressure.” Cosgrove wrote, “Your leaders aren’t afraid to perform hatchet jobs on you either.” In a separate email, Jayne said he career is “being judged one line of an affidavit.”
- *WORC-TV* Louisville, KY (1/6, Ragsdale, Riley, 303K) reports Cosgrove told officers, “You will be demonized, while criminals will be canonized. You will make the smaller paycheck, while others settle with the city and profit millions.”

Additional coverage includes *CBS News* (1/6, Donaghuie, 5.36M) and *Fox News* (1/6, Norman, 23.99M).

**Incoming Louisville Police Chief Resigned As Head Of Atlanta Police After Black Man’s Killing.** The *New York Times* (1/6, Wright, 20.6M) reports that incoming Louisville Police Chief Erika Shields resigned last year as head of the Atlanta police “after a high-profile police shooting” of a Black man. "Her selection highlights the difficulty of filling police chief vacancies nationwide." The Times adds that "a host of qualified chiefs with progressive views," such as Shields, were "sidelined after high-profile incidents of police violence, often sacrificed by elected officials looking for political cover." They "were focused on changing the culture in their departments, but hamstrung by contractual protections for bad officers, opposition from powerful unions, and a hands-off approach by" Trump Administration’s Justice Department. Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said Ms. Shields is "an experienced, progressive, reform-minded leader who believes in the role of policing."

**British Judge Denies Assange Bail As US Appeals Extradition Ruling.** The *AP* (1/6) reports that on Wednesday, a British judge "denied bail to WikiLeaks’ founder Julian Assange, ordering him to remain in a high-security prison while U.K. courts decide whether he will be sent to the United States to face espionage charges." District Judge Vanessa Baraitser “said Assange must remain in prison while the courts consider an appeal by U.S. authorities against her decision not to extradite him.” According to the AP, Baraitser “said Assange has an incentive to abscond” and there is a good chance he would fail to return to court if freed.

The *New York Times* (1/6, 20.6M) reports that on Monday, Baraitser “ruled that Mr. Assange could not be extradited to the United States because he would be at risk of suicide, and his lawyers sought to have him released on bail while the appeals process plays out.” The Times notes that in 2019, Assange “was indicted by the United States authorities...on 17 counts of
violating the Espionage Act and one count of computer misuse over his role in obtaining and publishing secret military and
diplomatic documents related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.” The Times adds that Claire Dobbin, a lawyer representing the
United States, “said on Wednesday that American prosecutors would appeal the extradition ruling, which is likely to keep Mr.
Assange’s case in British courts for at least several months.” The Washington Post (1/6, Booth, 10.52M), Bloomberg (1/6,
Milligan, 3.57M), and Reuters (1/6, Holden, MacAskill) have more on the ruling.

Biden Selects Merrick Garland To Lead DOJ. The AP (1/6, Tucker, Balsamo) reports that Joe Biden has “selected
Merrick Garland, a federal appeals court judge who in 2016 was snubbed by Republicans for a seat on the Supreme Court, as
his attorney general.” The AP says in choosing Garland, Biden is “turning to an experienced judge who held senior positions at
the Justice Department decades ago, including as a supervisor of the prosecution of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.” The AP
says Biden “may be banking on Garland’s credentials and reputation for moderation to ensure confirmation.”

USA Today (1/6, Phillips, Johnson, 12.7M) says by selecting Garland, “Biden appears to be aiming to create
a department free from political influence.” Similarly, the Los Angeles Times (1/6, Hook, 3.37M) says the choice “highlights
Biden’s desire to restore independence to a Justice Department that has been scarred by the intense partisan politics of the
Trump era.” Politico (1/6, Pager, Gerstein, Cheney, 6.73M) reports, “The announcement of the selection could come as early as
Thursday, Sen. Dick Durbin (DIL) told reporters on Wednesday.”

Reuters (1/6, Renshaw) reports Senate Judiciary Chairman Graham “said on Twitter that Garland ‘would be a
sound choice’ for attorney general.” Graham described Garland as “a man of great character, integrity, and tremendous
competency in the law.”

The Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) says Garland “enjoys a reputation as a unifying, moderating force on the appeals
court, and some Democratic advisers said they view his selection as a signal to congressional Republicans that the department
will operate in an even-handed fashion in the Biden administration.” However, according to the Post, “some defense lawyers and
criminal-justice-reform advocates have said they worry Garland’s record on the bench shows he is too deferential to the
government and law enforcement – and perhaps would not be as aggressive about implementing the kind of dramatic changes
they seek.” The New York Times (1/6, Schmidt, Liptak, Kaplan, Benner, 20.6M) reports that Garland “has sometimes
disappointed liberals with his rulings.” According to the Times, “progressive groups have...inundated Mr. Biden...asking him to
nominate an attorney general with a progressive track record on issues around race and policing.” The Times adds, “The choice
of Mr. Garland, a white man with a record of favoring law enforcement over people accused of crimes, signaled to some
progressives that their concerns were dismissed.”

CNBC (1/6, Higgins, Schwartz, 7.34M) says Garland “will face pressure from liberals to prosecute Donald
Trump after Biden takes office.” CNBC adds, “Another test would be how he would handle an investigation into Hunter Biden,
the incoming president’s son. Hunter Biden revealed last month that a federal investigation is underway into his taxes.” The Wall
Street Journal (1/6, Bravin, Gurman, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says Garland is not close to the Biden family,
which transition officials view as a positive, given the current investigation.

A Wall Street Journal (1/6, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial praises choice of Garland over a more polarizing
figure. The Journal says the choice augurs well for Biden’s Administration.

Additional coverage includes the Washington Times (1/6, Tucker, Balsamo, 626K), the Washington Examiner (1/6,
Dunleavy, 868K), and NPR (1/6, Johnson, 3.69M).

Biden Choosing Monaco For Deputy AG. Bloomberg (1/6, Strohm, Epstein, 3.57M) reports that Biden is
“picking Lisa Monaco for deputy attorney general and Vanita Gupta as associate attorney general, according to people familiar
with those decisions. Monaco spent almost two decades at the Justice Department and was homeland security adviser in the
Obama administration. Gupta headed the department’s Civil Rights Division under President Obama.”

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DC Legal World On Guard As Trump Mob Storms Capitol

As a mob of President Donald Trump’s supporters broke into the U.S. Capitol while lawmakers formalized the victory of President-elect Joe Biden, law firms and courthouses blocks away had various responses, from shutting down to amping up security to condemning the disturbance outside their windows.

Read full article »

NYSE Backtracks And Again Plans To Delist Chinese Stocks

The New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday again reversed course and said it would delist shares of three Chinese telecommunications companies, marking the latest twist over the interpretation of an executive order banning U.S. investments in companies with ties to China’s military.

Read full article »

Cited Atty’s ‘Deficient’ Brief Costs Him Appeal in $26M Suit

An attorney who claimed a former colleague outed his sexuality to an alleged Al-Qaeda combatant client lost his chance to appeal the dismissal of his $26 million lawsuit after the Seventh Circuit blasted his “woefully deficient” brief challenging the decision.

Order affirmed | Read full article »
A Chinese national studying with Harvard University and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center will avoid additional jail time after a judge sentenced him to time served Wednesday for lying about laboratory vials found stashed in his suitcase as he was boarding a flight to Beijing.

DOD Wants To Expand Contractors' Overseas Operations

The U.S. Department of Defense proposed a rule Wednesday to expand the type of overseas operations where contractors can support the military, while also requiring contractors to screen employees’ qualifications and mental and physical fitness before deployment.

Julian Assange must remain in custody until the U.S. government’s potential appeal against the decision blocking his extradition to face espionage charges, a London judge has ruled, saying on Wednesday that there are “substantial grounds” to believe the WikiLeaks founder would abscond if released.

Ex-Twitter Worker Accused Of Being Saudi Spy Wins Info Bid

A California federal judge instructed the federal government Wednesday to provide additional information regarding money laundering charges filed against a former Twitter employee accused of helping the Saudi Arabian government spy on users deemed critics of the regime, finding the charging documents lacked sufficient details to establish venue.

A federal court scrapped claims that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ignored a joint venture’s past work to tap a rival for a $45 million security contract in Alaska, saying the record showed that the government reviewed the available information.

Coke Taps Ex-Boeing Adviser As Point Person In Tax Case

The Coca-Cola Co. on Wednesday said it appointed a former U.S. federal judge and Boeing executive to step into a newly created role of counselor and special adviser to the company’s leadership, as the Atlanta-based...
and special counsel to the company's leadership, as the multibillion-dollar beverage giant faces ongoing litigation with the Internal Revenue Service.

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EXPERT ANALYSIS

Tips For Drafting Effective Amicus Briefs
Careful construction of an amicus brief's essential elements — including the table of contents, which determines whether a brief gets studied or skimmed — and the order in which they are crafted are key to maximizing a party's hoped-for impact on a case before the U.S. Supreme Court or other appellate courts, say Mark Chopko and Karl Myers at Stradley Ronon.

Read full article »

LEGAL INDUSTRY

FCC's Carr Condemns Violence As Rioters Breach Capitol
FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr condemned the "mob violence" unfolding in Washington, D.C., as thousands of pro-Trump rioters fought their way past law enforcement and into the Capitol building Wednesday in a bid to stop Congress from certifying the presidential election results.

Read full article »

Biden Wins Wide berth On Judicial Picks With Senate Victory
Democrats have secured a narrow Senate majority after winning the second of Georgia's two runoff elections, boosting President-elect Joe Biden's legislative agenda and giving him broad latitude when picking federal judges.

Read full article »

Biden Picks Garland To Be Next Attorney General
President-elect Joe Biden will nominate D.C. Circuit Judge Merrick Garland to be the next U.S. attorney general, tapping a former prosecutor and judicial
moderate to lead a U.S. Department of Justice mired in accusations of political interference and internal strife under William Barr.

From investigating politicians to bringing the Oklahoma City bombers to justice, Judge Merrick Garland has a long history with the Department of Justice he has now been selected to lead out of a hyper-politicized era.

President-elect Joe Biden’s selection of Merrick Garland to be the next attorney general was lauded by the D.C. Circuit judge’s former colleagues and others on Wednesday, who predicted the U.S. Department of Justice veteran and onetime U.S. Supreme Court nominee will restore morale among prosecutors.

DOJ Data Breach Compromised Federal Courts System
Hackers linked to the global SolarWinds software data breach that was discovered in December targeted emails from the U.S. Department of Justice, a breach that also ended up compromising the federal courts case management system, the agency and U.S. Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts said Wednesday.

Arnold & Porter Veteran Named Latest Co-Managing Partner
Arnold & Porter announced Tuesday it has appointed one of its investment management practice leaders, who has been with the firm for nearly a decade, to a term as co-managing partner.

Ditworth Parsons Reconsiders After Ex-CEO Rejus Forzes Firm
There’s a new person in charge at Philadelphia’s Ditworth Parsons LLP operating under a new title after the departure of CEO Ajay Rejus.

Ogletree Deakins Counts Diversity Work Toward Billable Hours
Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC will allow attorneys to count work on projects that advance diversity and inclusion toward their annual billable hour goals, the firm has announced.

Troutman Pepper Nabs Ex-US Atty For White Collar Practice
Former U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia Charles E. "Charlie" Peeler — who previously worked for King & Spalding LLP and co-founded Flynn Peeler & Phillips LLC — has returned to private practice by joining Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP’s white collar and government investigations practice in Atlanta, the firm announced Wednesday.

Peckar & Abramson Forms International Construction Alliance
New York-based construction law firm Peckar & Abramson is teaming up with firms in France and Germany in an effort to strengthen legal services offered to businesses involved in multinational infrastructure and construction projects.

Apple GC Earned $4.6M in 2020, Plus Potential $21.7M in Stock
Apple Inc. general counsel Kate Adams earned nearly $4.6 million in 2020, on top of earning stock in the Cupertino, California-based tech giant that could be worth about $21.7 million, according to a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing lodged Tuesday.

Deporting Atys. Taking Files May Be Illegal, Mass. Court Says

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Central Intelligence Agency
Congressional Research Service
Federal Aviation Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Communications Commission
Georgian Supreme Court
Government Accountability Office
Internal Revenue Service
Judicial Conference of the United States
National Security Agency
Office of Foreign Assets Control
U.S. Air Force
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of California
U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of the Treasury
U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
U.S. Senate
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Tax Court
Massachusetts' top court suggested Wednesday that attorneys who surreptitiously take client files to start a new firm — including by smuggling them out the door in a gym bag — may violate the state's law against unfair and deceptive business practices.
Capitol Police Weren’t Prepared for Rioters, Authorities Say

WASHINGTON—Federal authorities had planned to deal with protests this week with a relatively small, minimally visible presence, according to law-enforcement officials, hoping to avoid inflaming tensions as a show of force had done during unrest last year in Portland, Ore., and other cities.

That approach seemed to have backfired on Wednesday, when thousands of pro-Trump rioters surrounded the U.S. Capitol and some easily breached the barricades and stormed the building, with one woman fatally shot by Capitol
Police, according to law-enforcement officials, and three others dead in what the city’s police chief described as “medical emergencies.”

Some rioters fired what he called “chemical irritants” at officers who were guarding the complex to gain access to the building.

The small group of Capitol Police officers guarding the building as lawmakers began a joint session of Congress to count the 2020 electoral votes was quickly outnumbered as rioters approached the building. Once inside, they broke into lawmakers’ offices and roamed freely.

**Capitol Riot**

Lawmakers were forced to shelter in place and halt debate over the ratification of President-elect Joe Biden’s Electoral College win following rioters breaching the Capitol building.

Officials said they had expected a repeat of relatively minor scuffles between far-right and far-left factions that broke out after dark at similar protests in November.

“The Capitol Police were unprepared for the sheer size of the protest,” said David Gomez, a retired FBI executive. Once the rioters barged into the Capitol, other federal law enforcement agencies were slow to respond, either out of deference to President Trump or because of a lack of experience with dealing with riots, which isn’t their primary mission, Mr. Gomez said. “Up until they breached the Capitol, the possibility existed that it was going to be a large protest that didn’t cross those barricades. Once they did that [law enforcement personnel] were overwhelmed and couldn’t respond quickly enough,” he said.

Defense Department officials had previously said they anticipated around 350 members of the D.C. national guard would be enough to support Washington, D.C., police during the protests this week, mainly to assist with traffic control. They wanted to avoid the optics of having any U.S. military personnel on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, and ordered the officers to avoid straying east of 9th Street in downtown Washington, blocks from the Capitol grounds, officials said.

After the building was breached, the Defense Department announced it would activate another 1,180 D.C. National Guard troops, but it was unclear if they would be deployed to the Capitol or elsewhere in the district.

The response was a marked difference from the way in which the Trump
administration responded to protests over racial injustice last year, in which federal agents in riot gear sometimes showed up in force. In June, for example, federal law-enforcement officers were widely criticized for using tear gas to clear a largely peaceful crowd from Lafayette Square near the White House shortly before Mr. Trump made a visit to St. John’s Episcopal Church, which is adjacent to the park, to stand outside with a Bible.

“We have fully activated the D.C. National Guard to assist federal and local law enforcement as they work to peacefully address the situation,” said Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller. “We are prepared to provide additional support as necessary and appropriate as requested by local authorities.”

Late Wednesday, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said his state would send 1,000 National Guard troops to D.C. “NY stands ready to help ensure the will of the American people is safely carried out,” he tweeted.

Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen condemned the events at the Capitol as “an intolerable attack on a fundamental institution of our democracy.” Mr. Rosen said the Justice Department sent agents from the FBI, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshals Service to help Capitol Police.

Also, officers from Washington’s Metropolitan Police Department were sent to the Capitol to assist in restoring order, clearing the building and establishing a perimeter, Mayor Muriel Bowser said. At her request, the Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia state police had deployed to help and she invoked a mutual-aid agreement with police departments in several surrounding jurisdictions. As of Wednesday night, there were at least 52 arrests, including four for carrying pistols without licenses, one for possession of a prohibited weapon and 47 for curfew violations and unlawful entry. Twenty six of the arrests were on U.S. Capitol grounds, police said.

The U.S. Capitol Police is the federal law enforcement agency that protects members of Congress and Congressional buildings, with around 1,900 officers, according to its website.

The incidents they encounter are normally more minor than those of other police departments that patrol the streets and investigate cases, but the force expanded its ranks after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and again when it merged
with the Library of Congress police in 2009.

They were on the scene and suffered injuries themselves when Rep. Steve Scalise (R, La.) was shot in 2017 at an outdoor practice for the annual charity congressional baseball game. Lawmakers also present at the practice have attributed their survival to the actions of the Capitol police.

Sen. Rand Paul (R., Ky.), who was in the batting cage at the time of the shootings, said at the time on MSNBC: “I probably heard 50, 60 shots,” adding: “Everybody probably would have died except for the fact that the Capitol Police was there.”

Still, Wednesday’s breach by the pro-Trump rioters raises questions about whether Capitol Police are equipped to handle more widespread threats and violence.

Former Senate historian Donald Ritchie said the Capitol Police might be excused for misreading the pro-Trump crowd. “This is just so totally out of character for the way in which Americans protest or Americans congregate or show their political feelings,” Mr. Ritchie said, noting that the Capitol has seen massive protests over myriad issues over its history. “I’m astonished that it happened,” he said, “for the same reasons the police were astonished that it happened.”

The coronavirus pandemic also posed new challenges for the police department.

As Congress has remained open for business during the pandemic, at least a dozen officers had tested positive for the coronavirus by May 2020, and were concerned about their working conditions, The Wall Street Journal previously reported.

SFSAFBI

Secretary, Washington, D.C. Chapter
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Thursday, January 07, 2021

SiOC On-Duty Watch Commanders

CIRG CRITICAL INCIDENT DEPLOYMENT

- NSTR

- NSTR

- NSTR

FBI HQ Directed TDY Personnel

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support efforts Preventing Violence and Criminal Activity (PVCA) today in the National Capital Region.

- The NC3 will serve in a supportive role and will be comprised of FBIHQ Divisions as well as federal, state, and local partners.

**DAILY POLICY ENGAGEMENTS**

- **01/07/2021:** Presidential Transition Team, Senior Leader Exercise - January 7 from 1300 – 1700

**U.S. OFFICE RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT**

- Deployed to Washington, DC in support of FBI, MPD, USPP, USSS and USCP

Synopsis: for response to incidents associated with events in DC on January 6.

Resolution: Conclusion of operations for 1/6 at approx. Anticipate additional coverage for unscheduled events on 1/7.
Please see the attached pending requests.
CMU will virtually provide Crisis Management and Sentinel-Crisis training to WFO.
WEATHER FOR TODAY

NCR – Sunny to partly cloudy, with a high/low of 47°/31°
There are no active watches, warnings or advisories.

Richmond, VA – Mostly sunny, with a high/low of 48°/29°
There are no active watches, warnings or advisories.

The FBI Strategic Information and Operations Center (SIOC) produced this message and any attachments for situational awareness which may be subject to change.

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UNCLASSIFIED//FBI ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE
Trump Supporters Storm Capitol Building, Halting Count Of Electoral Vote. The AP (1/6, Mascaro, Jalonick) reports, "Angry supporters" of President Trump "stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in a chaotic protest aimed at thwarting a peaceful transfer of power, forcing lawmakers to be rushed from the building and interrupting challenges to Joe Biden's Electoral College victory." The President "issued a restrained call for peace well after the melee was underway but did not urge supporters to disperse. Earlier he had egged them on to march to Capitol Hill."

USA Today (1/6, Yancey-Bragg, Bacon, Carless, 12.7M) reports, "At a rally about an hour before the protesters broke through police lines at the Capitol, Trump had urged them to go to the building." The AP (1/6) reports Trump issued a video message "more than two hours after protesters began storming the Capitol. ... Trump opened his video, saying, 'I know your pain. I know your hurt. But you have to go home now.' ... He also said, 'we can't play into the hands of these people. We have to have peace. So go home. We love you.'" The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (1/6, 1.46M) reports the video was posted on [Trump's] Twitter page, but Twitter has now opted to block all engagement with the president's account, which prohibits shares, likes and comments on his posts.

The Boston Globe (1/6, 1.04M) reports, "President-elect Joe Biden called on President Trump to go on national television and 'demand an end to this siege.'" Biden said he was 'genuinely shocked and saddened' that the US had 'come to such a dark moment.'" House Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer said in a joint statement, "We are calling on President Trump to demand that all protesters leave the U.S. Capitol and Capitol Grounds immediately."

USA Today (1/6, King, Gropp, Wu, 12.7M) reports Vice President Pence urged the group to leave the Capitol. Pence tweeted, "The violence and destruction taking place at the US Capitol Must Stop and it Must Stop Now. Anyone involved must respect Law Enforcement officers and immediately leave the building." Pence said that while every American has the right to protest peacefully, "this attack on our Capitol will not be tolerated and those involved will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The New York Daily News (1/6, Sommerfeldt, 2.51M) reports, "Before Pence was abruptly shuttled out of the chamber, he had informed Congress that he would not attempt to single-handedly throw out electoral votes certified for Biden, indirectly rebuffing Trump's demand that he do so. As his supporters stormed the building, Trump started attacking his vice president over Twitter." Trump tweeted, "Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution, giving States a chance to certify a corrected set of facts, not the fraudulent or inaccurate ones which they were asked to previously certify. USA demands the truth!"

Reuters (1/6, Zengerle, Landay) reports police "with drawn guns and teargas...sought to clear" the Capitol. Members of the Senate and House were evacuated after pro-Trump protesters surged through the halls of Congress, forcing both chambers to suspend deliberations. The New York Post (1/6, Nelson, Bowien, Feis, 7.45M) reports, "One reporter tweeted that a protester made it all the way to the dais of the Senate chamber, and declared: 'Trump won that election.'"

The Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) says "a day that began with tens of thousands of President Trump's supporters in Washington for demonstrations turned violent as many in attendance saw Wednesday as a last stand for Trump." The New York Times (1/6, Fandos, Cochrane, Thrush, 20.6M) reports, "Around 2:15 p.m., as the House and Senate debated a move by a faction of Republicans to overturn the election results, security rushed Vice President Mike Pence out of the Senate chamber and the Capitol building was placed on lockdown. ... A woman, who seemed to be part of the group that stormed the Capitol, can be seen in a video posted on social media being shot inside the building. She was in critical condition with a wound to the neck."

The Arizona Republic (1/6, 1.05M) reports, "Both chambers of Congress went into lockdown as a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol buildings. The scene descended into chaos." The Dallas Morning News (1/6, 772K) reports, "Pence was whisked out of the Senate, which abruptly went into recess and was then evacuated. One protester later sat at the rostrum where Pence had been presiding. Another defiantly posed" in Pelosi's office. The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA) told reporters, "We were down in the basement and navigated the tunnels and there was confusion as to where they wanted us. We're here, we're being safe."

The Hill (1/6, Byrnes, Marcos, 5.69M) reports under the headline "Pro-Trump Mob Overruns Capitol, Forcing Evacuation" that "the House and Senate were less than an hour into debating the first GOP objection to a state that Biden won — Arizona — when they were forced to abruptly recess as mostly maskless people crowded into the hallways around each chamber."

McClatchy (1/6, 29K) reports under the headline "Rioters Encouraged By President Trump Smash Through Police Lines To Occupy U.S. Capitol," while the Philadelphia Inquirer (1/6, Terruso, Tamari, Seidman) calls the incident an "attempted
insurrection." Politico (1/6, Ferris, Beavers, Zanona, 6.73M) reports under the headline "Hill Erupts Into Chaos After Rioters Storm Capitol" that "pro-Donald Trump rioters stormed the Capitol Wednesday afternoon."

Politico (1/6, Forsey, Niedzwieidek, 6.73M) reports, "Leading Trump-world figures are denouncing the violent occupation of the U.S. Capitol and imploring [Trump] to do the same." Former White House communications director Alyssa Farah urged him on Wednesday afternoon to "condemn" his supporters who stormed the Capitol." Former chief of staff Mick Mulvaney tweeted, "The President's tweet is not enough. He can stop this now and needs to do exactly that. Tell these folks to go home." Kellyanne Conway tweeted, "STOP. Just STOP. Peace. Law and Order. Safety for All." The Hill (1/6, Polis, 5.69M) reports Ivanka Trump, in a now-deleted tweet, "wrote, "American Patriots -- any security breach or disrespect to our law enforcement is unacceptable. The violence must stop immediately. Please be peaceful."

Peter Baker of the New York Times (1/6, 20.6M) writes, "In a remarkable scene evocative of coups and uprisings associated with authoritarian countries around the world, the Capitol was put on lockdown as tear gas was deployed inside the citadel of American democracy and police officers guarding the House chamber drew their pistols in an armed standoff. ... At what point does this get called an attempted coup? It has often been said that if the United States were to succumb, it would be because of an attack from within, not an assault by terrorists or by a foreign adversary. And indeed, democracy is under actual, physical assault. ... The responsibility for this day of unconscionable attacks by Americans on the heart of our elective system belongs to Trump. But his enablers have much to answer for as well, and much to regret."

US Attorney Condemn Capitol Riot While Wray Remains Mum. ABC News (1/6, Barr, Mallin, 2.44M) reports, "Outgoing U.S. attorneys from around the country decried Wednesday's storming of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., with some pleading to charge any from their state who may be found to have violated federal laws." ABC News adds, "At least 12 have thus far come out publicly to say they would charge those involved if they came from their jurisdictions. Former U.S. attorney Zachary Terwilliger, a President Donald Trump appointee set to soon depart from his position leading the office the Eastern District of Virginia, called what happened at the Capitol a 'tragedy.'" The FBI "in a statement said they are helping their law enforcement partners, but thus far there has been no statement from FBI Director Christopher Wray himself."

FBI Seeks Tips on Identifying Rioters. NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports, "The FBI on Wednesday evening put out a call for information related to the mob that stormed the Capitol. The FBI is seeking information that will assist in identifying individuals who are actively instigating violence in Washington, DC, the agency said in an announcement. The FBI is accepting tips and digital media depicting rioting and violence in the U.S. Capitol Building and surrounding area in Washington, DC, on January 6, 2021." NBC News adds, "Only a handful of people were arrested during the unrest Wednesday."

US Capitol Security Under Scrutiny. ABC News (1/6, Levine, 2.44M) reports, "Political leaders demanded late Wednesday to know why law enforcement did not better fortify the United States Capitol after extremist groups for days chatted online about their plans to react violently to the final formal step of certifying President Donald Trump's 2020 election defeat. 'How was it breached?' 'Based on the fairly straightforward intelligence that thousands of angry people were going to come and show their presence -- including groups prone to violence -- law enforcement was totally ill-prepared to handle today's incident,' said ABC News contributor Brad Garrett, a former FBI special agent. 'This was a phenomenal law enforcement failure.'"

Newsweek (1/7, 2.67M) reports, "They knew it could happen. They feared that Donald Trump would pull a 'Samson,' bringing down the whole house on top of him in the two weeks before he left the White House. Officials from the FBI, the Secret Service, Homeland Security, the District of Columbia government, the Pentagon, the National Guard, and the Joint Task Force--National Capital Region who spoke to Newsweek last weekend on condition of anonymity, all talked about the potential for protesters and militias and paramilitary goons -- egged on by the president -- to storm Capitol Hill and even the Capitol building itself." Newsweek adds, "A half-dozen sources spoke openly about this very scenario: that the mob would take over the 'People's House' and that somehow the system would break down."

In his column for the Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M), David Ignatius writes, "As Justice and Defense department officials planned for the turmoil that was coming Wednesday, they knew that pro-Donald Trump protesters -- including some violent extremists -- might try to storm the U.S. Capitol as lawmakers prepared to certify the election of Joe Biden. So why weren't they better prepared for the catastrophic assault that took place?" Ignatius adds, "That's the riddle at the center of Wednesday's spasm of violent anarchy: Officials saw the mob coming but weren't ready or able to stop it -- and they allowed hundreds to invade the
Capitol, threaten lawmakers and, for a time, foment a coup inside the most precious symbol of U.S. democracy. Senior officials believed that the force they were assembling of 6,000 to 8,000 police and law enforcement officers – drawn from the D.C. police, the Capitol Police, the FBI and various federal agencies – would be sufficient to contain the protests.”

CNN (1/6, Perez, Polantz, Mattingly, Salama, Alvarez, 89.21M) reports, “The chaotic federal response to the Trump rally Wednesday, which was overwhelmed by rioters who stormed the US Capitol, stood in sharp contrast to the heavily-armed presence of thousands of federal authorities during summer protests in Washington, DC, following the police killing of George Floyd.” CNN adds, “Mobos broke through police barricades and rampaged through the Capitol, vandalizing offices and prompting the evacuation of lawmakers just after 2 p.m. ET Wednesday. ‘Everything. Everything went wrong,’ one Capitol Police officer on the scene said.” According to CNN, “The law enforcement response that allowed a typically heavily secured federal landmark to fall under attack, with rioters breaking through windows and into lawmakers’ offices and gathering places, came from a hesitant federal bureaucracy after early assurances from DC and Capitol law enforcement agencies.”

The Daily Beast (1/6, Rohrlich, 933K) reports, “Police were ill-prepared and made fateful mistakes that allowed a pro-Trump protest to morph into an unprecedented and protected sacking of the Capitol on Wednesday, experts told The Daily Beast. They said the mob’s breach of the building, after President Trump exhorted them to “fight like hell” to overturn the election, could have been avoided with some basic policing protocols – and heads should roll for the deadly debacle.” The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Viswanatha, Gurman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also reports.

Justice Department, Federal Court System Were Hacked By Russians. The Washington Post (1/6, Nakashima, 10.52M) reports that the Justice Department “has become the latest known victim of Russian hackers, who are engaged in an ongoing campaign of cyberespionage that has afflicted federal agencies and the private sector.” A DOJ spokesman on Wednesday “said that the department’s Office of the Chief Information Officer, which handles network security, learned on Dec. 24 of malicious activity linked to the hacking campaign. The intrusions into other federal agencies and technology firms were discovered earlier last month, and in the Justice Department’s case involved its unclassified Office 365 email system, spokesman Marc Raimondi said.”

Reuters (1/6, Satter) reports that DOJ “has more than 100,000 employees across a series of law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the U.S. Marshals Service.” The DOJ statement also said “that the Justice Department had no indication any classified systems were impacted.” However, “winning access to as many as thousands of email inboxes from the nation’s premier law enforcement organization could still provide an intelligence bonanza for foreign hackers.”

Politico (1/6, Geller, 6.73M) quotes Raimondi as saying in a statement, “At this point, the number of potentially accessed [Microsoft Office] mailboxes appears limited to around 3-percent and we have no indication that any classified systems were impacted.”

The Washington Post (1/6, Riley, 10.52M) reports, “The Trump administration formally accused Russia of “likely” hacking U.S. government agencies. The administration formally accused Russia of “likely” being behind the most devastating hack of U.S. government agencies in years.” This “statement, made jointly by four agencies in charge of intelligence and cybersecurity, is the first time the U.S. government has linked Russia to the hack that also affected critical companies that were also clients of network management system SolarWinds.” The statement indicated “it found less than 10 federal agencies had internal computer systems infiltrated in the breach; known victims include the federal departments of State, Treasury, Homeland Security, Commerce and Energy.”

Meanwhile, an editorial about the hacks in the San Francisco Chronicle (1/6, 2.44M) says, “The apparent reach of Russian cyber sleuthing is hitting new levels with Washington stumbling to contain it. The evidence is coming in a post mortem look at a hack of top government agencies that’s turning up as a much bigger intrusion into Washington’s computer links.” According to the editorial, “The probes burrowed into the likes of the Treasury Department, Homeland Security and National Institutes of Health,” which is “a reach that touches vital areas such as financial controls, border security and health research, including work on the viral pandemic.”
Rob Knake writes in *Foreign Affairs* (1/6, 522K) that as the investigation into the SolarWinds breach continues, investigators will likely find that Russia “easily evaded US cybersdefenses” due to a lack of execution of the US’ cyberstrategy, not in the strategy itself. The editorial board of the *Christian Science Monitor* (1/6, 234K) writes that security “has lagged behind,” and the “biggest change coming out of the SolarWinds debacle is likely to be a new insistence that security take a top priority.” The Monitor says the “software used by government often overlaps with that in use in the private sector,” so new “security standards for software the government procures could increase security for products that all Americans use.”

**Officials Investigating JetBrains’ Role In Russian Hack.** The *New York Times* (1/6, Perlroth, Sanger, Barnes, 20.6M) reports US intel agencies and private cybersecurity investigators “are examining the role of a widely used software company, JetBrains, in the far-reaching Russian hacking of federal agencies, private corporations and United States infrastructure, according to officials and executives briefed on the inquiry.” Officials are examining whether the company, “founded by three Russian engineers in the Czech Republic with research labs in Russia, was breached and used as a pathway for hackers to insert backdoors into the software of an untold number of technology companies.” JetBrains “is used by developers at 300,000 businesses. One of them is SolarWinds, the company based in Austin, Texas, whose network management software played a central role in allowing hackers into government and private networks.”

**Two Louisville Officers Fired Over Police Raid That Led To Breonna Taylor’s Death.** The *AP* (1/6, Lowan) reports that “two more officers involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor have been fired.” Former Detectives Myles Cosgrove and Joshua Jaynes were served dismissal letters on Tuesday. The dismissals “follow that of officer Brett Hankison, who was fired in September after being indicted by a grand jury on charges of endangering Taylor’s neighbors by firing bullets that went through her home and into an adjacent apartment.” However, “none of the three white officers who fired into [Taylor’s] home were charged by a grand jury in her death.”

The *Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal* (1/6, Duvall, Costello, 554K) reports, “Cosgrove, who the FBI concluded fired the shot that killed the 26-year-old emergency room technician, violated procedures for use of force and failing to use a body camera,” while Jaynes “was found in violation of department policy for truthfulness and search warrant preparation.” Other officers were sanctioned others for their actions surrounding the raid. However, “no officers were charged in Taylor’s death,” although “an FBI investigation expected to look into civil rights violations.” Cosgrove and Jaynes can appeal their firings to the Police Merit Board, which can set aside the chief findings and order a different penalty.

**Incoming Louisville Police Chief Resigned As Head Of Atlanta Police After Black Man’s Killing.** The *New York Times* (1/6, Wright, 20.6M) reports that incoming Louisville Police Chief Erika Shields resigned last year as head of the Atlanta police “after a high-profile police shooting” of a Black man. “Her selection highlights the difficulty of filling police chief vacancies nationwide.” The Times adds that “a host of qualified chiefs with progressive views,” such a Shields, were “sidelined after high-profile incidents of police violence, often sacrificed by elected officials looking for political cover.” They “were focused on changing the culture in their departments, but hamstrung by contractual protections for bad officers, opposition from powerful unions, and a hands-off approach by” Trump Administration’s Justice Department. Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said Ms. Shields is “an experienced, progressive, reform-minded leader who believes in the role of policing.”

**British Judge Denies Assange Bail As US Appeals Extradition Ruling.** The *AP* (1/6) reports that on Wednesday, a British judge “denied bail to WikiLeaks’ founder Julian Assange, ordering him to remain in a high-security prison while U.K. courts decide whether he will be sent to the United States to face espionage charges.” District Judge Vanessa Baraitser “said Assange must remain in prison while the courts consider an appeal by U.S. authorities against her decision not to extradite him.” According to the AP, Baraitser “said Assange ‘has an incentive to abscond’ and there is a good chance he would fail to return to court if freed.”

The *New York Times* (1/6, 20.6M) reports that on Monday, Baraitser “ruled that Mr. Assange could not be extradited to the United States because he would be at risk of suicide, and his lawyers sought to have him released on bail while the appeals process plays out.” The Times notes that in 2019, Assange “was indicted by the United States authorities...on 17 counts of...
violating the Espionage Act and one count of computer misuse over his role in obtaining and publishing secret military and diplomatic documents related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan." The Times adds that Claire Dobbin, a lawyer representing the United States, "said on Wednesday that American prosecutors would appeal the extradition ruling, which is likely to keep Mr. Assange's case in British courts for at least several months." The Washington Post (1/6, Booth, 10.52M), Bloomberg (1/6, Milligan, 3.57M), and Reuters (1/6, Holden, MacAskill) have more on the ruling.

Biden Selects Merrick Garland To Lead DOJ. The AP (1/6, Tucker, Balsamo) reports that Joe Biden has "selected Merrick Garland, a federal appeals court judge who in 2016 was snubbed by Republicans for a seat on the Supreme Court, as his attorney general." The AP says in choosing Garland, Biden is "turning to an experienced judge who held senior positions at the Justice Department decades ago, including as a supervisor of the prosecution of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing." The AP says Biden "may be banking on Garland's credentials and reputation for moderation to ensure confirmation."

USA Today (1/6, Phillips, Johnson, 12.7M) says by selecting Garland, "Biden appears to be aiming to create a department free from political influence." Similarly, the Los Angeles Times (1/6, Hook, 3.37M) says the choice "highlights Biden's desire to restore independence to a Justice Department that has been scarred by the intense partisan politics of the Trump era." Politico (1/6, Pager, Gerstein, Cheney, 6.73M) reports, "The announcement of the selection could come as early as Thursday, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) told reporters on Wednesday."

Reuters (1/6, Renshaw) reports Senate Judiciary Chairman Graham "said on Twitter that Garland 'would be a sound choice' for attorney general." Graham described Garland as "a man of great character, integrity, and tremendous competency in the law."

The Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) says Garland "enjoys a reputation as a unifying, moderating force on the appeals court, and some Democratic advisers said they view his selection as a signal to congressional Republicans that the department will operate in an evenhanded fashion in the Biden administration." However, according to the Post, "some defense lawyers and criminal-justice-reform advocates have said they worry Garland's record on the bench shows he is too deferential to the government and law enforcement -- and perhaps would not be as aggressive about implementing the kind of dramatic changes they seek." The New York Times (1/6, Schmidt, Liptak, Kaplan, Benner, 20.6M) reports that Garland "has sometimes disappointed liberals with his rulings." According to the Times, "progressive groups have...inundated Mr. Biden...asking him to nominate an attorney general with a progressive track record on issues around race and policing." The Times adds, "The choice of Mr. Garland, a white man with a record of favoring law enforcement over people accused of crimes, signaled to some progressives that their concerns were dismissed."

CNBC (1/6, Higgins, Schwartz, 7.34M) says Garland "will face pressure from liberals to prosecute Donald Trump after Biden takes office." CNBC adds, "Another test would be how he would handle an investigation into Hunter Biden, the incoming president's son. Hunter Biden revealed last month that a federal investigation is underway into his taxes." The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Bravin, Gurman, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says Garland is not close to the Biden family, which transition officials view as a positive, given the current investigation.

A Wall Street Journal (1/6, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial praises choice of Garland over a more polarizing figure. The Journal says the choice augurs well for Biden's Administration.

Additional coverage includes the Washington Times (1/6, Tucker, Balsamo, 626K), the Washington Examiner (1/6, Dunleavy, 868K), and NPR (1/6, Johnson, 3.69M).

Biden Choosing Monaco For Deputy AG. Bloomberg (1/6, Strohm, Epstein, 3.57M) reports that Biden is "picking Lisa Monaco for deputy attorney general and Vanita Gupta as associate attorney general, according to people familiar with those decisions. Monaco spent almost two decades at the Justice Department and was homeland security adviser in the Obama administration. Gupta headed the department's Civil Rights Division under President Obama."

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Please direct comments and concerns to
> Good morning,

> From the overnight
Capitol breach prompts urgent questions about security failures

By
Carol D. Leonnig,
Aaron C. Davis,
Dan Lamothe and
David A. Fahrenthold
Jan. 7, 2021 at 12:22 a.m. EST

The storming of the U.S. Capitol by a mob of President Trump's supporters on Wednesday was a disastrous failure of security: In a city on high alert, in a building with its own 2,000-officer police department, people forced their way into the sanctums of American democracy with nothing more than flagpoles, riot shields and shoves.

Nobody stopped them — and some officers were captured on video appearing to stand back as rioters streamed inside.

On Wednesday, while police were still struggling to eject the last intruders from the Capitol, current and former law enforcement officials said it appeared the U.S. Capitol Police and other agencies had failed to anticipate the size and intentions of the crowd that Trump urged to march up Pennsylvania Avenue to where lawmakers were gathered.

On the streets of Washington, federal law enforcement agencies and the National Guard — which had been intimidatingly visible during protests this summer following the death of George Floyd — kept a much lower profile.

And at the Capitol itself, police had set out low barriers and officers were largely in street uniforms, not riot gear. All were prepared to confine a protest, but not to deter an attack, law enforcement officials said.

Law enforcement experts said they were mystified by the tactics that police used once the mob was already inside the Capitol.

One woman was shot and killed by Capitol police as officers tried to stop a group from penetrating the building, according to two law enforcement officials, who, like others interviewed for this report, spoke on the condition of

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anonymity to describe security operations.
But other police seemed to stand by, observing the disorder instead of stopping it: One image posted on social media showed an officer taking a selfie with one of the intruders, and a video seemed to show officers opening the security fence to let Trump supporters closer.
Police did not appear to try to detain the rioters, allowing them to leave unhindered. One even held a woman’s hand to steady her on the Capitol steps.

The result was an invasion, in which a heavily guarded symbol of American strength and order fell to chaos with stunning speed.

“It’s like watching a real-life horror movie. I mean, we train and plan and budget every day, basically, to have this not happen,” said Kim Dine, who was chief of the Capitol Police from 2012 to 2016. “How it happened, I can’t figure that out.”

Trump supporters storm U.S. Capitol, with one woman killed and tear gas fired
Dine said he was surprised to see that, on Wednesday, the Capitol Police had allowed rioters to gather so close to the building, on the Capitol steps — and that, once they forced their way inside, the rioters were not immediately arrested.

“We protect the people, the place and the process that makes us the United States. That’s why we’re there,” Dine said. But, he said, on Wednesday, “The people, the place, the process — all were attacked.”

Shortly after the shooting, the D.C. Police took over handling the removal of crowds from the Capitol grounds. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) said the Capitol Police requested the assistance of D.C. police officers to help “restore order at the Capitol.”

The Capitol Police, overwhelmed by the crowds, took responsibility for speeding lawmakers to safety and ejecting those who had gotten inside, according to two people familiar with the incident. Once rioters were outside, D.C. police handled removing them from the external stairs, porticos and balconies of the Capitol.

Very few people were arrested for the breach, one person said, because officers didn’t have enough backup to take the time to arrest and detain them.

“There just weren’t enough personnel to do everything,” one law enforcement official briefed on the episode said.

Wednesday’s response by the Capitol Police was a striking contrast to how the force has handled apparent threats near the building in the past. In 2013, Capitol Police and Secret Service personnel opened fire on a car that alleg ed had rammed a security barricade. The driver, Miriam Carey, was killed, while her baby daughter was in the back seat.

The Capitol Police did not respond to multiple requests for comment Wednesday about its staffing, preparedness or handling of the attack on the Capitol, including whether its officers detained any of the rioters.

By late Wednesday night, D.C. police said they had arrested 52 people, including 47 for curfew violations and unlawful entry.
No members of Congress appeared to have been hurt Wednesday. After the invasion, many thanked the Capitol Police and other agencies for keeping them safe.

But some said they were stunned to find themselves herded into secure rooms, forced to shelter in place while a mob ransacked their offices and officers in the House chamber stood behind barricades, pointing their guns at the door.

Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio), who chairs a committee that oversees the Capitol Police budget, said Wednesday night that he expected officials to be fired.

"There was not supposed to be anyone near the Capitol. You would be reasonably close, to be able to protest and express your view, but nobody belongs on the Capitol plaza, nobody ever goes on the Capitol steps, that is an illegal act. . . . Those were illegal acts, and those people should have been immediately arrested," Ryan told reporters via Zoom.

"I think it's pretty clear that there are going to be a number of people who are going to be without employment very, very soon," he said.

The senior leadership of the Capitol Police, including the chief, the spokesperson and the Capitol security officials who oversee the police, House Sergeant at Arms Paul Irving and Senate Sergeant at Arms Mike Stenger, did not answer or respond to calls and emails seeking their comment.

Security at the Capitol building is controlled by Congress itself. While members often speak with pride about the openness of "The People's House," they have also spent hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade the complex's security — adding anti-vehicle barricades and building a new underground complex to screen visitors far from the Capitol itself.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Congress also expanded the size of its own police force from about 800 officers to about 2,000 — as many officers as the big-city departments in Atlanta or Cleveland. The department's annual budget is about $460 million.

Congress also expanded the size of its own police force from about 800 officers to about 2,000 — as many officers as the big-city departments in Atlanta or Cleveland. The department's annual budget is about $460 million.

Trump's presidency finishes in 'American carnage' as rioters storm the Capitol

The Capitol's current police chief, Steven A. Sund, is a 25-year veteran of the D.C. police and "a recognized expert in critical incident management," according to his official biography.

The Capitol Police was short some officers Wednesday, because they had been infected with the coronavirus or exposed to someone in a way that required quarantine, according to people familiar with the situation. However, law enforcement officials said, the Capitol Police and other federal agencies also seemed to underestimate the potential threat posed by Trump's supporters — even as the D.C. police grew more alarmed.

D.C. police patrol the streets around the Capitol but do not usually have any role in protecting the building itself. In recent days, D.C. officials said, they had tracked reservations for incoming buses, and read Trump's calls for supporters to gather for a "wild" protest in Washington.
“It was then that we realized this could be a stadium-sized crowd — a full-fledged Trump rally, and much bigger than anything we had seen previously,” said a senior District official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the city’s planning.

On Monday, Bowser began a public campaign, urging all city residents to stay away from downtown Wednesday, and through intermediaries, promising to keep pro-Trump protesters from defacing the recently renamed Black Lives Matter Plaza, north of the White House.

But even as people poured into downtown Washington midmorning Wednesday, Capitol Police officials assured D.C. police leaders that they felt comfortable with their security setup, according to a senior District law enforcement official.

There were a limited number of federal law enforcement personnel deployed around the city, after District officials — who did not want to see a repeat of the forcible clearing of Lafayette Square last summer — asked them to stand back.

“To be clear, the District of Columbia is not requesting other federal law enforcement personnel and discourages any additional deployment without immediate notification to, and consultation with, MPD if such plans are underway,” Bowser wrote in a letter to the Justice Department on Tuesday.

Pentagon officials also wanted to keep a low profile, reacting to criticism of the military’s response during the George Floyd protests, when Guard members patrolled D.C. streets.

In the run-up to Wednesday, Defense Department officials had approved a request from D.C. officials for the activation of 340 National Guard members, on the condition that they did not carry firearms and were in a supporting role, such as traffic duty.

Around midday, Trump addressed a swelling crowd of supporters, and suggested that they march down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol — where both houses of Congress were expected to meet for a marathon session to formalize President-elect Joe Biden’s victory.

When they got there, they found a set of barricades set up by Capitol Police. Those were intended as a show of force, law enforcement officials said, but the rioters simply hopped over them or knocked them over.

Policing experts say they are taught to set up multiple lines of defense, starting far from the building they need to defend. In this case, however, it appeared that the police did not make a concerted effort to stop the intruders until they were on the Capitol’s steps — where videos showed officers not wearing riot gear in shoving matches with rioters.

“A good perimeter, and then a show of force. Enough people that can deal with the crowd that’s coming at you,” Ed Davis, the former commissioner of police in Boston, said in an interview as he watched the invasion on TV. “Right now, there’s almost nothing here. This is incomprehensible.”

Federal law enforcement officials on Wednesday said the Capitol Police had not expected so many Trump supporters. Now, because the mob had been allowed so close, they were able to move around all sides of the building — looking for doors and windows where no officers were present.

"Capital Police did have a plan, but apparently they assumed business as usual," said one law enforcement...
Capitol Police did not have a plan, but apparently they assumed business as usual, said one law enforcement official. "They didn't expect Trump to incite them and that they would forcefully push their way in. Bottom line, there just wasn't enough personnel to prevent a mob from pushing in."

Sometime after 2:10 p.m., one male intruder used a clear plastic riot shield to break through the windows on a first floor to the South Side of the building, then hopped in with a few others, according to officials familiar with the incident. Police believe that once inside, other rioters opened another door or a few doors to let still more of their compatriots in.

The breach triggered an instant call for help across Washington to other law enforcement partners. At the U.S. Secret Service, headquarters sent out an emergency alert to all gun-carrying Secret Service personnel to report to headquarters in preparation to help secure the Capitol.

At one point in the afternoon, Capitol Police also requested that Defense Department officials send an additional 200 National Guard members to assist them, according to defense officials familiar with the issue, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Pentagon officials did not immediately respond to that request. They offered instead to send some National Guard members to backfill police in other roles, allowing additional law enforcement to bolster security outside the Capitol, defense officials said. But less than hour later, about 3 p.m., Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy instead activated the entire D.C. National Guard, as the severity of the violence became apparent.

Defense Department officials were "flabbergasted" at the criticism about the limited size of the initial National Guard presence, noting that they provided exactly what Bowser requested, according to a senior defense official.

Late Wednesday, federal law enforcement agencies deployed hundreds of agents from FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. Marshals Service to assist the Capitol Police. "We intend to enforce the laws of our land," said Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen.

But, by that time, the mob was in.

They bypassed the magnetometers, strolled the hallways and posed for photos in lawmakers' offices and in the Senate chamber. One was shown in photos carrying away a lectern. At one point, security officers inside the House chamber used furniture to barricade the door — the same portal presidents walk through to give the State of the Union address — drawing their weapons and pointing them at the mob trying to get in.

"A couple of months ago when Black Lives Matters was here protesting, we couldn't move because of the police and others. Well, where were they today?" Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-N.J.) said afterward.

"We are going to have a situational come-to-Jesus over what happened here today," Watson Coleman said.

It was not until about 7 p.m., roughly five hours after the breach, that the Capitol was cleared and members of Congress returned to their chambers — escorted by heavily armed FBI agents and police in riot gear.

Law enforcement officials worry that a dangerous lesson could linger: that a mob could shut down American democracy itself, by targeting its weakly defended centers of power. The incident prompted the Secret Service to begin to reassess security plans for the Jan. 20 inauguration, according to one person briefed on discussions.
And lawmakers said they fear the mayhem that was uncorked will not quickly subside.

“When a president who speaks to people in an echo chamber tells them not to trust any of the institutions of their government and then tells them to go to the Capitol and be wild, this is what happens,” Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-N.J.) said in an interview.

“If you just feed this beast in an effort to appease it, it just gets stronger and bolder until it comes after the very people who are trying to appease it,” he added.

Some in the mob seemed to have already learned.

“We’ll be back, traitors!” one man yelled, as police finally drove the group away from the Capitol in the evening.
Under Siege

The Story
The United States has been attacked.

What did we just live through?
An assault on democracy. Yesterday, as Congress gathered to certify President-elect Joe Biden’s electoral win, a mob of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol: scaling walls, shattering windows, breaking into federal offices, taking over the Senate floor, and stealing furniture. Lawmakers were evacuated and the Capitol was put on lockdown. Four people died. At least 14 officers were injured. Videos show groups attacking the press, destroying equipment, and yelling an all-too-familiar message from the president himself: the media is the “enemy of the people.” The National Guard was eventually called to quell the rioters. At least 52 people were arrested.

I still can’t believe this happened in the US.
It did. And it was the first major attack on the Capitol since 1814 – when the British burned it down during the War of 1812.

Quote of the Day
"To those who wreaked havoc in our Capitol today: you did not win." – Vice President Mike Pence
Many are blaming President Trump. For months, he's rallied supporters to believe that the election was rigged despite all evidence to the contrary. And made comments in the past that were perceived as inciting violence (see: this, this, and this). At a rally yesterday, he vowed to "never concede" and urged his supporters to march to the Capitol, telling them "you will never take back our country with weakness." His personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, pushed for a "trial by combat."

And what did Trump say about the violence?
While his Congress barricaded in the Capitol, the president released a video. He told the rioters that they should go home, but "we love you, you're very special." He later added this is what happens when "a sacred landslide election victory" is "viciously stripped away from great patriots." The posts were removed by social media outlets. And he has been temporarily banned from Twitter and Facebook.

And what are others saying?
Lawmakers across the aisle are condemning the violence. Biden said it "borders on sedition" (inciting rebellion against a gov). And activists are calling out the stark discrepancy in police response compared to Black Lives Matter protests. The day's events also seemed to deliver a jolt to the Republican Party, inspiring some longtime Trump allies to speak out forcefully. VP Mike Pence resisted pressure by Trump to defy the Constitution and reject the electoral results. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) called Trump a "consequential president" but said Biden will be "the legitimate president of the United States." Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said if the election were overturned, it would send US democracy into a "death spiral."
Some lawmakers are calling for impeachment or an early removal of Trump from office. And while several Republicans backed off their challenge to the election results, others pushed on – to no avail. In the early hours of the morning, Pence officially declared Biden the winner of the Nov 3 presidential election. And Trump – for the first time – acknowledged he will leave the White House, adding that there would be an "orderly transition" of power.

theSkimm
We live in a democracy. A democracy that has been in place for centuries — allowing us the right to vote and ensuring a peaceful transfer of power. Yesterday's events showed how fragile that is. And the damage that can be done by a president unwilling to protect it.

On That Blue Train to Georgia
In the midst of chaos and uncertainty in DC, things became clear in Georgia. Democrats won both of Georgia's Senate seats for the first time in nearly two decades. And have essentially won the majority in the US Senate for the first time since 2014. Here's what you might have missed...

Yesterday, news outlets confirmed Democratic candidate Jon Ossoff beat incumbent Sen. David Perdue (R) in a high-stakes runoff election. The 33-year-old Georgia native will be the youngest senator in 40 years. And GA's first Jewish senator. His win was the second Dem victory this week after Rev. Raphael Warnock's historic election as Georgia's first Black senator. Now, Senate control is tied 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats. Meaning, VP-elect Kamala Harris will act as a tie-breaker once inaugurated. And while the Dems' majorities in the House and Senate are narrow, they'll help drive the Biden admin's legislative agenda on things like climate change and health care.

Turnout in Georgia was record-breaking, with more than 4 million ballots cast. But one name is resonating as loud as the winners': Stacey Abrams.

And Also...This

Whose case has updates...

Breonna Taylor's. Earlier this week, the Louisville Metro Police Department fired two more officers involved in Taylor's shooting death back in March. A detective was fired for shooting 16 rounds into the 26-year-old's home and failing to activate his body camera. And the other officer for failing to follow proper protocol in obtaining the search warrant that led to the raid. The firings came months after the Kentucky AG said no officers would be directly charged in Taylor's death. And as the police dept got a new chief who said she's focused on "rebuilding community trust." The Louisville police union called the firings "unjustified." The officers could appeal.
What's saying 'EU'r approved'...

The EU. Yesterday, its medicines agency gave Moderna's coronavirus vaccine the go-ahead, providing the 27-nation bloc with a second vaccine option. And has secured up to 160 million doses of it (enough for 80 million people). The move came as countries like Germany and Italy have extended or plan to extend restrictions, and as more countries (think: the Netherlands, France) face criticism for their slow vaccine rollout.

Who's being called back...

Judge Merrick Garland, apparently. Today, the DC federal appeals court judge is expected to be nominated as President-elect Joe Biden's attorney general. In 2016, Garland was President Barack Obama's Supreme Court pick — but Republicans shut that down arguing a SCOTUS seat shouldn't be filled in an election year. (How ironic.) This time, the odds are likely to be in Garland's favor.

Who took 2020 to new heists...

This duo.

Skimm’rs
We like to celebrate the wins, big and small. Let us know how your friends, neighbors, coworkers (and yes, even you) are making career moves, checking off goals, or making an impact in the community.

Feeling C-suite...Jessica B and Courtney B (TX). They've been promoted to VPs at the tech startup they've both worked at for seven years. And are proud of how their journey has highlighted empathy, motherhood, and friendship. Learn more.

Driving support...Donna K (TN). She's part of the St. Christopher Truckers Relief Fund, an org that helps cover essential household expenses when truck drivers experience an illness or injury that takes them out of work. More info here.

(Some) Birthdays...Katie Couric (NY), Megan Mairs (FL), Carly Cooke (NC), Allie Burton (GA), Ann Harrison (OK), Samara Carranza (OR), Julie Bollinger (CA), Shari Kenney (LA), Alison O'Connor Sutherland (CO), Shelby Lewandoski (GA), Samantha Lee Pokrajac (NV), Sarah Fagler (FL), Kate Sullivan (TN), Natalie Alexander (CA), Becca Henthorne (FL)

*Paging all members of the Skimm. Reach out here for a chance to be featured.

Skimm Share
Skimm HQ's off to a busy start. Share theSkimm with your friend whose New Year's resolution is to practice daily meditation.

Or use this referral link theskimm.com/?r=3JJ21

Skimm'd by Maria del Carmen Corpus, Iliriza Smajli, Chen Robineau, and Julie Shain
TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF
DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021 6:30 AM EST

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LEADING THE NEWS

Trump Supporters Storm Capitol Building, Halting Count Of Electoral Vote.
The AP (1/6, Mascaro, Jalonick) reports, "Angry supporters" of President Trump "stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in a chaotic protest aimed at thwarting a peaceful transfer of power, forcing lawmakers to be rushed from the building and interrupting challenges to Joe Biden's Electoral College victory. " The President "issued a restrained call for peace well after the melee was underway but did not urge supporters to disperse. Earlier he had egged them on to march to Capitol Hill."

USA Today (1/6, Vancy-Bragg, Bacon, Carless, 12.7M) reports, "At a rally about an hour before the protesters broke through police lines at the Capitol, Trump had urged them to go to the building." The AP (1/6) reports Trump issued a video message "more than two hours after protesters began storming the Capitol. ... Trump opened his video, saying, 'I know your pain. I know your hurt. But you have to go home now.' ... He also said, 'we can't play into the hands of these people. We have to have peace. So go home. We love you.'" The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (1/6, 1.46M) reports the video "was posted on [Trump's] Twitter page, but Twitter has now opted to block all engagement with the president's page, which prohibits shares, likes and comments on his posts."

The Boston Globe (1/6, 1.04M) reports, "President-elect Joe Biden called on President Trump to go on national television and 'demand an end to this siege.' Biden "said he was 'deeply shocked and saddened' that the US had 'come to such a dark moment.'" House Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer said in a joint statement, "We are calling on President Trump to demand that all protestors leave the U.S. Capitol and Capitol Grounds immediately."

USA Today (1/6, King, Groppe, Wu, 12.7M) reports Vice President Pence urged the group to
leave the Capitol. Pence tweeted, "The violence and destruction taking place at the US Capitol Must Stop and it Must Stop Now. Anyone involved must respect Law Enforcement officers and immediately leave the building." Pence "said that while every American has the right to protest peacefully, 'this attack on our Capitol will not be tolerated and those involved will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.'"

The New York Daily News (1/6, Sommerfeldt, 2.51M) reports, "Before Pence was abruptly shuttled out of the chamber, he had informed Congress that he would not attempt to single-handedly throw out electoral votes certified for Biden, indirectly rebuffing Trump's demand that he do so. As his supporters stormed the building, Trump started attacking his vice president over Twitter." Trump tweeted, "Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution, giving States a chance to certify a correct set of facts, not the fraudulent or inaccurate ones which they were asked to previously certify. USA demands the truth!"

Reuters (1/6, Zengerle, Landay) reports police "with drawn guns and teargas...sought to clear" the Capitol. Members of the Senate and House "were evacuated after pro-Trump protesters surged through the halls of Congress, forcing both chambers to suspend deliberations." The New York Post (1/6, Nelson, Bowden, Fels, 7.45M) reports, "One reporter tweeted that a protester made it all the way to the dais of the Senate chamber, and declared: 'Trump won that election.'"

The Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) says "a day that began with thousands of President Trump's supporters in Washington for demonstrations turned violent as many in attendance saw Wednesday as a last stand for Trump." The New York Times (1/6, Fandos, Cochrane, Thrush, 20.6M) reports, "Around 2:15 p.m., as the House and Senate debated a move by a faction of Republicans to overturn the election results, security rushed Vice President Mike Pence out of the Senate chamber and the Capitol building was placed on lockdown. ... A woman, who seemed to be part of the group that stormed the Capitol, can be seen in a video posted on social media being shot inside the building. She was in critical condition with a wound to the neck."

The Arizona Republic (1/6, 1.05M) reports, "Both chambers of Congress went into lockdown as a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol buildings. The scene descended into chaos." The Dallas Morning News (1/6, 772K) reports, "Pence was whisked out of the Senate, which abruptly went into recess and was then evacuated. One protester later sat at the rostrum where Pence had been presiding. Another defiantly posed" in Pelosi's office. The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA) told reporters, "We were down in the basement and navigated the tunnels and there was confusion as to where they wanted us. We're here, we're being safe."

The Hill (1/6, Byrnes, Marcos, 5.69M) reports under the headline "Pro-Trump Mob Overruns Capitol, Forcing Evacuation" that "the House and Senate were less than an hour into debating the first GOP objection to a state that Biden won - Arizona - when they were forced to abruptly recess as mostly maskless people crowded into the hallways around each chamber." McClatchy (1/6, 29K) reports under the headline "Rioters Encouraged By President Trump Smash Through Police Lines To Occupy U.S. Capitol," while the Philadelphia Inquirer (1/6, Terruso, Tamari, Seidman) calls the incident an "attempted insurrection." Politico (1/6, Ferris, Beavers, Zanona, 6.73M) reports under the headline "Hill Erupts Into Chaos After Rioters Storm Capitol" that "pro-Donald Trump rioters stormed the Capitol Wednesday afternoon."

Politico (1/6, Forgey, Niedzwiedek, 6.73M) reports, "Leading Trump-world figures are denouncing the violent occupation of the U.S. Capitol and imploring [Trump] to do the same." Former White House communications director Alyssa Farah "urged him on Wednesday afternoon to 'condemn' his supporters who stormed the Capitol." Former chief of staff Mick Mulvaney tweeted, "The President's tweet is not enough. He can stop this now and needs to do exactly that. Tell these folks to go home." Kellyanne Conway tweeted, "STOP. Just STOP. Peace. Law and Order. Safety for All." The Hill (1/6, Polus, 5.69M) reports Ivanka Trump, "in a now-deleted tweet," wrote, "American Patriots - any security breach or disrespect to our law enforcement is unacceptable. The violence must stop immediately. Please be peaceful."

Peter Baker of the New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) writes, "In a remarkable scene evocative of coups and uprisings associated with authoritarian countries around the world, the Capitol was put
on lockdown as tear gas was deployed inside the citadel of American democracy and police officers guarding the House chamber drew their pistols in an armed standoff. ... The extraordinary invasion of the Capitol came shortly after Mr. Trump egged on his admirers at a rally to march to the headquarters of Congress to protest its acceptance of the results of the election that he lost, even suggesting that he would join them, although he did not.”

The Los Angeles Times (1/6, 3.37M) editorializes, “Force edged toward insurrection at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday as a mob thousands strong – egged on by President Trump – breached barriers and forced their way into the halls of Congress. ... At what point does this get called an attempted coup? It has often been said that if the United States were to succumb, it would be because of an attack from within, not an assault by terrorists or by a foreign adversary. And indeed, democracy is under actual, physical assault. ... The responsibility for this day of unconscionable attacks by Americans on the heart of our elective system belongs to Trump. But his enablers have much to answer for as well, and much to regret.”

Four Dead, Including Woman Shot By Police Inside Capitol. Reuters (1/7) reports District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert Contee said four people had died and 52 were arrested in relation to Wednesday’s Capitol Hill events. Contee said 47 of the 52 arrests to date were related to violations of Mayor Muriel Bowser’s 6 p.m. curfew, with 26 of those involving people arrested on U.S. Capitol grounds. Several others were arrested on charges related to carrying unlicensed or prohibited firearms.” Contee also said “two pipe bombs were recovered from the headquarters of the Republican and Democratic national committees, as well as a cooler from a vehicle on U.S. Capitol grounds that contained Molotov cocktails.”

Three of the deaths were due to medical emergencies. The fourth, the Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) reports, was “35-year-old Ashli Babbitt, a California native and Air Force veteran,” who “was shot and killed during rioting in the Capitol on Wednesday. ... A Twitter account under Babbitt’s name had retweeted messages calling for Vice President Pence to resign and be charged with treason, videos of President Trump’s rallies and photos of Trump supporters flying to D.C. for the protests.” Rachel Scott said on ABC World News Tonight (1/6, story 2, 1:00, Muir, 7.75M), “We watched as that woman was rushed away on a stretcher, gushing blood, she was shot here at the US Capitol. Tonight, we are learning that she has unfortunately died.”

US Attorneys Condemn Capitol Riot While Wray Remains Mum. ABC News (1/6, Barr, Mallin, 2.44M) reports, “Outgoing U.S. attorneys from around the country decried Wednesday’s storming of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., with some pledges to charge any from their state who may be found to have violated federal laws.” ABC News adds, “At least 12 have thus far come out publicly to say they would charge those involved if they came from their jurisdictions. Former U.S. attorney Zachary Terwilliger, a President Donald Trump appointee set to soon depart from his position leading the office the Eastern District of Virginia, called what happened at the Capitol a ‘tragedy.’” The FBI in a statement said they are helping their law enforcement partners, but thus far there has been no statement from FBI Director Christopher Wray himself.”

FBI Seeks Tips On Identifying Rioters. NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports, “The FBI on Wednesday evening put out a call for information related to the mob that stormed the Capitol. ‘The FBI is seeking information that will assist in identifying individuals who are actively instigating violence in Washington, DC,’ the agency said in an announcement. ‘The FBI is accepting tips and digital media depicting rioting and violence in the U.S. Capitol Building and surrounding area in Washington, DC, on January 6, 2021.’” NBC News adds, “Only a handful of people were arrested during the unrest Wednesday.”

US Capitol Security Under Scrutiny. ABC News (1/6, Levine, 2.44M) reports, “Political leaders demanded late Wednesday to know why law enforcement did not better fortify the United States Capitol after extremist groups for days chattered online about their plans to react violently to the final formal step of certifying President Donald Trump’s 2020 election defeat. ‘How did so many rioters get into this building from so many directions? How was it breached?’ ‘Based on the fairly straightforward intelligence that thousands of angry people were going to come and show their presence – including groups prone to violence – law enforcement was totally ill-prepared to handle today’s incident,’ said ABC News contributor Brad Garrett, a former FBI special agent. ‘This was a phenomenal law enforcement failure.’”

FBI(210v558)-904
Newsweek (1/7, 2.67M) reports, "They knew it could happen. They feared that Donald Trump would pull a 'Samson,' bringing down the whole house on top of him in the two weeks before he left the White House. Officials from the FBI, the Secret Service, Homeland Security, the District of Columbia government, the Pentagon, the National Guard, and the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region who spoke to Newsweek last weekend on condition of anonymity, all talked about the potential for protesters and militias and paramilitary goons — egged on by the president — to storm Capitol Hill and even the Capitol building itself." Newsweek adds, "A half-dozen sources spoke openly about this very scenario: that the mob would take over the 'People's House' and that somehow the system would break down."

The Washington Post (1/6, Leonnig, Davis, Lamothe, Fahrelnspathy, 10.52M) reports, "The storming of the U.S. Capitol by a mob of President Trump's supporters on Wednesday was a disastrous failure of security: In a city on high alert, in a building with its own 1,700-member police department, people forced their way into the sanctums of American democracy with nothing more than flakpokes, riot shields and shoves. Nobody stopped them — and some officers were captured on videos appearing to stand back as rioters streamed inside." The Post adds, "Law enforcement experts said they were mystified by the tactics that police used once the mob was already inside the Capitol. The result was an invasion, in which a heavily guarded symbol of American strength and order fell to chaos with stunning speed."

In his column for the Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M), David Ignatius writes, "As Justice and Defense department officials planned for the turmoil that was coming Wednesday, they knew that pro-Trump protesters — including some violent extremists — might try to storm the U.S. Capitol as lawmakers prepared to certify the election of Joe Biden. So why weren't they better prepared for the catastrophic assault that took place?" Ignatius adds, "That's the riddle at the center of Wednesday's spasm of violent anarchy: Officials saw the mob coming but weren't ready or able to stop it — and they allowed hundreds to invade the Capitol, threaten lawmakers and, for a time, foment a coup inside the most precious symbol of U.S. democracy. Senior officials believed that the force they were assembling of 6,000 to 8,000 police and law enforcement officers — drawn from the D.C. police, the Capitol Police, the FBI and various federal agencies — would be sufficient to contain the protests."

CNN (1/6, Perez, Polantz, Mattingly, Salama, Alvarez, 89.21M) reports, "The chaotic federal response to the Trump rally Wednesday, which was overwhelmed by rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol, stood in sharp contrast to the heavily-armed presence of thousands of federal authorities during summer protests in Washington, DC, following the police killing of George Floyd." CNN adds, "Mobs broke through police barricades and rampaged through the Capitol, vandalizing offices and prompting the evacuation of lawmakers just after 2 p.m. ET Wednesday. 'Everything went wrong,' one Capitol Police officer on the scene said." According to CNN, "The law enforcement response that allowed a typically heavily secured federal landmark to fall under attack, with rioters breaking through windows and into lawmakers' offices and gathering places, came from a hesitant federal bureaucracy after early assurances from DC and Capitol law enforcement agencies."

The Daily Beast (1/6, Rohrlich, 933K) reports, "Police were ill-prepared and made fateful mistakes that allowed a pro-Trump protest to morph into an unprecedented and protracted sacking of the Capitol on Wednesday, experts told The Daily Beast. They said the mob's breach of the building, after President Trump exhorted them to "fight like hell" to overturn the election, could have been avoided with some basic policing protocols — and heads should roll for the deadly debacle." The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Viswanatha, Gurman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also reports.

Lawmakers Vow To Investigate Security Failure. NBC Nightly News (1/6, story 11, 1:40, Holt, 6.37M) reported, "The question many asking tonight, how did this assault on the Capitol happen? Why wasn't it more secure when Trump supporters had been threatening similar actions for months?" NBC's Tom Costello: "For weeks, right-wing online chatter had discussed just this scenario. The President had called for protesters to march on Capitol Hill. Washington's Mayor had called out the National Guard to protect the city streets. Every DC police officer was on the job. ... The question tonight: Why weren't Capitol police prepared for this?" Pierre Thomas
Similarly asked on ABC World News Tonight (1/6, story 3, 2:30, Muir, 7.75M), "How did this unravel so quickly? And how was this allowed to happen?"

Roll Call (1/6, Marquette, 130K) reports, "It is unclear how the Capitol Police force – with 1,879 sworn officers and a budget of $515.5 million – was unable to protect Congress. And lawmakers want that to be examined." The AP (1/6, Daly) reports, "Lawmakers are vowing an investigation into how law enforcement handled Wednesday’s violent breach at the Capitol, questioning whether a lack of preparedness allowed a mob to occupy and vandalize the building."

US Capitol Police "turned to other law enforcement for help with the mob that overwhelmed the complex." House Administration Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren "said the breach 'raises grave security concerns,' adding that her committee will work with House and Senate leaders to review the police response – and its preparedness."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (1/6, 1.22M) reports Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH) "said President Trump and members of the Capitol Police force that allowed the incursion should lose their jobs."

The New York Times (1/6, 20.6M) reports District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) has "issued an order extending the city's public emergency for 15 days, warning that extremists who support President Trump might continue to wreak havoc in the nation's capital."

Racial Justice Activists Decry "Kid Glove Treatment" Of Trump Supporters. The Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) reports under the headline "Kid Glove Treatment Of Pro-Trump Mob Contrasts With Strong-Arm Police Tactics Against Black Lives Matter, Activists Say" that "activists across the country who spent much of 2020 facing off with law enforcement officers while protesting police brutality and racial inequality watched with a mixture of outrage and validation as the president's supporters stormed the Capitol building during sessions of the House and Senate. ... The images of men and women wearing red Trump 2020 hats and clutching American and Confederate flags walking through the Capitol largely un molested came as shocking yet predictable evidence of their long-held suspicions that conservative, White protesters intent on violence would not be met with any of the strong-arm tactics that police brutality protesters faced."

The San Francisco Chronicle (1/7, 2.44M) reports that as "hundreds of Trump supporters overtook the Capitol – shattering windows, brandishing weapons and Confederate flags and destroying government property in a historic occupation that left one person dead – police appeared at times to put up little resistance, or worse. Videos showed police officers allowing rioters through a gate and a police officer posing with one for a selfie." In Michigan, the Detroit Free Press (1/6, 2.16M) reports, "the storming of the Capitol building in Washington brought back memories for many of the April protests, when right-wingers opposed to coronavirus guidelines entered the Michigan Capitol building in Lansing, many of them armed."

Politico (1/6, Rodriguez, King, McCaskill, 6.73M) reports, "Last summer, peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters were met with rubber bullets and tear gas outside the White House to clear the way for President Donald Trump's photo-op with military leaders and a Bible at a nearby church. But on Wednesday, law enforcement officials allowed a mob of pro-Trump extremists to storm into a locked-down Capitol. One Trump fan even made his way inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office, getting comfortable enough to prop his feet up on her desk." CNN (1/7, Chavez, 89.21M) reports on its website that the Black Lives Matter Global Network said in a statement, "When Black people protest for our lives, we are all too often met by National Guard troops or police equipped with assault rifles, shields, tear gas and battle helmets. Make no mistake, if the protesters were Black, we would have been tear gassed, battered, and perhaps shot."

**COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**FBI Investigating Air Traffic Control Breach By Audio Threat To Avenge Soleimani.**

In continuing coverage, NBC News (1/6, 4.91M) reports, "New York air traffic controllers received a message threatening to avenge Iranian general Qassem Soleimani's death" by flying a plane into the Capitol on Wednesday. "The Federal Aviation Administration said it referred the matter to the FBI." WTTG-TV Washington (1/6, Singman, 168K) reports the FBI said in a statement that it "takes
all threats of violence to public safety seriously.” A national security official told said “that ‘relevant agencies’ were briefed on Tuesday’s incident and that ‘while it is possible it is a hoax, it is being taken seriously.’”

Additional coverage includes HuffPost (1/6, Golgowski, 363K) and CBS News (1/5, 5.39M).

Former Nashville Bomber’s Girlfriend Seeks To Claim Reward Money.

WXYZ-TV Detroit (1/6, 201K) reports Attorney Jim Roberts says his client, the former girlfriend of Nashville bomber Anthony Warner, told the FBI he “held a grudge against AT&T.” Roberts is representing the woman and attorney Ray Throckmorton, who once represented Warner and his girlfriend, as they seek “to claim reward money offered after the bombing.” Roberts said the two deserve the reward money because, in WXYZ’s words, “they came forward after the bombing — before anyone knew Warner was dead.”

Continuing Coverage: FBI Visits Michigan Lawmaker’s Aide After She Discusses Tear Gas Bill.

In continuing coverage, the AP (1/6) reports, “An FBI agent visited the home” of Katie Reiter, a top aide to Michigan state Sen. Rosemary Bayer (R), “after authorities were told that she had discussed the use of tear gas before the election.” She “said the visit was because of a bizarre misunderstanding,” she and her boss had been talking about legislation to ban the use of tear gas by police. FBI spokeswoman Mara Schneider said, “At no time prior to that interview did the citizen or the FBI know the reported comments were made in the context of proposed legislation.”

Trump Orders Pompeo To Determine If Antifa Can Be Classified As Terrorist Organization.

The New York Post (1/6, Rhett Miller, 7.45M) reports, “President Trump has signed an executive order asking Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to determine” if Antifa “can be classified a terrorist organization — and to bar its members from entering the country.” Trump has instructed Pompeo, in consultation with Acting AG Jeffrey A. Rosen and acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf, “to assess whether to classify Antifa as a terrorist group, backing up a promise he made months ago.” Trump’s memo cites “an Antifa-linked Twitter account that shared the names of 1,500-plus Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees in June 2018 — leading some of them to be harassed.”

Boston Marathon Bomber Sues Over Treatment In Prison.

The Boston Herald (1/6, Dwinell, 327K) reports that Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is suing the federal government for $250,000, alleging “disturbing” and “unprofessional” treatment, citing “the confiscation of his white baseball cap and bandana that he purchased at the prison commissary and not being able to take more showers.” Tsarnaev alleges his items were confiscated “because, by wearing it, I was ‘disrespecting’ the FBI and the victims” of the bombing. On Tuesday a federal judge said that Tsarnaev’s hand-written filing “is deficient,” as it lacks a “certified copy of prisoner’s trust fund statement” and a $402 filing fee.

British Judge Denies Assange Bail As US Appeals Extradition Ruling.

The AP (1/6) reports that on Wednesday, a British judge “denied bail to WikiLeaks’ founder Julian Assange, ordering him to remain in a high-security prison while U.K. courts decide whether he will be sent to the United States to face espionage charges.” District Judge Vanessa Baraitser “said Assange must remain in prison while the courts consider an appeal by U.S. authorities against her decision not to extradite him.” According to the AP, Baraitser “said Assange ‘has an incentive to abscond’ and there is a good chance he would fail to return to court if freed.”

The New York Times (1/6, 20.6M) reports that on Monday, Baraitser “ruled that Mr. Assange could not be extradited to the United States because he would be at risk of suicide, and his lawyers
sought to have him released on bail while the appeals process plays out." The Times notes that in 2019, Assange "was indicted by the United States authorities...on 17 counts of violating the Espionage Act and one count of computer misuse over his role in obtaining and publishing secret military and diplomatic documents related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan." The Times adds that Claire Dobbin, a lawyer representing the United States, "said on Wednesday that American prosecutors would appeal the extradition ruling, which is likely to keep Mr. Assange's case in British courts for at least several months." The Washington Post (1/6, Booth, 10.52M), Bloomberg (1/6, Milligan, 3.57M), and Reuters (1/6, Holden, MacAskill) have more on the ruling.

New York City Cop Accused Of Acting As Chinese Agent Offered Plea Deal.

Newsday (NY) (1/6, Kessler, 776K) reports federal prosecutors offered a deal to New York City police officer Baimadajie Angwang, who has been accused of being an agent of China, under which he would plead to a single count of violating the foreign agents registration act, with possible sentence ranging "from time served to as much as 10 years in prison." Angwang is accused of "informing on activities of Tibetans in the United States who opposed China's action in that land or who might be potential recruits for the Chinese government." His attorney, John Carman, "said...that the living conditions at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, because of coronavirus safeguards, are so restrictive that it is unreasonable to expect attorneys to adequately discuss their clients' cases, including plea offers."

Two Louisville Officers Fired Over Police Raid That Led To Breonna Taylor's Death.

The AP (1/6, Lovan) reports that "two more officers involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor have been fired." Former Detectives Myles Cosgrove and Joshua Jaynes were served dismissal letters on Tuesday. The dismissals "follow that of officer Brett Hankison, who was fired in September after being indicted by a grand jury on charges of endangering Taylor's neighbors by firing bullets that went through her home and into an adjacent apartment." However, "none of the three white officers who fired into [Taylor's] home were charged by a grand jury in her death."

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (1/6, Duvall, Costello, 554K) reports, "Cosgrove, who the FBI concluded fired the shot that killed the 26-year-old emergency room technician, violated procedures for use of force and failing to use a body camera," while Jaynes "was found in violation of department policy for truthfulness and search warrant preparation." Other officers were sanctioned others for their actions surrounding the raid. However, "no officers were charged in Taylor's death," although "an FBI investigation expected to look into civil rights violations." Cosgrove and Jaynes can appeal their firings to the Police Merit Board, which can set aside the chief findings and order a different penalty.

CNN (1/6, Vera, Setty, 89.21M) reports on its website the River City Fraternal Order of Police, the union for Louisville police, said there is "no evidence" that policies "were violated to the extent that warranted termination."

WHAS-TV Louisville, KY (1/6, Weiter, 182K) reports Cosgrove and Jaynes sent emails to other officers saying they were forced out "due to political pressure." Cosgrove wrote, "Your leaders aren't afraid to perform hatchet jobs on you either." In a separate email, Jayne said his career is "being judged one line of an affidavit." WDRB-TV Louisville, KY (1/6, Ragsdale, Riley, 303K) reports Cosgrove told officers, "You will be demonized, while criminals will be canonized. You will make the smaller paycheck, while others settle with the city and profit millions."

Additional coverage includes CBS News (1/6, Donaghue, 5.39M) and Fox News (1/6, Norman, 23.99M).

Incoming Louisville Police Chief Resigned As Head Of Atlanta Police After Black Man’s Killing. The New York Times (1/6, Wright, 20.6M) reports that incoming Louisville Police Chief Erika Shields resigned last year as head of the Atlanta police "after a high-profile police shooting" of a Black man. "Her selection highlights the difficulty of filling police chief vacancies nationwide." The Times adds that "a host of qualified chiefs with progressive views," such a
Shields, were "sidelined after high-profile incidents of police violence, often sacrificed by elected officials looking for political cover." They "were focused on changing the culture in their departments, but hamstrung by contractual protections for bad officers, opposition from powerful unions, and a hands-off approach by" Trump Administration’s Justice Department. Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said Ms. Shields is "an experienced, progressive, reform-minded leader who believes in the role of policing."

FBI Offers Reward For Information On South Carolina Christmas Day Home Invasion.
The AP (1/6) reports, "The FBI is offering a reward of up to $10,000 for information leading to prosecutions of two men and a woman accused of beating and robbing an elderly couple" in Hickory Grove, South Carolina on Christmas Day. The FBI warned that all three suspects should be considered armed and dangerous.

Authorities In Connecticut Investigating Shooting By Law Enforcement Task Force.
The AP (1/6) reports Connecticut authorities “are investigating a shooting Wednesday by a federal and local law enforcement task force in Hartford” as officers sought to arrest Brandon Spence, who has “a history of possessing illegal firearms, according to federal officials.” Although “FBI spokesman Charles Grady said no law enforcement officers were injured,” spokesmen for the FBI and US attorney’s office in New Haven "would not immediately confirm details of the shooting."

Two Face Charges On Gunpoint Kidnapping Of French Bulldog Puppies.
The Philadelphia Inquirer (1/6, Roebuck) reports Christopher Lamont Stimpson Jr. and Wilbert Curtis Trey Arts III, of North Carolina will face charges in Pennsylvania, accused of stealing "five French Bulldog puppies in a brazen gunpoint theft from a family of breeders." The pair were found when a potential customer mentioned to the breeder "seeing a photo of five French bulldogs in a white laundry basket in an Instagram post from a poster in North Carolina offering the puppies for sale."

Evidence In Effort To Remove Prosecutor In Daybell Case Reveals Promise To File Conspiracy To Commit Murder Charges.
KSTU-TV Salt Lake City (1/6, Herbet, 229K) reports prosecutor Rob Wood “promised to file conspiracy to commit murder charges against Chad Daybell and Lori Vallow” for the death of her two children. The statement is part of a recorded conversation with Vallow’s sister, Summer Shiflet, that “is being used as evidence in an effort to throw Wood off the case for prosecutorial misconduct.” Defense attorneys John Prior "said the recording is proof that Wood was inappropriately trying to manipulate or influence a material witness.”

Police: Accused Massachusetts Church Arsonist Went On Tire-Slashing Spree.
The Springfield (MA) Republican (1/6, Barry, 332K) reports newly available police records filed in Springfield District Court indicate that Dushko Vulchev, who “is charged in connection with three alleged arson attempts at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church,” slashed tires “around Pittsfield for two months.” Vulchev has not been charged with a hate crime in connection with the fires at the church, which has a predominantly Black congregation, “the FBI is still investigating, a spokeswoman from that agency said.”

Drug Case Prosecutors: Former Venezuelan General Under Investigation In Separate Case.
The Miami Herald (1/6, 647K) reports Cliver Alcalá Cordones, a former Venezuelan general who was extradited to the US under an indictment that "alleges Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his inner circle run a narco-state," is under investigation in a separate case. During a Wednesday court hearing, federal prosecutors sought additional time to review that case’s connection to the drug-related one involving Alcalá Cordones. After highlighting that Wednesday’s proceedings were rescheduled for March 10, the Herald reports federal prosecutors “did not
Operation Disruptor Defendant Pleads Guilty To Drug Charge.

In online coverage, KTLY-TV Dallas (1/6) reports a defendant who was "charged under Operation Disruptor, a coordinated international effort to disrupt opioid trafficking on the Darknet," has pleaded guilty to "conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance." Aaron Brewer, who "admitted he created darkweb market vendor accounts in order to sell cocaine, heroin, and other controlled substances" online, "now faces up to 20 years in federal prison." The KTLY article quotes the US Postal Inspection Service's Thomas Noyes, who stated, "We will continue to find, and bring to justice, individuals like this, and we thank the US Attorney's Office and the FBI for their significant work."

Louisiana Man Sentenced Over Methamphetamine Trafficking.

The Shreveport (LA) Times (1/6, 134K) reports Xavier Reed "was sentenced by United States District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote to 120 months...in prison followed by three years of supervised release for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine." The FBI investigated Reed from 2017 to 2018 as part of "Operation Meltdown."

Panamanian Man Sentenced Over Attempted Enticement Of Minor In West Virginia.

WOAY-TV Bluefield, WV (1/6, Rodriguez) reports United States Attorney Mike Stuart "announced that Eugene Enrique Torres, 41, a Panamanian man residing in Fayetteville, was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison for attempted enticement of a minor." Torres "admitted that in June 2020 he contacted a woman on Craigslist who identified herself as a mother who would allow him to have sex with her children in exchange for money."


The Wilmette-Kenilworth (IL) Patch (1/6, 1.44M) reports that the FBI is investigating the robbery of a PNC Bank branch in Wilmette. The FBI said that the suspects also "attempted to rob a Fifth Third Bank branch at 1311 Ridgeland Ave. in Naperville at 4:17 p.m. Monday."

US Attorney's Office Announces Federal Human Trafficking Charges Against Five In Nevada.

KTNV-TV Las Vegas (1/6, 113K) reports U.S. Attorney Nicholas Trutanich and Special Agent in Charge Aaron Rouse "announced [Wednesday] a federal human trafficking takedown in the District of Nevada." Trutanich "brought five prosecutions related to human trafficking," and the FBI-investigated cases are summarized.

Louisiana Minor Rescued Following Kidnapping.

Louisiana Radio Network (1/6, Doyle) reports that an unidentified minor "was saved and her alleged kidnapper is behind bars in Grant Parish after communicating with the minor over the internet." The child "went missing late Sunday in Madison Parish and was located in Grant Parish Monday evening resulting in the arrest of 22-year-old Angel Ramirez." The FBI supported the investigation.

Idaho Man Facing Kidnapping Charges.

KLIX-AM Twin Falls, ID (1/6) reports Eric Landeros "is facing charges of first degree kidnapping and contributing to the delinquency of a minor following his arrest late Monday." The arresting officer "had been patrolling the Wells area when he spotted a 2008 Lexus with license plates matching the description in the alert," and he "was able to identify Landeros and the teen listed in the AMBER alert."
Illinois Woman Rescued Following Kidnapping.
Suburban Chicagoland (IL) (1/6) reports that Lyons police successfully rescued Erika Rios Vaidez, who “was found at the Skyline Motel, 8136 W. Joliet Road, around 1:30 a.m. New Year’s Day.” She “had been allegedly kidnapped on Dec. 29 at gunpoint in Texas by Abel Fajardo, who is police custody and awaits extradition.”

Pennsylvania Man Arrested For Serial Bank Robbery.
The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (1/6, 567K) reports Shamont Lyle Sapp, who is “accused of stealing from a local bank,” previously “robbed at least 10 others and tried to win big money by claiming to be a victim of Jerry Sandusky and the Catholic church.” Investigators “linked the 10 robberies because in each one, the robber disguised himself as a doctor, wearing surgical masks or bandages on his face.”

Continuing Coverage: Missing Washington Minor Located In Nevada.
The Wenatchee (WA) World (1/6, 57K) reports Angeles Revueleta-Burenrostro, who “was reported missing around 11:20 a.m. Monday,” was “found near Wells, Nevada, around 10 p.m. after police made a traffic stop.” Yakima police Capt. Jay Seely said, “Thank the Lord for our FBI partners helping us so quickly with this case.” He continued, “The FBI was instrumental in this case. They used a lot of their resources and coordinated the response in Elko.”

North Carolina Man Sentenced Over Illegal Firearms.
The AP (1/6) reports Nicholas Travon Edwards “was sentenced to six years for possession of firearms while being a convicted felon.” A Raleigh Police Department investigation “turned up four pistols, a rifle, two extended magazines containing 60 rounds of ammunition, a rifle mount, a scope and 10 rounds for a 9mm pistol.”

Federal Grand Jury Indicts 11 People In Connection With Tennessee Drug Probe.
In website coverage, WJIH-TV Johnson City, TN (1/6, 158K) reports the DEA and the FBI were involved with an investigation that led to a federal grand jury indicting 11 people on charges that relate to their alleged “roles in distributing heroin” in Tennessee. The Bristol (VA) Herald Courier (1/6) also covers this story.

Eleven Alleged Drug Traffickers Arrested.
In online coverage, KFEA-TV Amarillo, TX (1/6, Cochran) reports 11 “alleged drug traffickers have been arrested and charged in” Texas. Those individuals were arrested earlier this week, “in a bust that was led by the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Amarillo Resident Office.” The FBI and some other organizations assisted with the investigation that led to the bust.

Justice Department, Federal Court System Were Hacked By Russians.
The Washington Post (1/6, Nakashima, 10.52M) reports that the Justice Department “has become the latest known victim of Russian hackers, who are engaged in an ongoing campaign of cyberespionage that has afflicted federal agencies and the private sector.” A DOJ spokesman on Wednesday “said that the department’s Office of the Chief Information Officer, which handles network security, learned on Dec. 24 of malicious activity linked to the hacking campaign. The intrusions into other federal agencies and technology firms were discovered earlier last month, and in the Justice Department’s case involved its unclassified Office 365 email system, spokesman Marc Raimondi said.”

Reuters (1/6, Satter) reports that DOJ “has more than 100,000 employees across a series of law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the U.S. Marshals Service.” The DOJ statement also said “that the Justice Department had no indication any classified systems were impacted.” However, “winning access to as many as thousands of email inboxes
from the nation’s premier law enforcement organization could still provide an intelligence bonanza for foreign hackers.’

Politico (1/6, Geller, 6.73M) quotes Raimondi as saying in a statement, “At this point, the number of potentially accessed [Microsoft Office] mailboxes appears limited to around 3-percent and we have no indication that any classified systems were impacted.”

The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that it is unclear which and how many DOJ employees “had their internal communications exposed in the operation.”

The AP (1/6, Tucker, Bajak) reports “the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts informed federal judicial bodies across the nation that the courts’ nationwide case management system was breached. That potentially gave the hackers access to sealed court documents, whose contents are highly sensitive.”

Similar coverage is provided by The Hill (1/6, 5.69M), Newsweek (1/6, Garrett, 2.67M), Voice of America (1/6, Farivar, 85K), The Guardian (UK) (1/6, 5.53M), the Washington (DC) Times (1/6, Lovelace, 626K), the Washington (DC) Examiner (1/6, Dunleavy, 888K), CNBC (1/6, Feiner, 7.34M), and Law360 (1/6, Subscription Publication, 9K).

Trump Administration Formally Accuses Russia Of “Likely” Hacking US Government Agencies. The Washington Post (1/6, Riley, 10.52M) reports, “The Trump administration formally accused Russia of ‘likely’ being behind the most devastating hack of U.S. government agencies in years.” This “statement, made jointly by four agencies in charge of intelligence and cybersecurity, is the first time the U.S. government has linked Russia to the hack that also affected critical companies that were also clients of network management system SolarWinds.” The statement indicated “it found less than 10 federal agencies had internal computer systems infiltrated in the breach; known victims include the federal departments of State, Treasury, Homeland Security, Commerce and Energy.”

Meanwhile, an editorial about the hacks in the San Francisco Chronicle (1/6, 2.44M) says, “The apparent reach of Russian cyber sleuthing is hitting new levels with Washington stumbling to contain it. The evidence is coming in a post mortem look at a hack of top government agencies that’s turning up as a much bigger intrusion into Washington’s computer links.” According to the editorial, “The probes burrowed into the likes of the Treasury Department, Homeland Security and National Institutes of Health,” which is “a reach that touches vital areas such as financial controls, border security and health research, including work on the viral pandemic.”

Rob Knake writes in Foreign Affairs (1/6, 522K) that as the investigation into the SolarWinds breach continues, investigators will likely find that Russia “easily evaded US cyber defenses” due to a lack of execution of the US’ cyber strategy, not in the strategy itself. The editorial board of the Christian Science Monitor (1/6, 234K) writes that security “has lagged behind,” and the “biggest change coming out of the SolarWinds debacle is likely to be a new insistence that security take a top priority.” The Monitor says the “software used by government often overlaps with that in use in the private sector,” so new “security standards for software the government procures could increase security for products that all Americans use.”

Officials Investigating JetBrains’ Role In Russian Hack. The New York Times (1/6, Perilo, Sanger, Barnes, 20.6M) reports US intel agencies and private cybersecurity investigators are examining the role of a widely used software company, JetBrains, in the far-reaching Russian hacking of federal agencies, private corporations and United States infrastructure, according to officials and executives briefed on the inquiry.” Officials are examining whether the company, “founded by three Russian engineers in the Czech Republic with research labs in Russia, was breached and used as a pathway for hackers to insert back doors into the software of an untold number of technology companies.” JetBrains “is used by developers at 300,000 businesses. One of them is SolarWinds, the company based in Austin, Texas, whose network management software played a central role in allowing hackers into government and private networks.”

In Second Reversal, NYSE Will Delist Three Chinese Telecoms.

CNBC (1/6, Pound, 7.34M) reports that the New York Stock Exchange “will delist three Chinese telecommunication giants after all, saying its second reversal in two days came after new guidance
from the Treasury Department." CNBC says that last Thursday, the NYSE "announced...it will remove U.S.-traded shares of China Telecom, China Mobile and China Unicom from the Big Board to comply with an executive order signed by" President Trump, which "sought to bar American companies and individuals from investing in firms that the administration alleged aid the Chinese military." But on Monday, the NYSE "reversed that decision...causing much confusion," and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "told the exchange that he disagreed with the reversal." Bloomberg (1/6, Nguyen, Mohsin, 3.57M) reports that Mnuchin "entered the fray Tuesday, calling NYSE Group Inc. President Stacey Cunningham to express his displeasure with the decision to let the three firms "keep trading on the Big Board."

The New York Times (1/6, Rappeport, 20.6M) says the NYSE decision "followed a day of pressure from the Trump administration and Congress." The Times adds, "The delisting is likely to further inflame tensions between the United States and China in the final days of the Trump administration."

NPR (1/6, Chappell, 3.69M) reports, "The NYSE said its new position, announced Wednesday, was spurred by input" from DOJ’s Office of Foreign Assets Control. NYSE "quoted new guidance from the Office of Foreign Assets Control as saying, ‘U.S. persons cannot engage in certain transactions’ for American depository shares in China Telecom Corp. Ltd., China Mobile Ltd. and China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd. after Jan 11." The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Osipovich, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), the AP (1/6), Reuters (1/6, McCrank), and the Washington Examiner (1/6, Roman, 889K) provide similar coverage.

**Biden Taps Neuberger For New Cybersecurity Role In NSC.**

Politico (1/6, Bertrand, 6.73M) reports that President-elect Joe Biden has selected Anne Neuberger "to serve in a newly created cybersecurity role on his National Security Council." Neuberger "will be named deputy national security adviser for cybersecurity in the incoming NSC, according to people familiar with the plans." The pick "indicates that the Biden White House intends to re-elevate cybersecurity as a key national security priority, after President Donald Trump eliminated the role of cybersecurity coordinator in 2018." She "will be responsible for coordinating the federal government’s cybersecurity efforts, with a likely emphasis on responding to a massive cyberespionage campaign carried out last year by suspected Russian hackers.”

**Israeli Cyber Surveillance Firm Eyeing IPO At $2B Value.**

Reuters (1/6) reports, "NSO Group is considering an initial public offering (IPO), most likely in Tel Aviv, Israeli media reported, citing sources close to the matter." The Israeli cyber surveillance firm’s chairman Asher Levy and chief financial officer Doron Arazi "met earlier this week with Itai Ben-Zeev, the chief executive of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange," according to the Globes financial daily. The outlet "cited market sources as estimating the company could be valued at $2 billion in an IPO, with proceeds likely to be used to develop new activities such as intercepting drones." NSO is "being sued by a group of U.S tech firms including Facebook," and is "known in the cybersecurity world for its ‘Pegasus’ software and other tools that can be delivered in several ways."

**San Antonio Homicides Jumped In 2020.**

The San Antonio Express-News (1/6, Eaton, 685K) reports, "Homicides in San Antonio increased 22 percent last year," ending a three-year period of decline. At 128 homicides in city limits, 2020 was the second deadliest year in San Antonio since 1995. San Antonio Police Chief William McManus "suspects many deaths could be credited to so-called ‘risky behavior’ – such as drug use and gang involvement – and family violence." Meanwhile, "officials cautioned that the year-end total in San Antonio and Bexar County could change slightly as detectives review open cases and determine whether the deaths meet the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting definition, which doesn’t include justified homicides or officer-involved killings.”
Awaiting Extradition Hearing On Sex Charges, Fashion Tycoon Peter Nygard Requests Bail.

The Canadian Press (1/6) reports Canadian fashion mogul Peter Nygard, who is in jail facing extradition to the US on charges of sexually assaulting dozens of girls and women, “says he’s not getting the nourishment he needs while behind bars.” His affidavit says “his unconventional health routines” included traveling abroad for anti-aging stem cell shots and “a diet free of sugar, carbs and preservatives.” His attorney “argued Nygard’s health will deteriorate if he remains incarcerated.” However, Canadian authorities “said Nygard is a significant flight risk,” with “a history of not showing up to court during legal proceedings in the Bahamas and...the financial means to flee.”

The New York Post (1/5, Rosenberg, 7.45M) reports officials say that Nygard “fueled his need for ‘near-daily’ sex by drugging and raping women as young as 14.” More than 50 women are part of a class-action lawsuit “accusing Nygard of sexually abusing them.”

Biden Selects Merrick Garland To Lead DOJ.

The AP (1/6, Tucker, Balsamo) reports that Joe Biden has “selected Merrick Garland, a federal appeals court judge who in 2016 was snubbed by Republicans for a seat on the Supreme Court, as his attorney general.” The AP says in choosing Garland, Biden is “turning to an experienced judge who held senior positions at the Justice Department decades ago, including as a supervisor of the prosecution of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.” The AP says Biden “may be banking on Garland’s credentials and reputation for moderation to ensure confirmation.”

USA Today (1/6, Phillips, Johnson, 12.7M) says by selecting Garland, “Biden appears to be aiming to create a department free from political influence.” Similarly, the Los Angeles Times (1/6, Hook, 3.37M) says the choice “highlights Biden’s desire to restore independence to a Justice Department that has been scarred by the intense partisan politics of the Trump era.” Politico (1/6, Pager, Gerstein, Cheney, 6.73M) reports, “The announcement of the selection could come as early as Thursday, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) told reporters on Wednesday.”

Reuters (1/6, Renshaw) reports Senate Judiciary Chairman Graham “said on Twitter that Garland ‘would be a sound choice’ for attorney general.” Graham described Garland as “a man of great character, integrity, and tremendous competency in the law.”

The Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) says Garland “enjoys a reputation as a unifying, moderating force on the appeals court, and some Democratic advisers said they view his selection as a signal to congressional Republicans that the department will operate in an evenhanded fashion in the Biden administration.” However, according to the Post, “some defense lawyers and criminal-justice-reform advocates have said they worry Garland’s record on the bench shows he is too deferential to the government and law enforcement – and perhaps would not be as aggressive about implementing the kind of dramatic changes they seek.” The New York Times (1/6, Schmidt, Liptak, Kaplan, Benner, 20.6M) reports that Garland “has sometimes disappointed liberals with his rulings.” According to the Times, “progressive groups have...inundated Mr. Biden...asking him to nominate an attorney general with a progressive track record on issues around race and policing.” The Times adds, “The choice of Mr. Garland, a white man with a record of favoring law enforcement over people accused of crimes, signaled to some progressives that their concerns were dismissed.”

CNBC (1/6, Higgins, Schwartz, 7.34M) says Garland “will face pressure from liberals to prosecute Donald Trump after Biden takes office.” CNBC adds, “Another test would be how he would handle an investigation into Hunter Biden, the incoming president’s son. Hunter Biden revealed last month that a federal investigation is underway into his taxes.” The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Bravin, Gurman, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says Garland is not
close to the Biden family, which transition officials view as a positive, given the current investigation.

A Wall Street Journal (1/6, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial praises choice of Garland over a more polarizing figure. The Journal says the choice augurs well for Biden’s Administration.

Additional coverage includes the Washington Times (1/6, Tucker, Balsamo, 625K), the Washington Examiner (1/6, Dunleavy, 888K), and NPR (1/6, Johnson, 3.69M).

Biden Choosing Monaco For Deputy AG. Bloomberg (1/6, Stroh, Epstein, 3.57M) reports that Biden is “picking Lisa Monaco for deputy attorney general and Vanita Gupta as associate attorney general, according to people familiar with those decisions. Monaco spent almost two decades at the Justice Department and was homeland security adviser in the Obama administration. Gupta headed the department’s Civil Rights Division under President Obama.”

Comey: Trump Shouldn’t Be Prosecuted.

The Guardian (UK) (1/5, Pengelly, 5.53M) reports that former FBI director James Comey writes in his new book that President Trump should not be prosecuted once he leaves the White House no matter “how powerful the evidence strewn across his history” is. Instead, Comey writes, “the mission of the next attorney general must be fostering the trust of the American people.” The book, book, “Saving Justice: Truth, Transparency and Trust,” will be published on January 12. Comey also argues against further investigating Michael Flynn, Trump’s first national security adviser, but “exonirates William Barr, Trump’s second attorney general, who ran interference over Mueller’s final report.” Additional coverage includes The Hill (1/6, Gstanter, 5.69M) and HuffPost (1/6, Amatulli, 363K).

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS


The AP (1/7) reports President Trump “said there would be an ‘orderly transition on January 20th’ after Congress concluded the electoral vote count early Thursday certifying President-elect Joe Biden’s victory hours after he appeared to excuse the violent occupation of the US Capitol by his supporters. Trump acknowledged defeat in the Nov. 3 election for the first time, after a day of chaos and destruction on Capitol Hill perpetrated in his name by supporters that halted business in Congress for more than six hours.”

Trump said in a statement, “Even though I totally disagree with the outcome of the election, and the facts bear me out, nevertheless there will be an orderly transition on January 20th. I have always said we would continue our fight to ensure that only legal votes were counted. While this represents the end of the greatest first term in presidential history, it's only the beginning of our fight to Make America Great Again!” The statement was posted to Twitter by Deputy Chief of Staff Dan Scavino at 3:49 a.m., eight minutes after Vice President Pence, as President of the Senate, announced the election of Joe Biden as president and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) as vice president. Reuters (1/7, Zengerle, Landay) reports, “Hours after hundreds of [Trump’s] supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol in a harrowing assault on American democracy, a shaken Congress on Thursday formally certified Democrat Joe Biden’s election victory. ... Congress had resumed its work certifying Biden’s Electoral College win late on Wednesday after the chaotic scenes on Capitol Hill, with debate stretching into the early hours of Thursday. After debate the Senate and the House of Representatives rejected two objections to the tally and certified the final Electoral College vote with Biden receiving 306 votes and Trump 232 votes.”

The New York Daily News (1/5, Sommerfeldt, 2.51M) reports that “after more than eight hours of sheltering in place,” Senate Majority Leader McConnell “said his aim was to certify Biden’s victory ‘tonight,’ a thinly-veiled warning to his fellow Republicans to drop any additional challenges to the election results.” The AP (1/6) reports the Senate and House “voted overwhelmingly to reject an objection” to Biden’s win in Arizona, and the New York Post (1/7, Bowden, Garger, 7.45M) reports both chambers “early Thursday morning overwhelmingly shot down a challenge to

Politico (1/6, Cheney, Zanona, Orr, Ferris, 6.73M) reports, “When the Senate resumed at 8 p.m., [Pence] decried the violence of hours earlier and, without naming Trump, denounced the people the president had just said he loved. “To those who wreaked havoc in our Capitol today, you did not win,” Pence said.” McConnell labeled the riots a ‘failed insurrection’ and painted the continuation of the Electoral College session as a show of defiance against those who would seek to derail democracy.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer went further, pinning the violence on Trump’s incitement and said Jan. 6, 2021 would go down alongside the attack on Pearl Harbor as a day that will “live in infamy.”

Giuliani Urged GOP Lawmakers To Delay Count. The Dispatch (1/6) reports that Rudy Giuliani was “calling Republican lawmakers urging them to delay the electoral vote count by at least one day to allow the president and his team to present more evidence of alleged election fraud...as late as an hour before Congress reconvened.” In a voicemail intended for Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL), but accidentally made to another senator who shared it with The Dispatch, Giuliani said, “I want to discuss with you how they’re trying to rush this hearing and how we need you, our Republican friends, to try to just slow it down so we can get these legislatures to get more information to you...I know McConnell is doing everything he can to rush it, which is kind of a kick in the head because it’s one thing to oppose us, it’s another thing not to give us a fair opportunity to contest it.”

Pence Said He Lacked Authority To Discard Electoral Votes. The AP (1/6, Colvin, Miller) reports that on Wednesday, Pence, “defying” Trump, “said...that he does not have the power to discard electoral votes that will make” Biden the next president. The AP adds that “in a statement issued minutes before he was to begin presiding over a joint session of Congress to count those votes,” Pence said it was “my considered judgment that my oath to support and defend the Constitution constrains me from claiming unilateral authority to determine which electoral votes should be counted and which should not.”

USA Today (1/6, Groppie, 12.7M) reports, “Defying his boss,” Pence said that “only lawmakers can decide whether to accept or reject the Electoral College votes won” by Biden. The Washington Post (1/6, Parker, 10.52M) says Pence, “who has turned his studied subservience to Trump into a full-time public persona, made clear in a 2½-page letter sent to lawmakers Wednesday afternoon that he planned to fulfill his constitutional duties and – over the vehement entreaties of his boss – certify the election” of Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA). His “fealty to the Constitution came on a day when a mob of angry Trump supporters breached the sanctuary of the Capitol."

Bloomberg (1/6, 3.57M) reports that Pence’s statement “sparked a swift rebuke from Trump, exposing an unprecedented rift in American leadership and helping fuel pro-Trump protests at the Capitol.” The Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) reports that Trump tweeted, “Mike Pence didn’t have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution, giving States a chance to certify a corrected set of facts, not the fraudulent or inaccurate ones which they were asked to previously certify.”

Cabinet Members Reportedly “Holding Preliminary Discussions” About Invoking 25th Amendment.
The Los Angeles Times (1/6, 3.37M) reports, “The siege on the U.S. Capitol by rioting supporters of President Trump has renewed talk of an extreme remedy: declaring that the president is unfit to do his job and removing him from office under the 25th Amendment.” CNN (1/6, Gangel, Acosta, 89.21M) reports on its website, “Some Cabinet members are holding preliminary discussions about invoking the 25th Amendment, a well-placed GOP source told CNN,” and The Hill (1/6, Samuels, Chalfant, 5.69M) also says “Administration officials have started discussing the possibility of invoking the 25th Amendment.” Axios (1/6, Swan, Talev, 1.26M) reports, “This talk is coming from current and former White House and GOP Hill aides, and Republican lobbyists and political consultants – all of whom have either embraced [Trump] or quietly tolerated him until now.”

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USA Today (1/6, Boney, 12.7M) reports that the National Association of Manufacturers, “one of President Donald Trump's major business supporters,” is calling on Vice President Pence “to consider launching” the 25th Amendment process. NAM President/CEO Jay Timmons “said Pence should ‘seriously consider working with the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment to preserve democracy.’” The New York Daily News (1/7, Brown, 2.51M) reports Vermont Gov. Phil Scott (R) also backed the move, tweeting, “President Trump should resign or be removed from office by his Cabinet, or by the Congress.”

The Boston Globe (1/6, 1.04M) reports House Judiciary Committee members including Reps. David Cicilline (D-RI) and Ted Lieu (D-CA) also called on Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment, saying, “Trump remained silent even as insurrections broke windows, threatened U.S. Capitol Police, and scaled the walls of the Capitol. Earlier in the morning, President Trump held a rally at the White House and told protesters ‘I’ll be with you’ and encouraged them to march to the Capitol to protest the certification of the electoral college votes.”

The Washington Post (1/6, 10.52M) editorializes, “Trump’s refusal to accept his election defeat and his relentless incitement of his supporters led Wednesday to the unthinkable: an assault on the U.S. Capitol by a violent mob that overwhelmed police and drove Congress from its chambers as it was debating the counting of electoral votes. Responsibility for this act of sedition lies squarely with the president, who has shown that his continued tenure in office poses a grave threat to U.S. democracy. He should be removed.”

The Miami Herald (1/6, 647K) editorializes, “It is time to invoke the 25th Amendment. It is time for President Trump – as he told the violent, radical thugs who support him no matter what; who crawled over the U.S. Capitol like spiders; who breached House and Senate chambers; who brazenly confronted overwhelmed, ill-prepared law-enforcement officers; who forced lawmakers to take shelter – to ‘go home.’” The Baltimore Sun (1/6, 629K) editorializes, “Before he endangers one more American life, Donald Trump must be removed from office. Whether that’s through his Cabinet invoking the 25th amendment or an emergency House hearing to impeach him followed by a Senate vote, we don’t much care – whichever is faster.”

O’Brien, Liddell Reportedly Considering Resigning; Pottinger Resigned Wednesday.

Bloomberg (1/7, Jacobs, Mohsin, Fabian, 3.57M) reports National Security Advisor O’Brien and Deputy Chief of Staff Chris Liddell “are considering resigning over the president’s encouragement of protests that led to his supporters storming the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, according to people familiar with the matter.” CNN (1/6, Tapper, Collins, Atwood, Salama, 89.21M) reports on its website, “Earlier Wednesday, O’Brien took the unusual step of defending” Vice President Pence, as Trump “has been consumed by the vice president’s refusal to do his bidding instead of the mob that breached Capitol Hill. O’Brien said Pence showed courage as Trump lambasted him.” Deputy National Security Adviser Matt Pottinger resigned Wednesday afternoon.

Grisham, Niceta, Matthews Resign. Reuters (1/6) reports Stephanie Grisham, Chief of Staff to the First Lady and a former White House press secretary, resigned Wednesday. She said in a statement, “It has been an honor to serve the country in the White House. I am very proud to have been a part of Mrs. Trump’s mission to help children everywhere, and proud of the many accomplishments of this administration.” White House Social Secretary Rickie Niceta “also resigned, as did a deputy White House press secretary, Sarah Matthews.” Bloomberg (1/7, Jacobs, Mohsin, Fabian, 3.57M) reports Matthews said in a statement, “As someone who worked in the halls of Congress I was deeply disturbed by what I saw today. I’ll be stepping down from my role, effective immediately. Our nation needs a peaceful transfer of power.”

Progressive Group Urges Breyer To Retire.

Politico (1/6, Thompson, 6.73M) reports that “left-wing activists are already pressuring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer to take advantage of a possible Democratic majority in the Senate and retire.” Progressive group Demand Justice “praised Breyer in a statement to Politico but encouraged him to make way for a younger liberal replacement.” Brian Fallon, the group’s Executive Director, said, “Breyer’s service on the Court has been remarkable, and history will remember him even more fondly if he ends up playing a critical role in ensuring the appointment of the first Black woman to the Court.” Fallon said that “timing his retirement in the coming year
would guarantee that unity," which "may prove a narrow one." Politico says the "comments are the latest example of Democratic anxiety about the composition of the Supreme Court."

Fox News (1/6, Blitzer, 23.99M) reports on its website that former South Carolina state Rep. Bakari Sellers (D) echoed the remarks in a tweet Tuesday night that read, "If we get to 50, I need Justice Breyer to announce retirement at 12:01pm on January 20th. And I need us to nominate and elect some federal judges." Breyer "stated in December that he intends to retire 'eventually'...but he said that 'it's hard to know exactly when' he would leave the court."

**US Surpasses 21M Confirmed COVID Cases.**

Reuters (1/6, Caspani, Szekely) reports, "More Americans were hospitalized with COVID-19 on Wednesday than at any time since the pandemic began, as total coronavirus infections crossed the 21 million mark, deaths soared across much of the United States and a historic vaccination effort lagged." Hospitalizations "reached a record 130,834 late on Tuesday, according to a Reuters tally of public health data, while 3,684 reported fatalities was the second-highest single-day death toll of the pandemic" as total deaths topped 357,000. Reuters says, "With many healthcare systems approaching a breaking point, pressure mounted on state and local officials to speed up distribution of the two authorized vaccines from Pfizer Inc with partner BioNTech SE and Moderna Inc."

NIAID Director Fauci said on the Economic Club (1/6), "I think people in many parts of the country are so fatigued, we call it COVID fatigue, with abiding by the public health measures that they're not doing the simple things to protect themselves." Fauci added, "We are now in the winter months, the late fall, early winter, which in fact has people do things indoors much more preferentially," and "we've had sequential holiday seasons where people have traveled." Fauci continued, "I think all of those three factors together are the reason why we're seeing this surge."

**Experts Warn US Is Ill-Equipped To Track New Variant.**

The New York Times (1/6, Zimmer, 20.6M) reports, "With no robust system to identify genetic variations of the coronavirus, experts warn that the United States is woefully ill-equipped to track a dangerous new mutant, leaving health officials blind as they try to combat the grave threat." The mutant, first identified in the UK, "is rare for now" in the US, but "has the potential to explode in the next few weeks, putting new pressures on American hospitals, some of which are already near the breaking point." Experts "say that a national surveillance program would be able to determine just how widespread the new variant is and help contain emerging hot spots, extending the crucial window of time in which vulnerable people across the country could get vaccinated."

The Washington Post (1/6, Achenbach, Guarino, 10.52M) reports that "although the variant has so far been detected in a very small fraction of infections, it shows signs of spreading and may become significantly more common in coming weeks, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and infectious-disease experts." While "cases have been mostly isolated," with single instances in New York, Florida, and Georgia, NIH Director Collins told the Post, "I would be surprised if that doesn't grow pretty rapidly." There is no existing evidence that the mutant "carries a greater risk of severe disease or death," but its transmissibility "presents a challenge for every country hoping to crush the pandemic," potentially driving "more patients into hospitals" and boosting "the covid-19 death toll."

Asked on Washington Post Live (1/6) about the new variants in the UK and South Africa, Collins said, "So far, there does not seem to be any reason to believe that these variants would be those that people vaccinated would not be able to resist. But they don't seem to be sufficiently different that the therapies, these monoclonal antibodies, wouldn't work against them, although real experiments are underway right now to make sure that that's the case." Collins added that NIH is working with the CDC on "a careful monitoring system" so "that when one of these new variants arises that we recognize it and we quickly test it to see if it's one to really worry about."

NIAID Director Fauci said on the Economic Club (1/6) that the variant detected in the UK does not "appear to be the case that it escapes the protection that's induced by the vaccines that we're using. The one from the Republic of South Africa is a little bit more complicated, because it overlaps a bit with the mutation in the UK, but it is a little bit more complicated because some of those mutations might have a negative impact on the efficacy of some of the monoclonal..."
antibodies that are used. So we're looking into that very carefully.”

HHS Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Paul Mango said on KDKA-AM Pittsburgh (1/6), “Folks should not be alarmed. Yes, it may be a little bit more transmissible. It does not evade the vaccine, it does not evade the therapeutics, the monoclonal antibodies that we've been using.”

Trump Administration To Activate Pharmacy Distribution Program.

The New York Times (1/6, Stevis-Grindneff, 20.6M) reports, “The Trump administration this week will launch a federal program to give out vaccines at pharmacy stores to high-risk groups, including older people and frontline workers, federal health officials said at a news conference on Wednesday.” HHS Secretary Azar said, “The next big push is to bring those online and make sure the governors have those available really to hopefully expand out to much larger swatches of individuals.” Certain “states have already begun using their pharmacies to give out vaccines,” but “the program being activated this week” will allow states to allocate doses directly to 19 pharmacy chains and associations, representing 40,000 participating locations.

Politico (1/6, Roubin, 6.73M) reports that the move “comes after federal officials faced fierce criticism for the slow pace of immunizations.” The program could see 3,000 to 6,000 pharmacies begin injections in the next two weeks, “according to a senior HHS official.” The official said, “What we’re doing is just putting this into what we would call the more standard distribution channel that most Americans are accustomed to, which is the corner pharmacy.”

Azar Recommends Expanding Access To Vaccines.

The AP (1/6, Smith) says that “with frustration rising over the sluggish rollout of the [coronavirus] vaccine, state leaders...are turning up the pressure, improvising and seeking to bend the rules to get shots in arms more quickly.” The AP reports that on Wednesday, HHS Secretary Azar “said...that the government will allow more drugstores to start giving vaccinations to speed delivery,” and “if health workers aren’t lining up fast enough, he said, it is OK to expand eligibility to lower-priority groups.” Azar is quoted as saying, “We need to not be overly prescriptive in that, especially as we see governors who are leaving vaccines sitting in freezers rather than getting it out into people’s arms.” According to the AP, “As of Wednesday...5.3 million people had gotten their first shot out of 17 million doses distributed.” The AP adds, “While that is believed to an undercount...health officials are still well behind where they wanted to be.”

Bloomberg (1/6, LaVito, 3.57M) reports that health officials “encouraged states to start vaccinating people more widely, acknowledging that the immunization rollout has been slower than anticipated and opening the spigot for a broader range of Americans to begin getting shots.” Azar and other Operation Warp Speed officials “said they expect vaccinations to start accelerating,” and NIH Director Collins earlier “said he expects the U.S. to give about 1 million shots per day” in an interview with The Washington Post. Azar “said the administration has been examining factors that have slowed the rollout over the past few weeks.”

Health Officials Project 1M Doses Per Day. Collins said on Washington Post Live (1/6), “The next couple of weeks are going to be really critical to see how we can get this distribution system up and going more smoothly.” However, Collins added, “Things are starting to pick up. ... I think we ought to be able to get in a place where maybe a million injections are happening every day.”

HHS Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Paul Mango said on KDKA-AM Pittsburgh (1/6), “We are very confident and hopeful in the next week or so we’ll see a fairly dramatic uptake in the administration of these vaccines.” Mango added, “The last three or four days, we’re up over a half million, that is as opposed to the first week when we were...150 to 250,000. So the trajectory is very, very positive and I would guess by sometime next week or certainly the week after we’ll be doing a million or more a day.”

HHS Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan said on WIND-AM Chicago (1/6, 8K), “We’re shipping the vaccine doses exactly where the states and the other jurisdictions are telling us to ship them. Those are going out the door, and so the work to ship the vaccines to those locations we think is going pretty well, thanks to the work of General Perna’s team here, Operation Warp Speed.” Hargan noted “a tremendous variation” among the states “in their ability to get those doses out
NIATD Director Fauci said on the Economic Club (1/6), “I think we have to wait for the first couple of weeks in January to make any determination as to what’s gone wrong, if anything. Clearly, no excuses, we should have gotten 20 [million] distributed and 20 [million] into the arms of people.” Fauci added, “What happened is that whenever you have a brand new massive program, the likes of which we’ve never undertaken before on a national basis, and you start it in the middle of the holiday season between Christmas and New Year’s, I think there’s a good reason, again, no excuses, but you can explain why you may not have gotten to the level you want.”

**CDC Says Allergic Reactions To COVID Vaccines Remain Rare.**

The Washington Post (1/6, Achenbach, 10.52M) reports, “Allergic reactions to coronavirus vaccinations remain rare and should not dissuade Americans from being vaccinated, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said” in a study Wednesday. Of “1.9 million people who received a shot during the first two weeks of vaccination, 21 experienced severe allergic reactions,” the study found, and “most of those people had a history of allergic reactions.” As a result of the low number of instances, the risk of severe illness or death from COVID “far outweighs that of a potential allergic reaction, CDC officials said.”

**Clinical Trial Finds Blood Plasma Reduces Risk Of Severe COVID.**

The New York Times (1/6, Wu, 20.6M) reports, “A small but rigorous clinical trial in Argentina has found that blood plasma from recovered Covid-19 patients can keep older adults from getting seriously sick with the coronavirus - if they get the therapy within days of the onset of the illness.” The study, “published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine, are some of the first to conclusively point toward the oft-discussed treatment’s beneficial effects.” The Times says the results also come “nearly five months” after the FDA “issued the therapy an emergency green light use,” with thousands receiving infusions “in the months since.”

**Vaccine Rollout In Nursing Homes Slowed By Hesitancy, Fewer Residents.**

The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Terlep, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that CVS Health said on Wednesday that vaccine hesitancy is slowing down distribution of COVID vaccine doses to staff across the country’s nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The pharmaceutical company said rollout numbers were also lower due to the fact that facilities overestimated numbers of residents by up to 30%. However, CVS and Walgreens said they are still on track to meet their federal targets by January 25.

**Arizona Is COVID “Hot Spot Of The World” Amid Surge.**

The AP (1/6, Tang) reports, “public health experts warned Wednesday that [Arizona] has become the hot spot of the world’ and that health restrictions the governor has been hesitant to impose could have tamped down the crisis.” Arizona Public Health Association head Will Humble said, “It’s way worse than July already, and it’s going to continue to get worse. We’re probably two weeks behind LA in terms of our situation.” State health officials “reported a triple-digit number of new virus-related deaths for the second day in a row and more than 7,200 daily cases, with hospitals strained by a record number of patients.” Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey (R) “has declined to reimpose restrictions like neighboring California” since the state’s stay-at-home order lifted earlier in the pandemic.

The Arizona Republic (1/6, 1.05M) reports, “The state’s seven-day, new-case average ranks highest nationwide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s COVID Data Tracker as of Tuesday,” with 112.1 cases per 100,000 people. The national “average for new cases is 64.5 cases per 100,000 people.”

**China Blocking WHO Efforts To Probe Pandemic’s Origin.**
The Washington Post (1/6, Rauhala, Kuo, 10.52M) reports that "for almost a year, the World Health Organization has been working with Chinese authorities to secure access to" Wuhan, "the epicenter of the initial outbreak," but "by New Year's Eve, the WHO expert leading the mission did not have a flight booked," and on Tuesday, WHO Secretary-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus "expressed ‘disappointment’ that China had yet to finalize permissions for the trip – his most pointed criticism of China to date." According to the Post, "Beijing for months had rejected calls for a probe into the origins of the virus, later agreeing to a WHO-led investigation only if it were not country-specific." The Post says Chinese officials "have pushed theories that the virus came from outside the country while controlling related research and blocking domestic scientists from publishing independent studies into the causes of the outbreak."

The AP (1/6, Wu) reports, "China said Wednesday it was still negotiating with the World Health Organization the dates and itinerary for a visit by international experts looking into origins of COVID-19, after the head of the agency criticized Beijing for not finalizing permissions for the mission." Hua Chunying, a spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry, said the country "has always been open and responsible" regarding the origins of the virus, but "to ensure that the work of the global experts group in China is successful, we need to carry out the necessary procedures and relevant concrete plans."

EU Approves Moderna's COVID Vaccine.

The AP (1/6, Furtula, Corder) reports, "The European Union's executive commission gave the green light Wednesday to Moderna Inc.'s COVID-19 vaccine, providing the 27-nation bloc with a second vaccine to use in the desperate battle to tame the virus rampaging across the continent." The European Commission's decision to grant "conditional marketing authorization for the vaccine" comes "against a backdrop of high infection rates in many EU countries and strong criticism of the slow pace of vaccinations across the region of some 450 million people." European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said, "With the Moderna vaccine, the second one now authorized in the EU, we will have a further 160 million doses. And more vaccines will come."

Bloomberg (1/6, 3.57M) reports that the decision comes "hours after a sign-off by the EU's medicines regulator" as EU leaders face "growing pressure to speed up clearance and deployment of vaccines to tame a surge of cases across the continent." The New York Times (1/6, Stevis-Gridneff, 20.6M) reports that the European Medicines Agency's decision was initially "scheduled for later in January," but moved forward after the agency came "under criticism for being too slow, as Britain and the United States began rolling out vaccination campaigns before the European Union had even granted the drugs authorization." The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Hinshaw, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) has more on the authorization.

New UK Lockdown Receives Legislative Approval.

The New York Times (1/6, Landler, Castle, 20.6M) reports that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson "has been whipsawed by forces of the pandemic" for months, "caught between an opposition that accused him of acting too late and lawmakers in his own party who complained that he had gone too far in locking down Britain's economy." However, Johnson's new national lockdown, which could remain in effect until March 31 and contains "some of his toughest measures yet," won approval on Wednesday. The Times says, "So dire is the public health crisis now confronting Britain that it has temporarily stilled the political debates that have raged since the virus first emerged in the country 11 months ago," as the country logged "a record 62,322 infections on Wednesday."

Israel Faces New Lockdown Amid Surge, Low Vaccine Supply.

The New York Times (1/6, Kershner, Rasgon, 20.6M) reports that after last week "outstripping the rest of the world in the pace of vaccinating its citizens," Israel is now facing "a tightened lockdown as infections have spiraled to more than 8,000 new cases a day." Israeli officials also "fear the more transmissible variant of the virus first identified in Britain is spreading rapidly," with at least 30 cases identified. A request from the Palestinian Authority for vaccines has also prompted "a debate over Israel's responsibility to the Palestinians at a time when its supplies "are dwindling."
Officials “said that they may have to slow down their widely vaunted vaccination program by mid-January unless they can persuade the drug companies to deliver more vaccines sooner than they had promised.”

**COVID Vaccines Expected To Protect Against South Africa Variant.**
The *Wall Street Journal* (1/6, Steinhauser, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that South African researchers anticipate that the existing COVID vaccines may be less effective against the new strain of COVID identified in the country, but should still offer protection. Official conclusions from trials testing the severity of the variant and its response to treatment has been highly anticipated since one of its mutations showed higher resistance to some antibodies in early laboratory experiments.

**Countries Delay Second Shot To Stretch Vaccine Supply.**
The *Wall Street Journal* (1/6, Strasburg, Sugden, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that a number of governments around the world are adopting a controversial strategy in rolling out COVID vaccines, delaying the second injection required for both Pfizer and Moderna’s vaccines in order to stretch supply. The UK was the first to announce the program, followed by Denmark, Belgium, and Quebec, despite criticism from bodies including the US FDA.

Asked on WIND-AM Chicago (1/6, 8K) about the possibility of delaying a second injection in the US, HHS Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan said the clinical trials for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines “didn’t do...a real scrub on the difference between one and two doses.” Hargan added, “If you have a shut down in production between that first and second dose and you found that the protection was waning because the first dose wasn’t enough for more permanent protection or high enough, then we would be in a worse situation.”

NIH Director Collins said on Washington Post Live (1/6) that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were approved “on the basis of rigorous phase three trials involving at least 30,000 participants and where it was a two dose regimen.” Collins added, “Let’s be really careful here, let’s basically build our vaccination program on the actual evidence that we have and not start making stuff up, even though it might seem like it would be a way to get people immunized more quickly. We want them to be immunized effectively.”

**USTR Criticizes India, Italy, Turkey Digital Taxes, But Stops Short Of Imposing Tariffs.**
The *Reuters* (2/6) reports in comments that “paved the way for potential retaliatory tariffs,” the US Trade Representative’s office said Wednesday that “digital services taxes adopted by India, Italy and Turkey discriminate against U.S. companies and are inconsistent with international tax principles.” But USTR “said...that it was not taking specific actions as part of its ‘Section 301’ investigations into those taxes at this time, but ‘will continue to evaluate all available options.’”

**Syria Says Israeli Missile Struck Targets In Syria.**
The *Reuters* (1/6) reports according to Syrian state TV, Israel “struck targets in southern Syria on Wednesday in the third such attack in nearly 10 days.” Military defectors said the missiles targeted Iranian revolutionary guard bases. A military spokesman said missiles flying over the Golan Heights targeted several locations and air defences downed several missiles.” While “There was no immediate comment from an Israeli military spokesman,” Israel’s Defence Force Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi “said last month the missile strikes had ‘slowed down Iran’s entrenchment in Syria.’”

**Pakistani Court Abolishes “Virginity Tests” In Sexual Assault Cases.**
The *New York Times* (1/6, Schmell, Ur-Rehman, 20.6M) reports a Pakistani court “has abolished so-called virginity tests, which women are subjected to in sexual assault cases, setting a precedent for the practice to be potentially outlawed nationwide.” Although the practice has been banned in Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh, it “continues to take place in Pakistan and more than a dozen other countries where it is seen as a measure of virtue and of whether a woman is trustworthy.”

FBI(21cv558)-922
group of women that includes "a sociologist, a journalist, an activist, a lawyer and a psychologist, as well as a member of the lower house of Parliament," argued that "examining whether the hymen was intact had no scientific or legal bearing in sexual violence cases, and violated constitutional rights to privacy and dignity. The Lahore High Court, in the province of Punjab, agreed on Monday."

Media Analyses: China Further Asserts Authority Over Hong Kong With Mass Arrests.

The Washington Post (1/6, Yu, 10.52M) reports that "by late Wednesday morning, at least 53 Hong Kong residents - former lawmakers, activists and an American lawyer among them - had been detained under Beijing's new national security law, and their offices and homes raided." They are "accused of subversion" and "face up to life in prison for holding a primary vote last year ahead of legislative elections that were ultimately postponed and which many of them were barred from contesting." The Post says the raids "marked the most dramatic onslaught in Chinese President Xi Jinping's transformation of once-freewheeling Hong Kong into a city gripped by fear under authoritarian rule." The New York Times (1/6, Wang, Ramzy, May, 20.5M) says the "mass arrests signaled that the central Chinese government, which once wielded its power over Hong Kong with a degree of discretion, is increasingly determined to openly impose its will on the city."

The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Khan, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports activists in the city say the mass arrests show Beijing's tolerance for democracy in Hong Kong is waning, and Axios (1/6, Allen-Ebrahimian, 1.26M) casts them as an indication that "Chinese Communist Party leaders see any form of true participatory government as an illegitimate subversion of their power." Axios adds, "The arrests also suggest Beijing believes it will face no meaningful resistance from western countries."

Bloomberg (1/6, 3.57M) says the "unprecedented arrest of dozens of leading Hong Kong opposition figures illustrates the depth of Joe Biden's challenges with Beijing." Bloomberg adds, "By the time he becomes U.S. president, there might not be much democracy left to save in the Asian financial hub." Reuters (1/6, Chow, Chow) reports that "Biden's pick for secretary of state, Antony Blinken, said on Twitter the arrests were 'an assault on those bravely advocating for universal rights.'"

Biden Hopes To Build Coalition Of Western Democracies To Pressure China. The Wall Street Journal (1/6, Wei, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Joe Biden hopes to build a coalition of Western democracies to put pressure on China, but Chinese President Xi Jinping has the same idea and has been trying to bring traditional US allies under its economic influence.

NYTimes Analysis: EU Decision To Follow Through On China Trade Deal Undermines Biden. A New York Times (1/6, Erlanger, 20.6M) analysis says that in 2014, the European Union "embarked on a trade deal with China believing that engagement...was the best way to alter its behavior." and "the deal was quietly sealed in the final weeks of last year." However, according to the Times, "by then, China had changed," and "the timing -- with a newly aggressive China seen as a strategic rival to the United States and just weeks before Joseph R. Biden Jr. becomes president -- has opened the European Union to questions and criticism, from analysts and particularly American officials, that perhaps the deal was a diplomatic and political error." the Times says the deal "creates doubts about Europe's willingness to heed Mr. Biden's call to work with him on a joint strategy toward Beijing. And it has handed an important victory to China, where the deal was hailed as a great success for President Xi Jinping."

US Eases Sudan's Debts As It Normalizes Relations With Israel.

The AP (1/6, Magdy) reports that on Wednesday, the government of Sudan "said it had signed an agreement with the United States that paves the way for" Sudan "to normalize relations with Israel and help clear some of its massive debt to the World Bank." Sudanese Justice Minister Nasredeen Abdulbari and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin signed the deal in Khartoum. Mnuchin is quoted as saying, "This is a very, very significant agreement. ... It would have a tremendous impact on the people of Israel and the people of Sudan as they continue to work together on cultural and economic opportunities and trade." The AP adds, "Also during Mnuchin's visit, the U.S. and Sudan signed a 'memorandum of understanding' to facilitate the payment of the African..."
country’s debt to the World Bank," which “would enable Sudan to receive more than $1 billion annually from the World Bank for the first time in nearly three decades, when the country was designated a pariah state.”

**Professor Says Gulf Nations’ Effort To Isolate Qatar Failed.**
The AP (6/15, Batrawy) reports that Qatar was facing a “blockade and boycott by Gulf Arab neighbors 3 1/2 years ago, and this week were jolted again by the sudden announcement that it was all over. The period in between was bitter, with mud-slinging by both sides and viscous media blitzes, social media trolling, expensive lobbying efforts in Washington, and allegations of hacks and leaks.” Jocelyn Sage Mitchell, an assistant professor in residence at Northwestern University’s campus in Qatar, said the effort by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt “to internationally isolate Qatar failed.” That, along with “an incoming Biden administration in Washington that is expected to take a firmer stance toward Saudi Arabia and re-engage with Iran, put Qatar in a strong negotiating position.” Mitchell said, “I don’t expect to see any concessions or changes of significance from Qatar.”

**The Big Picture**

**Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

**Wall Street Journal:**
Congress Resumes Debate After Rioters Storm Capitol
A Single Day Shakes Two Presidencies, Two Parties And One Nation To The Core
Congress Reconvenes To Finish Certifying Biden’s Electoral College Win
‘The Protesters Are In The Building,’ Inside The Capitol Stormed By A Pro-Trump Mob
Georgia Senate Wins By Democrats Followed Years Of Party Organizing

**New York Times:**
In Day Of Violence, Pro-Trump Mob Storms Capitol, Disrupting Electoral Count
A Mob And The Breach Of Democracy: The Violent End Of The Trump Era
As House Was Breached, A Fear We’d Have To Fight To Get Out
A Democratic Triumph In Georgia, Overshadowed By Right-Wing Violence In Washington
Biden Denounces Storming Of Capitol As A ‘Dark Moment’ In Nation’s History

**Washington Post:**
After Mob Invades With Ease, Questions About Security Fail:
‘To Black Lives Matter Activists, Policing Of White Rioters Was Gentle
The Day American Democracy Was Brought To The Brink
Trump Mob Storms Capitol
Congress Nears Confirmation After Chaos

**Financial Times:**
Angry Mobs Of Trump Supporters Interrupt Transfer Of Power
‘There’s Nothing Retro About Me’ – Friedrich Merz On His Bid To Succeed Angela Merkel
UK Watchdog To Investigate Nvidia’s $40BN Arm Deal

**Washington Times:**
Trump Defiant Amid Capitol Chaos: ‘Remember This Day Forever!’
Violence, Destruction Halt Certification As Trump Supporters Storm Capitol
RNC Leaders Stand By Trump’s Effort To Remake Party: ‘Nobody’s Turning On Trump Here’
‘Age Of Incrementalism Is Over’: Far Left Salivates At Democrats’ Complete Takeover
Senate Defeats Republican Challenge To Pennsylvania Electoral College Vote
Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:
**ABC:** Protests; Protests-Security; Protests-Violence; Protesters; Biden-Protests; Protests-World Perception; Certification; Georgia-Senate Results.
**CBS:** Protests; Protests-Congress; Trump-Legacy; Georgia-Senate Results; Protesters; Protests-Attempt To Stop Certification; Biden-Protests; Sedition; Certification.
**NBC:** Protests; Protests-Rep. Gallagher; Certification; Biden-Protests; Protesters; Protests-Rep. Mullin; Protests-World Perception; Protests-Congress; American Division; Trump-Legacy; Protests-Security; Protests-Analysis.

Network TV At A Glance:
Protests - 46 minutes, 30 seconds
Certification – 8 minutes, 0 seconds
Biden-Protests – 6 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:
**ABC:** Certification; 25th Amendment Talks; Protests; Protests-Security; Protests-Attempt To Stop Certification.
**CBS:** Protests; Certification; 25th Amendment Talks; Protest Criticisms; Protests-Death; White House Officials Resignations; Stocks.
**FOX:** Certification; Trump-Video; Stephanie Grisham Resigns.
**NPR:** Protests; Protest Criticisms; Trump-Video; Protests-World Perception; Stocks.

WASHINGTON’S SCHEDULE

Today’s Events In Washington.

**White House:**
- President Trump — Awards Presidential Medal of Freedom to golfers Annika Sorenstam and Gary Player and Olympian Babe Zaharias.
- Vice President Pence — No public schedule released.

**US Senate:**
- No public schedule released.

**US House:**
- No public schedule released.

**Cabinet Officers:**
- No public schedule released.

**Visitors:**
- No scheduled visitors.

**This Town:**
- Black Coalition Against COVID-19 hosts town hall on vaccines (virtual) – Black Coalition Against COVID-19 hosts ‘Making It Plain — What Black America Needs to Know About COVID-19 and Vaccines’ virtual town hall, with speakers including NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci; David Carlisle (Charles R Drew University of Medicine and Science); Kizzmekia Corbett (NIH); Peter Marks (FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation & Research); Nancy Messonnier (CDC); Leon McDougle (National Medical Association); Maj. Gen. Christopher Sharpstein (Operation Warp Speed); Marc Morial (National Urban League); Helene Gayle (The Chicago Community Trust); Martha Dawson (National Black Nurses Association); Felicia Collins (HHS – Office of Minority Health); Rev. Calvin Butts (Choose Healthy Life Black Clergy Action Plan); Valerie Montgomery Rice (Morehouse School of Medicine); and Marcella Nunez-Smith (Biden-Harris Health Equity Task Force); 7:00 PM
From: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd: Overnight Summary
To: Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 7, 2021 6:36 AM (UTC-05:00)

Thx
Anything on

Will you be around at 730 to chat with me?

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 7, 2021 6:04 AM, "Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

> Good morning,
> [Message text]
> From the overnight,
Yes, and yes. We are sending an email with updated spreadsheet and highlight of

On Jan 7, 2021 6:36 AM, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Thx
Anything on

Will you be around at 730 to chat with me?

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 7, 2021 6:04 AM, "Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
> Good morning,
> 
> From the overnight,
Judge Merrick Garland is President-elect Joe Biden's choice for attorney general. (Alex Wong/Getty Images)

By Jan. 6, 2021 at 5:50 p.m. EST

President-elect Joe Biden plans to nominate federal judge Merrick B. Garland, a Democratic casualty of the bitter partisan divide in Washington, to be the next attorney general, tasked with restoring the Justice Department's independence and credibility, according to people familiar with the decision.

Garland, 68, serves on the federal appeals court in the District. He is best known for being nominated to the Supreme Court in 2016 by President Barack Obama — a nomination that went nowhere because Senate Republicans refused to give him a hearing. The opening on the high court was eventually filled the following year by President Trump's choice, Neil M. Gorsuch.

Biden's transition team declined to comment. An announcement on Garland's nomination, first reported Wednesday by Politico, and a slew of others to fill top Justice Department positions could come as early as Thursday.
Many Democrats still think of Garland as a living example of Republican double-standards when it comes to the courts and the law, though some Biden advisers have come to view him as well-suited to restore norms of nonpolitical decision-making at the Justice Department, given his track record as a judge and a former senior official at the department, according to people familiar with the decision. Like others, they spoke on the condition of anonymity because Biden’s selection has not been formally announced yet.

Democratic lawyers hailed Garland as an inspired choice to repair the Justice Department’s credibility, which eroded under Trump’s frequent demands to investigate his political enemies and exonerate his friends. Garland enjoys a reputation as a unifying, moderating force on the appeals court, and some Democrats said they view his selection as a signal to congressional Republicans that the department will operate in an evenhanded fashion in the Biden administration.

Karen L. Dunn, a former prosecutor who once clerked for Garland, called him “the perfect choice for this job. He will restore independence and integrity to the Justice Department, be the people’s lawyer, not the president’s lawyer, and will come in with the respect of the career public servant who advance the cause of justice every day.”

On a day when a mob of angry Trump supporters stormed the Capitol, leading to bedlam in the halls of Congress, Garland won plaudits from some key GOP voices.

Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) called Garland a “sound choice to be the next attorney general. He is a man of great character, integrity and tremendous competency in the law.”

Brian Benczkowski, a Republican lawyer who served as head of the Justice Department’s criminal division in the Trump administration, said: “Merrick Garland is a well-respected judge and Justice Department veteran who can be expected to be a steady and evenhanded leader. He is a welcome choice by those of us who, on a nonpartisan basis, care about the stewardship of this important institution.”

But some defense lawyers and criminal-justice-reform advocates have said they worry Garland’s record on the bench shows he is too deferential to the government and law enforcement — and perhaps would not be as aggressive about implementing the kind of dramatic changes they seek.

Biden advisers are hopeful that the slate of senior officials tapped to fill out Justice Department leadership roles around Garland will ease any such concerns from civil rights groups, according to people familiar with the discussions.

These people said Biden and his inner circle of advisers plan to nominate Lisa Monaco, a former national security official during the Obama administration, to serve as deputy attorney general in the Justice Department’s No. 2 position. Monaco, once considered by Obama as a candidate to lead the FBI, has held senior positions within the Justice Department and the bureau.

The incoming administration has picked Vanita Gupta, the former head of the department’s civil rights division under Obama, to take the No. 3 job there, these people said. Gupta is president of the Leadership Conference on
Civil and Human Rights and an outspoken critic of the Trump administration's record on civil rights.

Biden also plans to nominate Kristen Clarke to lead the Justice Department's civil rights division, these people said. Clarke once worked in that division's criminal section, handling police misconduct, brutality and hate crimes cases. She is president of the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

Garland was nominated to the appeals court by President Bill Clinton after a stint as a senior Justice Department official in which he oversaw the prosecution of the 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people. He also oversaw the prosecution of Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber who eluded authorities for years while mailing bombs to people.

Garland has called his work on the Oklahoma City case "the most important thing I have ever done in my life," and his selection suggests that the incoming Biden administration wants someone running the Justice Department with experience in dealing with domestic terrorism.

James Wyda, the longtime federal public defender for Maryland, said Garland has an opportunity to remake the department, which he said "needs to not just be healed, but changed."

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, Wyda said the department has failed in its response to the public health crisis in jails and prisons. Instead, the department "prioritized executions and scrambled to kill as many prisoners as possible before the next administration took office."

"The Department of Justice wields so much power. I am hopeful Judge Garland will bring many new voices — including some from outside of the Department — to the table as he attempts to restore the credibility of this essential institution," Wyda said in an email.

Neal Katyal, a former acting solicitor general, called Garland "the definition of fair. It's a hard task to bring back honor and integrity to the Justice Department after what Trump has done," Katyal said. "If anyone can do it, it's Judge Garland."

If Garland is confirmed as attorney general, the selection would leave an opening on a key federal appeals court. Before Tuesday’s Senate elections in Georgia, some Democrats had worried Republicans might block an effort to fill the vacant seat, leading to a loss of Democratic influence on the court. But with twin victories by Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, Democrats will narrowly control the Senate, making it easier for Biden to get nominees for both administration posts and the federal courts.

The last federal judge to serve as attorney general was Michael Mukasey, who led the department during the last two years of George W. Bush's administration. Garland’s selection also echoed the decision in 1975 by President Gerald Ford to tap Edward H. Levi, a legal scholar and president of the University of Chicago, to restore credibility to the department in the post-Watergate era.

A Biden transition official said the Georgia races did not factor into the president-elect's decision to pick Garland. Rather, he wanted to be sure his nominee would be seen as a lawyer serving the country's interests and not the president's personal interests, this person said, noting that Biden also was eager to select a figure who would
empower career department employees to work independently of any political influence.

Jamie Gorelick, a former deputy attorney general who worked with Garland when he was last in the Justice Department, said he will "bring his judicial temperament and judicious personality to the table."

Garland will be confronted with a number of thorny legal and political challenges if he is confirmed, including how to handle the two-year-old investigation into the finances of the president’s son Hunter Biden and what to do about calls from liberals and other Trump critics to investigate or prosecute Trump and his inner circle.

The next attorney general will also face a host of policy decisions made by the previous administration that will either be undone, modified or left alone. Democratic administrations have sought to shorten prison sentences for some types of drug offenses, while the department under then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions moved in the opposite direction.

Biden had considered former deputy attorney general Sally Q. Yates and former senator Doug Jones (D-Ala.) to be the nation’s top law enforcement official.

Yates was well-liked by many in the civil rights community, though some feared her confirmation could be a bruising battle, particularly before the Senate races in Georgia.

Jones — who famously prosecuted a long-dormant case against members of the Ku Klux Klan for bombing a Black church in Birmingham in 1963 and killing four girls — was considered a better candidate for winning Republican votes for confirmation, but some civil rights leaders had feared his credentials on civil rights were not sufficiently broad.

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Policing & Policy

New York Governor Pushes For Legalizing Recreational Marijuana

The New York Times (1/6) reports, “New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is calling for the legalization and regulation of marijuana for recreational use by adults, his third attempt in as many years to get the drug fully legalized in the state.” Cuomo announced his proposal Wednesday as part of his upcoming State of the State agenda for the year. Cuomo pointed to growing acceptance of legalization in the Northeast, including in Massachusetts, Maine and most recently, New Jersey. The proposal “calls for the creation of a new Office of Cannabis Management that would oversee recreational use as well as existing medical use. It also would offer licensing opportunities for those in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by law enforcement efforts against marijuana to become entrepreneurs in the new recreational market.”

Bill Would Eliminate Residency Requirements For Tennessee First Responders

Memphis, TN (1/6) reports from Nashville, Tennessee, “A bill filed in the state legislature would eliminate residency requirements for first responders in the state of Tennessee.” According to WREG-TV, “Filed by Senator Brian Kelsey on Wednesday, SB 0319 prohibits a local government from having residency requirements as a condition for employment for a first responder.” Kelsey said the bill will allow departments across the state to recruit the best in a time when many, such as Memphis, are struggling to meet hiring goals. “This is a public safety bill. It will enable us to hire more police officers, which will help us fight our rising crime rates,” said Kelsey. “This bill will support our police and fire officers who keep us safe by allowing them to live where they choose.”

Pakistani Court Abolishes “Virginity Tests” In Sexual Assault Cases

The New York Times (1/6, Schmall, Umar- Rehman) reports a Pakistani court “has abolished so-called virginity tests, which women are subjected to in sexual assault cases, setting a precedent for the practice to be potentially outlawed nationwide.” Although the practice has been banned in Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh, it “continues to take place in Pakistan and more than a dozen other countries where it is seen as a measure of virtue and of whether a woman is trustworthy.” A group of women that includes “a sociologist, a journalist, an activist, a lawyer and a psychologist, as well as a member of the lower house of Parliament,” argued that “examining whether the hymen was intact had no scientific or legal bearing in sexual violence cases, and violated constitutional rights to privacy and dignity. The Lahore High Court, in the province of Punjab, agreed on Monday.”

Missouri County Prosecutor Hires Investigator For Police Cases

The AP (1/6) reports from Kansas City, Missouri, “Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker has hired a former Kansas City police sergeant to investigate police use-of-force cases, possible wrongful convictions and allegations of police misconduct.” The AP adds, “Sgt. Tony Sanders began working as an investigator this week. Baker’s spokesman Michael Mansur said in a news release Wednesday. Sanders said after social justice protests in June led to increased complaints about police conduct and her office created a website to take in complaints from the public. ‘I’m extremely thrilled to have an investigator on board who is so uniquely qualified,’ Baker said. This work will be crucial to rebuilding the community’s trust in law enforcement.”

Crime & Drugs
Police: Accused Massachusetts Church Arsonist Went On Tire-Slapping Spree

The Springfield (MA) Republican (1/6, Barry) reports newly available police records filed in Springfield District Court indicate that Dushko Velchev, who “is charged in connection with three alleged arson attempts at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church,” slashed tires “around Pittsfield for two months.” Velchev has not been charged with a hate crime in connection with the fires at the church, which has a predominantly Black congregation, “the FBI is still investigating, a spokeswoman from that agency said.”

Operation DisrupTor Defendant Pleads Guilty To Drug Charge

In online coverage, KTEN.TV (1/6) reports a defendant who was “charged under Operation DisrupTor, a coordinated international effort to disrupt opioid trafficking on the Darknet,” has pleaded guilty “to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance.” Aaron Brewer, who “admitted he created darknet market vendor accounts in order to sell cocaine, heroin, and other controlled substances” online, “now faces up to 20 years in federal prison.” The KTEN article quotes the US Postal Inspection Service’s Thomas Noyes, who stated, “We will continue to find, and bring to justice, individuals like this, and we thank the US Attorney’s Office and” the FBI “for their significant work.”

San Antonio Homicides Jumped In 2020

The San Antonio Express-News (1/6, Eaton) reports, “Homicides in San Antonio increased 22 percent last year,” ending a three-year period of decline. At 128 homicides in city limits, 2020 was the second deadliest year in San Antonio since 1995. San Antonio Police Chief William McManus “suspects many deaths could be credited to so-called ‘risky behavior’ – such as drug use and gang involvement – and family violence.” Meanwhile, officials cautioned that the year-end total in San Antonio and Bexar County could change slightly as detectives review open cases and determine whether the deaths meet the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting definition, which doesn’t include justifiable homicides or officer-involved killings.”

GLOBAL SECURITY

Protesters Storm US Capitol Building, Halting Count Of Electoral Vote

The AP (1/6, Mascarenhas, Jalonick) reports that “angry supporters” of President Trump “stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday and forced lawmakers into hiding, in a stunning attempt to overturn America’s presidential election, undercut the nation’s democracy and keep Democrat Joe Biden from replacing Trump in the White House.” According to the AP, “The nation’s elected representatives scrambled to crouch under desks and don gas masks, while police futilely tried to barricade the building, one of the most jarring scenes ever to unfold in a seat of American political power. A woman was shot and killed inside the Capitol, and Washington’s mayor instituted an evening curfew in an attempt to contain the violence.” The AP adds, “Together, the protests and the GOP election objections amounted to an almost unbelievable challenge to American democracy.”

Prosecutor: Reading, England Knife Attacker Had “Interest” In Extremism

The Guardian (1/6, Dodd) reports, “The man who has admitted murdering three people in a Reading park is not a jihadist but plagued by substance abuse and mental health issues, a court today heard.” The Guardian adds, “The prosecution has asked for Khairi Saadallah, 26, to be given a whole life sentence – meaning he would die in jail – for the attacks last June during which he shouted Allahu Akbar. At an earlier hearing, Saadallah pleaded guilty to murdering three men and the attempted murder of three more, over a period of less than one minute. His barrister, Rossano Scamardella QC, tried to rebut the prosecution case that the attacks were committed as part of an alleged jihad, fuelled by Saadallah’s long-term interest in violent extremism.”

WEDNESDAY’S LEAD STORIES

* Fines For Underage Marijuana Use Proposed In New Jersey Legalization Bill
* Denver Police Seized Guns Over Threats To Colorado’s Attorney General
* Sources: FBI Won’t Classify Nashville Bombing As Terrorism
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POLICING & POLICY

New York Governor Pushes For Legalizing Recreational Marijuana

The AP reports, "New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is calling for the legalization and regulation of marijuana for recreational use by adults, his third attempt in as many years to get the drug fully legalized in the state." Cuomo "announced his proposal Wednesday as part of his upcoming State of the State agenda for the year. Cuomo pointed to growing acceptance of legalization in the Northeast, including in Massachusetts, Maine and most recently, New Jersey." The proposal "calls for the creation of a new Office of Cannabis Management that would oversee recreational use as well as existing medical use. It also would offer licensing opportunities for those in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by law enforcement efforts against marijuana to become entrepreneurs in the new recreational market."

Bill Would Eliminate Residency Requirements For Tennessee First Responders

WREG-TV reports from Nashville, Tennessee, "A bill filed in the state legislature would eliminate residency requirements for first responders in the state of Tennessee." According to WREG TV, "Filed by Senator Brian Kelsey on Wednesday, SB 0319 prohibits a local government from having residency requirements as a condition for employment for a first responder." Kelsey said the bill will allow departments across the state to recruit the best in a time when many, such as Memphis, are struggling to meet hiring goals. "This is a public safety bill. It will enable us to hire more police officers, which will help us fight our rising crime rates," said Kelsey. "This bill will support our police and fire officers who keep us safe by allowing them to live where they choose."

Pakistani Court Abolishes “Virginity Tests” In Sexual Assault Cases

The New York Times reports from London, England, "A Pakistani court has abolished so-called virginity tests, which women are subjected to in sexual assault cases, setting a precedent for the practice to be potentially outlawed nationwide." Although the practice has been banned in Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh, it "continues to take place in Pakistan and more than a dozen other countries where it is seen as a measure of virtue and of whether a woman is trustworthy." A group of women that includes "a sociologist, a journalist, an activist, a lawyer and a psychologist, as well as a member of the lower house of Parliament," argued that "examining whether the hymen was intact had no scientific or legal bearing in sexual violence cases, and violated constitutional rights to privacy and dignity. The Lahore High Court, in the province of Punjab, agreed on Monday."

Missouri County Prosecutor Hires Investigator For Police Cases

The AP reports from Kansas City, Missouri, "Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker has hired a former Kansas City police sergeant to investigate police use-of-force cases, possible wrongful convictions and allegations of police misconduct." The AP adds, "Sgt. Tony Sanders began working as an investigator this week, Baker’s spokesman Michael Mansur said in a news release Wednesday. Sanders said after social justice protests in June led to increased complaints about police conduct and her office created a website to take in complaints from the public. "I’m extremely thrilled to have an investigator on board who is so uniquely qualified," Baker said. This work will be crucial to rebuilding the community’s trust in law enforcement."

CRIME & DRUGS
**Police: Accused Massachusetts Church Arsonist Went On Tire-Slapping Spree**

The Springfield (MA) Republican reports newly available police records filed in Springfield District Court indicate that Dushko Valchev, who “is charged in connection with three alleged arson attempts at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church,” slashed tires “around Pittsfield for two months.” Valchev has not been charged with a hate crime in connection with the fires at the church, which has a predominantly Black congregation, “the FBI is still investigating, a spokeswoman from that agency said.”

**Operation Disruptor Defendant Pleads Guilty To Drug Charge**

In online coverage, KTVT-TV reports a defendant who was “charged under Operation Disruptor, a coordinated international effort to disrupt opioid trafficking on the Darknet,” has pleaded guilty “to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance.” Aaron Brewer, who “admitted he created darknet market vendor accounts in order to sell cocaine, heroin, and other controlled substances” online, “now faces up to 20 years in federal prison.” The KTVT article quotes the US Postal Inspection Service’s Thomas Noyes, who stated, “We will continue to find, and bring to justice, individuals like this, and we thank the US Attorney’s Office and the FBI “for their significant work.”

**San Antonio Homicides Jumped In 2020**

The San Antonio Express-News reports, “Homicides in San Antonio increased 22 percent last year,” ending a three-year period of decline. At 128 homicides in city limits, 2020 was the second deadliest year in San Antonio since 1999. San Antonio Police Chief William McManus “suspects many deaths could be credited to so-called ‘risky behavior’ — such as drug use and gun involvement — and family violence.” Meanwhile, “officials cautioned that the year-end total in San Antonio and Bexar County could change slightly as detectives review open cases and determine whether the deaths meet the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting definition, which doesn’t include justified homicides or officer-involved killings.”

**GLOBAL SECURITY**

**Protesters Storm US Capitol Building, Halting Count Of Electoral Vote**

The AP reports, “angry supporters of President Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday and forced lawmakers into hiding, in a stunning attempt to overturn America’s presidential election, undercut the nation’s democracy and keep Democrat Joe Biden from replacing Trump in the White House.” According to the AP, “The nation’s elected representatives scrambled to crouch under desks and don gas masks, while police futilely tried to barricade the building, one of the most jarring scenes ever to unfold in a seat of American political power. A woman was shot and killed inside the Capitol, and Washington’s mayor instituted an evening curfew in an attempt to contain the violence.” The AP adds, “Together, the protests and the GOP election objections amounted to an almost unthinkable challenge to American democracy.”

**Prosecutor: Reading, England Knife Attacker Had “Interest” In Extremism**

The Guardian reports, “The man who has admitted murdering three people in a Reading park is not a jihadi but plagued by substance abuse and mental health issues, a court today heard.” The Guardian adds, “The prosecution has asked for Khairi Saadallah, 25, to be given a whole life sentence — meaning he would die in jail — for the attacks last June during which he stabbed Ali Akbar. At an earlier hearing, Saadallah pleaded guilty to murdering three men and the attempted murder of three more, over a period of less than one minute. His barrister, Rossano Scamardella QC, tried to rebut the prosecution case that the attacks were committed as part of an alleged jihad, fuelled by Saadallah’s long-term interest in violent extremism.”

**WEDNESDAY’S LEAD STORIES**

- Fines For Underage Marijuana Use Proposed In New Jersey Legalization Bill
- Denver Police Seized Guns Over Threats To Colorado’s Attorney General
- Sources: FBI Won’t Classify Nashville Bombing As Terrorism
All information and inquiries should be directed to