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Justice Department and FBI Leaders Noticeably Absent Since Riot

Lower-ranking officials are briefing lawmakers Tuesday about the events.

FBI Director Christopher Wray has kept a low public profile for nearly a week.

By
Sadie Gurman
and
Aruna Viswanatha

Updated Jan. 12, 2021 12:55 pm ET

Officials from the FBI and Department of Justice will give lawmakers their first formal briefings Tuesday on last week’s deadly pro-Trump riot at the Capitol. Notably absent will be their bosses—Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen and FBI Director Christopher Wray—who have kept a very low public profile for almost a week.

The acting U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, Michael Sherwin, and the head of the FBI’s Washington office, Steven D’Antuono, who are running the sprawling probe will speak by phone with lawmakers, people familiar with the matter said. The briefing comes as Washington grapples with ongoing security concerns and threats of future violence, and agents fan out across the country to tackle an investigation with thousands of suspects and crimes ranging from murder to stealing national-security information.
FBI agents have been scouring social media and pursuing some 70,000 tips the agency has received in the days since the riot, with federal prosecutors in Washington already pursuing more than two dozen arrest warrants for members of the mob on charges of gun crimes, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, assaulting an officer and other offenses. More charges against individuals allegedly involved in the violence are expected to be unveiled this week.

Law-enforcement officials have also been planning for the possibility of more armed protests at every state capitol and in Washington in the days leading up to Joe Biden’s inauguration, with U.S. officials ordering thousands of extra National Guard troops to Washington, D.C., and halting public tours of the Washington Monument.

Tuesday’s briefing comes after the Democratic leaders of five House committees wrote to Mr. Wray on Thursday seeking urgent information on the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s plans to investigate and prosecute those involved in the riot as well as how it tracks domestic terrorists and aims to disrupt any future plots.

Sens. Mark Warner and Marco Rubio, the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee, were also scheduled to receive their first formal briefing Tuesday from FBI officials about the Capitol riot and preparations to protect the inauguration, though neither Mr. Wray nor Deputy FBI Director David Bowdich were expected to participate, according to a person familiar with the matter. The Senate Intelligence Committee has also asked the FBI to share all records related to the bureau’s intelligence ahead of the attack, the person said.

Top U.S. Capitol Police officials, who are primarily responsible for securing the building, have also maintained a minimal public presence.

‘If you’re talking about filling in gaps, providing information, soothing a troubled nation, that should come from leaders.’

— Chuck Rosenberg, a former top Justice Department official

Messrs. Rosen and Wray are known for their low-key personalities and have stayed out of the spotlight throughout most of their tenures. But some current and former Justice Department
officials say their lack of visibility after the attack in which a police officer and a rioter were killed and three others died of medical emergencies is striking and that a public appearance would reassure observers of the investigation’s priority.

“If you’re talking about filling in gaps, providing information, soothing a troubled nation, that should come from leaders,” said Chuck Rosenberg, a former top Justice Department official in both Republican and Democratic administrations. “The attorney general has an obligation to speak to the nation if no one else is.”

Instead, Messrs. Rosen and Wray have issued written statements condemning the violence and promising to pursue those responsible, but have remained out of public view as federal law-enforcement agencies begin internally scrutinizing their own actions and how, at all levels, they miscalculated the threat of violence from what they estimated would be a largely peaceful political rally.

Accounts from inside the Capitol and elsewhere describe a disjointed response in which senior aides to Congressional leadership frantically called current and former Justice Department officials seeking immediate help as the rioters stormed the building and barged into some lawmakers’ offices.

One senior aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell turned to former Attorney General William Barr’s chief of staff, Will Levi, who left the Justice Department in early December, seeking reinforcements for the badly outnumbered Capitol Police force. Mr. Levi responded swiftly, first connecting the aide with department officials and then calling Mr. Bowdich for an urgent response, according to people familiar with the conversation.

Mr. Bowdich, inside a command post at the FBI’s Washington Field Office, decided he couldn’t wait for a formal invitation from Capitol Police to send backup and mobilized bureau tactical teams, said the people familiar with the call, which the Washington Post reported earlier.

Mr. Wray left much of the operational planning to his No. 2 official, which people familiar with both men said wasn’t necessarily unusual given both their personalities and the nature of their roles.
Mr. Bowdich is a longtime FBI official well-versed in handling terrorist attacks and other high-profile cases, while Mr. Wray has spent more time as a corporate lawyer than a Justice Department official in a post-9/11 world. He is no fan of speaking engagements, people close to him said, and has kept a low profile even amid bureau controversies.

A senior FBI official said that Mr. Wray, despite a limited public presence, was routinely briefed about the bureau’s plans ahead of the protest and made at least two lengthy visits to the command center at headquarters to monitor the unfolding situation. He was regularly in touch with Mr. Bowdich and others, the official said.

Mr. Rosen, too, is a longtime civil litigator, and has leaned heavily on his acting deputy, Richard Donoghue, for advice on criminal matters, people familiar with the department’s upper ranks said. His relative silence in the aftermath of the attack stands in contrast to the approach of the attorney general he succeeded, William Barr, who held an hour-long news conference as some protests this summer in the wake of the death of George Floyd turned violent.

Leadership has been in transition across Washington as Trump administration officials have departed ahead of Mr. Biden’s inauguration, including Mr. Barr who left late last month. The transitions complicated the response to the riot.

Both Mr. Wray and Mr. Rosen have at times over the past year been concerned about making public statements that could put Mr. Wray in the crosshairs of Mr. Trump, people familiar with the matter said. The president has publicly and privately threatened to fire his FBI director over the course of the past year.

Mr. Rosen assumed his post less than three weeks ago, as the department faced pressure from Mr. Trump to take action in the waning days of his administration on legal controversies of intense interest to him.

Since taking on the role, Mr. Rosen hasn’t made any moves to support Mr. Trump’s allegations of election fraud. Late last month, the Justice Department also worked with Vice President Mike Pence to reject a Republican congressman’s long-shot bid to give Mr. Pence the power to overturn Mr. Biden’s victory.
Brian P. Hale  
Assistant Director  
Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
FBI
And the briefings were pre-planned....not in response to the article.

On Jan 12, 2021 1:27 PM, "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)" wrote:
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Law-enforcement officials have also been planning for the possibility of more armed protests at every state
I think I'd say that a little differently. But again, it's their gig!

Got it Pam. Thanks.....Mike

If things change, we will contact them. Thanks!

Hi Mike,

I'm looping Pat here, as he mentioned CTD is also hearing from partners.

All of the daily intel flow going into Sit Reps, whether the FBI internal one or the OPE one is at the U/LESS level or below.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,
Pam
Great. Thanks Mike

Will do, and I have been in discussion with

Got it Pam. Thanks.....Mike

If things change, we will contact them. Thanks!

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All of the daily intel flow going into Sit Reps, whether the FBI internal one or the OPE one is at the U/LES level or below.
FBI report warned of ‘war’ at Capitol, contradicting claims there was no indication of looming violence

A man breaks a window as a mob of President Trump’s supporters storms the U.S. Capitol on Jan 6. (Leah Millis/Reuters)

By Devlin Barrett and Matt Zapotosky
Jan. 12, 2021 at 12:08 p.m. EST

A day before rioters stormed Congress, an FBI office in Virginia issued an explicit internal warning that extremists were preparing to travel to Washington to commit violence and “war,” according to an internal document reviewed by The Washington Post that
contradicts a senior official's declaration the bureau had no intelligence indicating anyone at last week's pro-Trump protest planned to do harm.

A situational information report approved for release the day before the U.S. Capitol riot painted a dire portrait of dangerous plans, including individuals sharing a map of the complex's tunnels, and possible rally points for would-be conspirators to meet up in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and South Carolina and head in groups to Washington.

“As of 5 January 2021, FBI Norfolk received information indicating calls for violence in response to 'unlawful lockdowns' to begin on 6 January 2021 in Washington, D.C.,” the document says. “An online thread discussed specific calls for violence to include stating ‘Be ready to fight. Congress needs to hear glass breaking, doors being kicked in, and blood from their BLM and Pantifa slave soldiers being spilled. Get violent. Stop calling this a march, or rally, or a protest. Go there ready for war. We get our President or we die. NOTHING else will achieve this goal.”

BLM is likely a reference to the Black Lives Matter movement for racial justice. Pantifa is a derogatory term for antifa, a far-left anti-fascist movement whose adherents sometimes engage in violent clashes with right-wing extremists.

Yet even with that information in hand, the report's unidentified author expressed concern that the FBI might be encroaching on free speech rights.

The warning is the starkest evidence yet of the sizable intelligence failure that preceded the mayhem, which claimed the lives of five people, although one law enforcement official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to avoid disciplinary action, said the failure was not one of intelligence but of acting on the intelligence.

An FBI official familiar with the document said that within 45 minutes of learning about the alarming online conversation, the Norfolk FBI office wrote the report and shared it
with others within the bureau. It was not immediately clear how many law enforcement agencies outside the FBI were told, but the information was briefed to FBI officials at the bureau's Washington field office the day before the attack, this official said.

The official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss ongoing investigations, added that the report was raw intelligence and that at the time it was written, the FBI did not know the identities of those making the online statements.

The FBI already faces tough questions about why it was not more attuned to what was being discussed in public Internet conversations in the days leading up to the attack, and why the bureau and other agencies seemed to do little to prepare for the possibility of mass violence.

The document notes that the information represents the view of the FBI's Norfolk office, is not to be shared outside law enforcement circles, that it is not “finally evaluated intelligence,” and that agencies that receive it “are requested not to take action based on this raw reporting without prior coordination with the FBI.”

Multiple law enforcement officials have said privately in recent days that the level of violence exhibited at the Capitol has led to difficult discussions within the FBI and other agencies about race, terrorism, and whether investigators failed to register the degree of danger because the overwhelming majority of the participants at the rally were White conservatives fiercely loyal to the President Trump.

"Individuals/Organizations named in this [situational information report] have been identified as participating in activities that are protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," the document says. "Their inclusion here is not intended to associate the protected activity with criminality or a threat to national security, or to infer that such
protected activity itself violates federal law.

"However," it continues, "based on known intelligence and/or specific historical observations, it is possible the protected activity could invite a violent reaction towards the subject individual or others in retaliation or with the goal of stopping the protected activity from occurring in the first instance. In the event no violent reaction occurs, FBI policy and federal law dictates that no further record to be made of the protected activity." The document notes that one online comment advised, "if Antifa or BLM get violent, leave them dead in the street," while another said they need "people on standby to provide supplies, including water and medical, to the front lines. The individual also discussed the need to evacuate noncombatants and wounded to medical care."

On Jan. 6, a large, angry crowd of people who had attended a nearby rally marched to the Capitol, smashing windows and breaking down doors to get inside. One woman in the mob was shot and killed by a Capitol Police officer; officials said three others in the crowd died from medical emergencies. Another Capitol police officer died after suffering injuries.

On Friday, the head of the FBI’s Washington Field Office, Steven D’Antuono, told reporters “there was no indication” of anything planned for the day of Trump’s rally “other than First Amendment-protected activity.” D’Antuono added, “we worked diligently with our partners on this.”

The FBI said in a statement that its “standard practice is to not comment on specific intelligence products,” but added that FBI field offices “routinely share information with their local law enforcement partners to assist in protecting the communities they serve.”

The FBI did not detail specifically who saw the document before the mob attack on Congress or what, if anything, was done in response.

For weeks leading up to the event, FBI officials discounted any suggestion that the protest of pro-Trump supporters upset about the scheduled certification of Joe Biden’s election
could be a security threat on a scale with racial justice protests last summer in the wake of George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis police custody.

While the nation’s capital is one of the most heavily guarded cities on the planet, local and federal law enforcement agencies sought to take a low-key approach to last week’s event, publicly and privately expressing concerns that they did not want to repeat the ugly clashes between protesters and police last year. Some law enforcement officials took the view that pro-Trump protesters are generally known for over-the-top rhetoric but not much violence, and therefore the event did not pose a particularly grave risk, according to people familiar with the security discussions leading up to Jan. 6.

Even so, there were warning signs, though none as stark as the one from the FBI’s Norfolk office.

FBI agents had in the weeks before the Trump rally visited suspected extremists hoping to glean whether they had violent intentions, a person familiar with the matter said, though it was not immediately clear who was visited or if the FBI was specifically tracking anyone who would later be charged criminally. These visits were first reported Sunday by NBC News.

In addition, in the days leading up to the demonstration, some Capitol Hill staffers were told by supervisors to not come into work that day, if possible, because it seemed the danger level would be higher than a lot of prior protests, according to a person familiar with the warning. Capitol Police did not take the kind of extra precautions, such as frozen zones and hardened barriers, that are typically used in major events around the Capitol.

Now, the Justice Department and federal agents are scrambling to identify and arrest those responsible for last week’s violence, in part because there is already significant online discussion of new potential clashes Sunday and again on Jan. 20 when Biden will be inaugurated.
Federal agents remain in a state of high-alert in the days leading up to the inauguration as authorities brace for possible violence not just in Washington, but around the country, officials said.

The FBI recently issued a different memo saying that "armed protests" were being planned "at all 50 state capitols" and in D.C. in the days leading up to the inauguration, according to an official familiar with the matter, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive law enforcement matter.

The memo — first reported on by ABC News and later confirmed by The Washington Post — is a raw intelligence product, compiling information gathered by the bureau and several other government agencies, an official said. Some of it is unverified, and the threat is likely to differ significantly from place to place, the official said.

But the data it highlights to law enforcement are nonetheless troubling — including that there was information suggesting people might storm government offices, or stage an uprising were Trump to be removed from office, the official said.

In a statement, the FBI declined to comment specifically on the memo about state capitols but said: "Our efforts are focused on identifying, investigating, and disrupting individuals that are inciting violence and engaging in criminal activity. As we do in the normal course of business, we are gathering information to identify any potential threats and are sharing that information with our partners.

"The FBI respects the rights of individuals to peacefully exercise their First Amendment rights," it continues. "Our focus is not on peaceful protesters, but on those threatening their safety and the safety of other citizens with violence and destruction of property."
SFSAFBI
Secretary, Washington, D.C. Chapter

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William Webster: Congress must consider censure, impeachment, removal

By William Webster 22 hrs ago

I remain a proud son of Missouri even though I have been away for many years. In 1978, I left my position as a federal judge in St. Louis to serve in Washington as the director of the FBI and, nine years later, of the CIA. Washington is where I sit today profoundly saddened and angry.

I'm a lifelong Republican, but I am an American first. Alongside the countless devoted public servants it has been my honor to know, I have spent my life fighting for the sanctity of our Constitution and of the rule of law. The Capitol is a place of reverence for me.

Never in my 96 years did I imagine a sitting president of the United States, abetted by

Former FBI director and CIA director William Webster accompanied by his wife Lynda Webster and Attorney General William Barr, left, speaks during a news conference to address elder financial exploitation in 2019.
numerous members of Congress, using tools of deception and innuendo to challenge the will of the American people in choosing their leadership. For weeks these elected officials have propagated baseless lies and totally unproven conspiracy theories, cynically raising millions of dollars while doing so.

These people entrusted with public power have refused to heed the findings of our revered U.S. Supreme Court and of dozens of lower courts and state election-certification officials. I am especially enraged that one of those who would continue to support the president’s deceptions, Sen. Josh Hawley, hails from my revered home state. He, the Trump children, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, lawyer Rudy Giuliani, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and others should be ashamed.

The weeks-long display of despicable, narcissistic behavior by our president was reprehensible enough following the election. But President Donald Trump and others incited violence and attacked those things all Americans should hold dear. Their actions threatened the very survival of our democracy. My reaction is a disbelief I cannot adequately put into words. Instead, I submit to you the wisdom of one of my personal heroes, Abraham Lincoln.

First, read his admonition. Then I ask Americans to heed his advice. Following what was a shameful second day of infamy in American history, it is my hope that all Americans will seriously take to heart Lincoln’s great wisdom. Our country’s future and yours depend upon it.

Abraham Lincoln warned us that “America will never be destroyed from the outside if we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

He also reminded us that the people are the rightful masters of our government, “not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who would pervert the Constitution.”

This leads me to an action I never imagined — to state my support for those who speak of censure, impeachment or removal of the man whose primary job as president of the United States is to protect all Americans, not incite the violence that led to insurrection on our Capitol and death of five in the unprecedented assault on our democracy.
A strong American line in the sand must be drawn. We are a land of laws and our United States president, above all others, is expected to revere and protect them. Through four years in office, Trump has crossed this line multiple times in countless disturbing and tumultuous ways. But this latest insurrection demands that our country, through its elected officials, strongly and unmistakably declare that the man who has offered no apologies and still doesn’t think he did anything wrong must be censured, at the very least.

Most of those who represent the American people cherish our lawful way of life. We deserve to expect that they stand tall and mark this despicable incident in history with a very strong rebuke of the man who fostered it. While there is talk that such actions are politically motivated, I submit that in this instance, a condemnation from both sides of the aisle would be America-motivated. A censure should not divide our country further. Instead, it should unite us behind the laws and values that have kept us together for over two centuries.

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FBI(21cv558)-3657
FBI Has Opened 160 Cases Tied to Pro-Trump Capitol Riot

Prosecutors are looking at seditious conspiracy cases

FBI Director Christopher Wray has kept a low public profile for nearly a week.

PHOTO: JEFF MAHLO/KM VIA PRESS

By Sadie Gurman and Aruna Viswanatha
Updated Jan. 12, 2021 3:37 pm ET

Breaking News

The FBI has opened more than 160 case files in connection with last week’s deadly pro-Trump riot at the U.S. Capitol, officials said Tuesday, announcing that prosecutors are looking at bringing potential seditious conspiracy charges against members of the mob.

(Article below will update)

Officials from the FBI and Justice Department are giving lawmakers their first formal briefings Tuesday on last week’s deadly pro-Trump riot at the Capitol. Notably absent are their bosses—Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen and FBI Director Christopher Wray—who have kept a very low public profile for almost a week.

The acting U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, Michael Sherwin, and the head of the Federal
The FBI's Washington office, Steven D'Antuono, who are running the sprawling probe, will speak by phone with lawmakers, people familiar with the matter said. The briefing comes as Washington grapples with ongoing security concerns and threats of future violence, and as agents fan out across the country to tackle an investigation with thousands of suspects and crimes ranging from murder to stealing national-security information.

It is also taking place as law enforcement agencies scrutinize their response to and planning for the demonstrations, including information that had been shared ahead of the protests by an FBI office in Virginia, warning of the possibility that extremists were traveling to Washington beginning on Jan. 6 to commit violence, people familiar with the document said.

FBI agents have been scouring social media and pursuing some 70,000 tips the agency has received in the days since the riot, with federal prosecutors in Washington already pursuing more than two dozen arrest warrants for members of the mob on charges of gun crimes, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, assaulting an officer and other offenses. More charges against individuals allegedly involved in the violence are expected to be unveiled this week.

Law-enforcement officials have also been planning for the possibility of more armed protests at every state capitol and in Washington in the days leading up to Joe Biden's inauguration, with U.S. officials ordering thousands of extra National Guard troops to Washington, D.C., and halting public tours of the Washington Monument.

Mr. Wray on Monday night spoke to the top Democrat and Republican in the House and Senate, an official said, to provide an update on the status of the investigation. Tuesday's more extensive briefing comes after the Democratic leaders of five House committees wrote to Mr. Wray on Thursday seeking urgent information on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's plans to investigate and prosecute those involved in the riot as well as how it tracks domestic terrorists and aims to disrupt any future plots.

Sens. Mark Warner and Marco Rubio, the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee, were also scheduled to receive their first formal briefing Tuesday from FBI officials about the Capitol riot and preparations to protect the inauguration. The Senate Intelligence Committee has also asked the FBI to share all records related to the bureau's intelligence ahead of the attack, the person said.
Top U.S. Capitol Police officials, who are primarily responsible for securing the building, have also maintained a minimal public presence.

‘If you’re talking about filling in gaps, providing information, soothing a troubled nation, that should come from leaders.’

Chuck Rosenberg, a former top Justice Department official

Messrs. Rosen and Wray are known for their low-key personalities and have stayed out of the spotlight throughout most of their tenures. But some current and former Justice Department officials say their lack of visibility after the attack in which a police officer and a rioter were killed and three others died of medical emergencies is striking and that a public appearance would reassure observers of the investigation’s priority.

“If you’re talking about filling in gaps, providing information, soothing a troubled nation, that should come from leaders,” said Chuck Rosenberg, a former top Justice Department official in both Republican and Democratic administrations. “The attorney general has an obligation to speak to the nation if no one else is.”

Instead, Messrs. Rosen and Wray have issued written statements condemning the violence and promising to pursue those responsible, but have remained out of public view as federal law-enforcement agencies begin internally scrutinizing their own actions and how, at all levels, they miscalculated the threat of violence from what they estimated would be a largely peaceful political rally.

Accounts from inside the Capitol and elsewhere describe a disjointed response in which senior aides to congressional leadership frantically called current and former Justice Department officials seeking immediate help as the rioters stormed the building and barged into some lawmakers’ offices.
75% OF AMERICANS WORRY ABOUT VIOLENT DOMESTIC EXTREMISM

Survey reveals broad support for more action from government and social media companies

Dear Todd,

Following the seditious attack at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Americans are highly concerned about the threat of future violent extremism, according to a survey released today by ADL.

Unequivocally, Americans want the government to do more to address violent domestic extremism and
most Americans now see the direct connection between the dangerous rhetoric from President Trump, others on the far right, and extremist groups and the horrifying violence at our nation's Capitol.

The survey also found that 61% of respondents believe that social media companies like Facebook and Twitter are at least somewhat responsible. We applaud mainstream social media companies for removing President Trump from their platforms in recent days, but there is more work to be done to stop the widespread hate and extremism.

We encourage you to read the full ADL report on how Americans view the recent events and the threat of extremism here.

**Stay Informed and Involved with ADL**

We urge you, your family and your community to stay informed in these tumultuous times. We have created a page to share the latest updates about the dangers of extremism and antisemitism in the wake of the Capitol riots. Please check there for our most updated resources.

Among the important new resources you can find there are:

- Last Friday, we welcomed U.S. House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie G.
Thompson and Max Rose, former Chair, U.S. House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism to join ADL leaders for a compelling Fighting Hate from Home webinar about the mainstreaming of extremism and how to disrupt the threat of extremism going forward. We encourage you to watch and share the full recording of the event.

- A new education resource on *The Dangers of Disinformation* can help you talk with your family about the dangers of "false" news and disinformation by examining the January 6 U.S. Capitol invasion and the events leading up to it.

- Over the weekend, Parler, a social media site frequented by right-wing extremists, went offline after Amazon Web Services, the Apple App store and Google Play took steps against the platform for violating their terms of service. Ahead of the shutdown, angry extremists used the site to post threats and conspiracy theories and steer supporters to other fringe platforms. Read more about the Parler-based conspiracies and the calls for further violence from our Center on Extremism team here.

Thank you for continuing to speak up, share facts and show strength against antisemitism and extremism. ADL is here to support you in this fight.
Jeff has approved our message, please advise on your concurrence.

From: | |
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Veltri, Jeffrey B. (NO) (FBI) | |
Subject: Statement
Kindest Regards,

Public Affairs Officer
NATIONAL ISSUES

Threat to State Capitols: OPA – Continued to receive requests for comment after an unauthorized disclosure of information indicated a threat to state capitols. OPA advised, "While our standard practice is to not comment on specific intelligence products, the FBI is supporting our state, local, and federal law enforcement partners with maintaining public safety in the communities we serve. Our efforts are focused on identifying, investigating, and disrupting individuals that are inciting violence and engaging in criminal activity. As we do in the normal course of business, we are gathering information to identify any potential threats and are sharing that information with our partners. The FBI respects the rights of individuals to peacefully exercise their First Amendment rights. Our focus is not on peaceful protesters, but on those threatening their safety and the safety of other citizens with violence and destruction of property."

DMT: OPA – CNN requested updated stats for tips provided by the public. OPA, in coordination with Washington Field, advised that we had received more than 100,000 digital media tips as of the morning.

Sen. Schumer No-Fly Letter: OPA – Received numerous inquiries about whether the FBI has put individuals known to have stormed the Capitol on the “no-fly” list. OPA, in coordination with OCA and TSC, responded with the following statement: "If an individual is deemed to be an immediate threat to other airline passengers or to the aircraft, the agencies and local law enforcement at the airport have jurisdiction to detain or arrest the individual, which would effectively prevent them from flying. Separately, the FBI will continue to nominate predicated subjects to the federal terrorism watchlist, as appropriate, in accordance with existing laws and policies. The TSC will continue to evaluate all nominations to the watchlist to ensure they meet the required criteria for watchlisting."

Talent Plans: OPA – A Danish investigative journalist requested an interview on FBI investigations regarding China’s talent plans and asked about access to Danish contracts involving talent plans. OPA declined an interview but provided links to information:

https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/couterintelligence/the-china-threat
https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/couterintelligence/the-china-threat/chinese-talent-plans


U.S. CAPITOL VIOLENCE

Baltimore – Received several inquiries regarding any Capitol arrests in the AOR. Baltimore reported none at this time.
El Paso — Received media inquiries about individuals from El Paso being a part of the events at the U.S. Capitol. PAO directed the inquiries to Washington Field.

Louisville — Continued to receive inquiries surrounding the events at the U.S. Capitol, as well as what to expect leading up to the Inauguration. Through a written statement, ASAC Barnett reiterated that the FBI is focused on identifying, investigating, and disrupting individuals that are inciting violence and engaging in criminal activity regardless of what ideology is espoused.

Norfolk — Received significant national and local media interest in today’s Washington Post article about an FBI Norfolk SIR about information received on Jan. 5 indicating calls for violence in the U.S. Capitol during the “Stop the Steal” rally in Washington, D.C. PAO declined to comment and referred reporters to NPOU.

Norfolk — Received numerous national and local media inquiries about whether certain high-profile subjects involved in the Capitol riots are located in the AOR. PAO declined to comment.

Philadelphia — A Spotlight 84 reporter sought to confirm a tip claiming the FBI told a state employee that 20 state troopers have been suspended pending federal investigations into their involvement in the events in Washington, D.C., last week. PAO responded that the FBI does not confirm or deny investigations and suggested he direct any further questions to the Pennsylvania State Police.

Philadelphia — An Associated Press reporter asked if the FBI was monitoring caravans that traveled from Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C., for last week’s protests. PAO provided this response: “The FBI respects those who are exercising their First Amendment rights, including the right to peacefully protest. We do not conduct surveillance and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on First Amendment-protected activity — there must be a clear threat of violence or alleged criminal activity.”

Tampa — A TV reporter in the Fort Myers media market interviewed SAC McPherson about the FBI’s work to identify, investigate, and locate those who participated in criminal activity inside the U.S. Capitol last week. SAC McPherson emphasized the FBI’s mission and the importance of working with the public to bring violators to justice. The story airs tonight.

Washington Field — ADIC D’Antuono and CTD AD Sanborn participated in House and Senate committee briefings about the U.S. Capitol incident, along with Michael Sherwin, the acting U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. D’Antuono additionally participated in a press availability with A/USA Sherwin at DOJ on the incident. Washington Field received multiple media inquiries and requests for media interviews in relation to the violence at the Capitol. Many inquiries focused on a leaked FBI Norfolk intelligence product concerning potential violence by protesters.

OTHER LOCAL STORIES

Multiple field offices — Field offices continued to receive media requests to confirm reports that the FBI issued a bulletin of some type about expected protests in all 50 states. Reporters also asked about security plans for state capitols. Albany, Albuquerque, Anchorage, Baltimore, Boston, El Paso, Louisville, Omaha, Philadelphia, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, and Tampa reported inquiries. Field offices issued the NPO-provided statement.

Anchorage — Not related to last week’s events at the U.S. Capitol Building, FBI Anchorage yesterday became aware of an individual who expressed a desire to bomb several federal buildings in the area. Targets included FBI Anchorage. The individual’s vehicle was subsequently seen at a number of these buildings the same day. PAS responded to media on-scene, providing numerous updates, including: “Today’s law enforcement activity was in response to reports of an individual who made threats against federal buildings.
in the area. A threat assessment was conducted on the individual's vehicle, which has now been cleared and determined to be a non-threat. The FBI and APD are thankful to the public for their patience and cooperation during today's law enforcement activity at the Anchorage Midtown Mall.”

**Baltimore** – FBI Baltimore SWAT responded to BWI airport Monday night for reports of a bomb threat on a Southwest aircraft. Passengers deplaned and after a thorough search no devices were found.

**Baltimore/Philadelphia** – Both offices received numerous press inquiries about a search in West Goshen, Pennsylvania. Offices confirmed court-authorized activity and declined additional comment.

**Boston/IPPAU** — FBI Boston hosted a press conference to announce a $30,000 reward and international publicity campaign for longtime fugitive Hung Tien Pham, who is wanted by the FBI for his alleged role in the execution-style murders of five men inside an illegal gambling den in Boston’s Chinatown 30 years ago today. SAC Bonavolonta was joined by Boston Police Commissioner William Gross, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, and U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts Andrew Lelling.

**Las Vegas** – Received multiple media inquiries following requests from senators asking for the FBI to investigate a statement from the Chairman of the Nye County Republican Central committee. PAS provided the following response: “The FBI policy is to neither confirm nor deny an investigation. We take all reports of threats seriously and work with our law enforcement partners to protect the public.”

**Louisville** – With the impending transition of the U.S. attorney at the USAO—Western District of Kentucky, a local reporter asked if federal resources will still be used to investigate the disappearance of Crystal Rogers. SAC Brown provided a statement to reassure the public that while outgoing U.S. Attorney Russell Coleman was a staunch advocate for delivering justice to the citizens of Bardstown, the Crystal Rogers investigation remains a top priority of the FBI.

**Sacramento** – Multiple outlets asked about activity at several locations in the Sacramento area. All arrests and searches are under seal. Sacramento confirmed FBI presence at locations in the inquiries, few if any other details were provided. Most interest was focused on a location in Orangevale, where an individual barricaded himself in an attic for a few hours.

**Salt Lake City** – SSRA Schoffstall is featured in the latest episode of the “It’s Just Wallpaper” podcast, which focuses on issues affecting senior Americans. Schoffstall discussed common elder scams and prevention tips. Part 2 will drop next week.

**San Juan** – Three local police officers were killed and a fourth wounded at the hands of an unknown male subject, who attacked officers with a stolen vehicle and opened fire on them. PAO received multiple media requests looking to confirm FBI involvement. FBI San Juan’s official statement was delivered by phone to the main local media outlets, in Spanish: “The FBI has responded to the scene of these terrible events to lend a hand to local authorities in this difficult time. As you know we do not comment on ongoing investigative efforts, nor can I confirm or deny whether the FBI will assume jurisdiction over the matter. However, we extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of the fallen officers and we call on anyone with information to come forth immediately by calling 787-987-6500 or leave a tip online through TIPS.FBI.Gov. Thank you.”

***

Please send all Horizon submissions to [Name] with “Horizon” in the Subject line, and press releases to [Name]
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: Young, Ryan T. (DI) (FBI)
Subject: FW: Request for U.S. airline classified briefing
To: Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI)
Sent: January 12, 2021 6:16 PM (UTC-05:00)

Just saw the thread on this....my goodness!

---

On Jan 12, 2021 3:07 PM, "Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI)" wrote:
I think I'd say that a little differently. But again, it's their gig!

From: Sullivan, Michael (IB) (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI)
Cc: Hurley, James B. Jr. (OPE) (FBI) Young, Ryan T. (DI) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Request for U.S. airline classified briefing

Got it Pam. Thanks.....Mike

If things change, we will contact them. Thanks!

From: Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Sullivan, Michael (IB) (FBI)
Cc: Hurley, James B. Jr. (OPE) (FBI) Young, Ryan T. (DI) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Request for U.S. airline classified briefing

Hi Mike,

I'm looping Pat here, as he mentioned CTD is also hearing from partners.

All of the daily intel flow going into Sit Reps, whether the FBI internal one or the OPE one is at the U/ACES level or below.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,
Pam

---
All-

Info only.

Thanks everyone,

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From:  
Date: Jan 12, 2021 5:08 PM  
Subject:  
To:  
Cc:  

All-
I'm going to Mike tomorrow and hopefully get them to a better resolution.

On Jan 12, 2021 3:07 PM, "Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI)" wrote:
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Subject: RE: Request for U.S. airline classified briefing

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Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,
Pam
Roger that.

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 5:20 PM 
To: Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI) 
Veltri, Jeffrey B. (NO) (FBI) 

Subject: Fwd 

All-

Info only.

Thanks everyone,

-------- Forwarded message --------

From: 
Date: Jan 12, 2021 5:08 PM 
Subject: 

To: 
Cc:

All-
On Jan 12, 2021 5:20 PM, All- wrote:

Info only.

Thanks everyone,

---------- Forwarded message ----------

From:
Date: Jan 12, 2021 5:08 PM
Subject: | FBI icv558)-3696
To: | FBI icv558)-3696
Cc: | FBI icv558)-3696
Justice Dept. investigating sedition and conspiracy charges and any terror links to violent storming of U.S. Capitol

A search of the truck the government says is connected to Lonnie Leroy Coffman, 70, of Falkville, Ala. (U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia)

Spencer S. Hsu, Keith L. Alexander and Shayna Jacobs
By Jan. 12, 2021 at 4:57 p.m. EST

The Justice Department and FBI have created a sedition and conspiracy task force to pursue charges against participants in the storming of the U.S. Capitol and are
investigating any links to domestic or foreign instigators, officials said Tuesday.

The investigation, one of the largest ever undertaken by the department, includes counterterrorism and counterintelligence facets and has charged more than 70 individuals and identified 170 suspects to date, acting U.S. attorney Michael R. Sherwin of D.C. said. Those arrest figures are expected to increase into the hundreds, if not “exponentially.”

But Sherwin and Steven D’Antuono, head of the FBI’s Washington Field Office, said any impression that prosecutors have mostly charged misdemeanor Capitol trespassing and D.C. curfew offenses is misleading. They said the cases are only the beginning and that U.S. authorities are investigating everything including the plundering of congressional offices and digital devices, assaults on law enforcement officers, theft of national security and defense information, in addition to felony murder and excessive use of force.

“The gamut of cases is mind-blowing,” Sherwin said.

Capitol and D.C. police were in openhanded combat with rioters, tear gas was used against police and destructive devices and semiautomatic weapons have been recovered, he said.

“People are going to be shocked with egregious activity in the Capitol,” Sherwin said, citing video footage and witness accounts that have not been made public. “No resources of the FBI or the U.S. attorney’s office will be untapped to determine if there was command and control, how it operated and how it executed these activities.”

The Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol by supporters of President Trump disrupted the electoral vote count of President-elect Joe Biden and led to the deaths of five people — including a rioter who was fatally shot and a police officer who died after sustaining injuries at the scene.
A new grand jury was empaneled Friday and met Monday to hear new Capitol breach cases. Prosecutors also condemned violence against the news media, saying they would investigate and hold accountable those who assault, threaten or damaged the property of journalists.

*FBI focuses on whether some Capitol rioters intended to harm lawmakers or take hostages*

Hours before officials spoke, the first public federal indictment in the Capitol breach was filed against an Alabama man who allegedly brought 11 molotov cocktails and five loaded weapons to the U.S. Capitol.

Federal prosecutors say Lonnie Leroy Coffman is seen in this image, defined in the black square at right. (U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia)

In an indictment dated Monday, **Lonnie L. Coffman**, 70, who was previously charged with two counts in a U.S. Capitol Police complaint, was charged with 16 counts of D.C. firearms violations and one federal firearms count. He also possessed a crossbow, several machetes, a stun gun and smoke devices, prosecutors said.
Coffman allegedly formulated the incendiary devices to be particularly lethal, prosecutors asserted, and "appears to have been motivated to conduct violence against our elected representatives."

Coffman is accused of carrying 11 Mason jars with gasoline and melted Styrofoam — which an FBI affidavit said could produce a "napalm-like" explosion of sticky, flammable liquid. The affidavit also said he had a rifle, shotgun, two 9mm pistols, a .22-caliber pistol, five types of ammunition and a large-capacity magazine, all loaded and unregistered and unlicensed in the capital. Coffman had an apparent license to carry a pistol in Alabama, prosecutors said. However, they asserted in court filings that the stockpile of weapons suggests "an intent [by Coffman] to provide them to others, as no one person could reasonably use so many at once."

Exhibits filed by prosecutors seeking to detain Coffman show he allegedly possessed handwritten notes, including one quoting Abraham Lincoln who once wrote in opposition to slavery, "We The People Are The Rightful Masters Of Both The Congress And The Courts, Not To Overthrow The Constitution But To Overthrow The Men Who Pervert The Constitution."

Prosecutors said the notes "raise alarm in the context of the Jan. 6 rioting and criminal infringement on our nation's Democratic process." They showed others that contained purported contact information for "Conservative Talk Show Host Mark Levin," "Shaun [sic] Hannity," and "Senator Ted Cruz."

Coffman did not enter a plea, and was ordered held without bond by a U.S. magistrate. Defense lawyer Tony Miles argued Coffman has no criminal record, is retired after a history of work, has family ties in Alabama and 10 years service in the U.S. Army.
Prosecutors previously said Coffman was investigated because he was the registered owner of a red GMC pickup truck with Alabama plates parked near the Capitol. Officers allegedly found the molotov cocktail devices while investigating reports of suspected pipe bombs near the Republican National Committee headquarters on Capitol Hill and its Democratic counterpart minutes before the assault on the Capitol began.

Coffman was not charged in relation to those possible devices.

On Tuesday, the FBI reiterated it is offering a $50,000 reward for information regarding the pipe bombs, which Sherwin said were “real devices,” with igniters and timers.

“We don’t know obviously exactly why they did not go off,” Sherwin said, or whether there were “a diversionary type of a tactic used by some of these rioters.”

Others charges made public Tuesday included ones against Aaron Mostofsky, 34, the son of a Brooklyn judge who was photographed inside the Capitol wearing what appear to be several fur pelts, a U.S. Capitol Police bulletproof vest and a riot shield.

Mostofsky made an initial appearance in New York City on four charges including entering restricted grounds, violent or disorderly conduct at the Capitol, and theft of government property exceeding $1,000, a felony that carries a statutory maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Mostofsky was ordered released on a $100,000 bail bond late Tuesday afternoon by U.S. Magistrate Sanket Bulsara in Brooklyn and was given strict orders to remain in New York City and refrain from communicating with co-
conspirators.

The New York Times reported that Mostofsky's father is Kings County Supreme Court Judge Shlomo Mostofsky.

Aaron Mostofsky told the New York Post in a video inside the Capitol last week: "We were cheated. I don't think 75 million people voted for Trump — I think it was close to 85 million. I think certain states that have been red for a long time turned blue and were stolen, like New York."

An FBI affidavit said Mostofsky also appeared to post on social media a self-taken video labeled, "DC bound stopthesteal," and exchanged messages and photographs on Instagram describing his presence in the Capitol.

"If we find each other look for a guy looking like a caveman," Mostofsky wrote a friend, the affidavit said, adding later, probably referring to the election, "Even a caveman knows it was stolen."

The FBI added that after the election, Mostofsky posted on Facebook: "Since the republicans lost the house I have the following questions 1 when and where are we protesting/rioting ..."

In the video interview, FBI agent Michael Attard wrote, Mostofsky said he took the shield he found on the floor, and motioned to the vest, apparently indicated that he also found that item and took it. He said he returned a hat he found to a police officer "because that might be someone's personal item," the agent attested.

A new six-count indictment against previously charged Jacob Chansley, of Arizona, also added federal counts of civil disorder and disrupting an official proceeding. Chansley has been identified as the so-called "QAnon shaman," who was photographed in horns, fur-lined headdress and face paint on the Senate dais. The offenses upon conviction carry up
to a 20 year statutory maximum penalty.

SFSAFBI
Secretary, Washington, D.C. Chapter

Sent from my iPhone

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To unsubscribe from this list please go to
From: Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)
Subject: Ew: Request for U.S. airline classified briefing
To: Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI); Vorndran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI); Virmani, Sanjay (SF) (FBI)
Sent: January 12, 2021 6:49 PM (UTC-05:00)
FYSA OPE-OPS workflow towards private sector engagement...

From: Hurley, James B. Jr. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI); Sullivan, Michael (IB) (FBI); Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)
Cc: Young, Ryan T. (DI) (FBI); Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Request for U.S. airline classified briefing

All,
I know many of us have spoken individually, but I wanted to close the loop to ensure everyone was on the same page regarding the external SITREPs.

This afternoon, UCs...

We’ll see how this works tonight, and we can certainly adjust fire tomorrow. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Vfr,
Jim

From: Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Sullivan, Michael (IB) (FBI)
Cc: Hurley, James B. Jr. (OPE) (FBI); Young, Ryan T. (DI) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Request for U.S. airline classified briefing

Hi Mike,

I’m looping Pat here, as he mentioned CTD is also hearing from partners.

All of the daily intel flow going into Sit Reps, whether the FBI internal one or the OPE one is at the U//LES level or below.
This afternoon in a Washington Post Live interview with Ellen Nakashima, William Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, said he is "absolutely" concerned about threats posed by China and Russia to the vaccine supply chain.
On foreign involvement in the attack on the Capitol, Evanina said: "We are watching them watch us, and I would very cautiously let them know, do not let our vulnerability domestically here be a sign of weakness."

*Follow Washington Post Live on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube.*
Sounds good. Thanks to you and your team Jim.... Mike

On Jan 12, 2021 6:34 PM, "Hurley, James B. Jr. (OPE) (FBI)" wrote:

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Hi Mike,

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All of the daily intel flow going into Sit Reps, whether the FBI internal one or the OPE one is at the U/AES level or below.

Let me know if you have any other questions.
The false flag attack on our nation that happened on January 6th, ushered in by a CIA psy-op to manipulate Trump supporters, has the pinnacle of Trump’s team, including the President and his son, fearing that they have been falsely indicted for the behavior of “bad actors”, who were participants in the false flag and responsible for the mayhem that occurred at the U.S. Capitol building on that day.

Watch the report below in MP4 video:

https://assets.infowarsmedia.com/videos/b4a2ca3e-2df6-4078-9fcd-5e1dd2e15adb.mp4
Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 12, 2021 5:26 PM
Subject: DRAFT General TPs about planned protests for FOs
To: "Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI)"
CC: "Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI)"
           "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)"
           "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)"
           "Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI)"
           "Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI)"
           "Jones, Jason A. (OGC) (FBI)"

Deputy Director Bowdich:

For your awareness

Brian

Brian P. Hale
Assistant Director
Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
FBI
Good evening bosses,

Just flagging for your awareness the updated

Best,
Good evening,

Please see the proposed 12 January SITREP. With your approval and concurrence, I will disseminate.

Tomorrow, I intend to chat with you both about [blank] We can discuss tomorrow.

I'll wait for your feedback and/or approval.

Unit Chief
FBI Office of Partner Engagement
Office
Cell

From: [name]
Subject: SITREP
To: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI); Hurley, James B. Jr. (OPE) (FBI)
Sent: January 12, 2021 8:34 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: OPE_SITREP_Jan 12.docx
(U) National Crisis Coordination Center Update: Preventing Violence and Criminal Activity January 2021

(U) This update was compiled by the Joint Inter-Agency National Crisis Coordination Center in the FBI Strategic Information Operations Center. Information is accurate as of 1700 EST on 12 January 2021. The following agencies contributed to the development of this SIFREP: ATF, DEA, DOD, DOJ, DHS, US Park Police, and USMS. Responses provided after the cut-off time will be included in the next SIFREP.

(3) The information needed to identify, disrupt, and stop violence and criminal activity is gathered from multiple sources. Information is disseminated to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and other relevant entities as appropriate. The information is provided on an as-needed basis and is intended to support law enforcement efforts to prevent, deter, and respond to violence and criminal activity. The information is not intended to be used for investigative purposes.

(3) To support ongoing efforts to prevent, deter, and respond to violence and criminal activity, the Joint Inter-Agency National Crisis Coordination Center conducts regular meetings with law enforcement and other relevant stakeholders to discuss emerging threats and strategies for addressing them.

(3) In support of ongoing efforts to prevent, deter, and respond to violence and criminal activity, the Joint Inter-Agency National Crisis Coordination Center provides regular updates to law enforcement and other relevant stakeholders on emerging threats and strategies for addressing them.

(3) The information provided in this update is intended to support ongoing efforts to prevent, deter, and respond to violence and criminal activity. The information is not intended to be used for investigative purposes and is subject to ongoing review and update as necessary.

FBI(21cv558)-3739
(U) National Crisis Coordination Center (NC3) Executive Summary

(U//FOOU) The FBI, in close coordination with its federal, state, and local partners, continues to monitor and respond to events related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

(U) ELECTORAL CERTIFICATION AND INAUGURATION 2021

- (U//FOOU) The FBI is investigating the death of US Capitol Police (USCP) Officer Brian Sicknick who died from injuries sustained during the US Capitol breach. There were 14 other officers injured during the incident.

- (U//FOOU) As of 12 January, the FBI has received nearly 100,000 Digital Media Tips (DMT).
(U) CURRENT FLASHPOINTS AND RESPONSES

(U) Potential of criminal offenses or violence related to the 6 January 2021 Electoral College certification of the 2020 Presidential Election results for situational awareness — past ongoing (within last 12-24 hours) and planned (next 12-24 hours).

(U) Past Ongoing in the last 12-24 Hours

* (U/FOIC) According to open source, the House of Representatives is set to vote to urge the Vice President to invoke the 25th Amendment at approximately 1900 on 12 January and will vote to impeach POTUS at 0000 on 13 January.

(U) Planned in the next 12-24 Hours

* Nothing Significant to Report
(U) UPCOMING FLASHPOINTS AND RESPONSE

(U) Potential Flashpoints

(U) Potential Protests at State Capitals and the US Capitol
Multiple reports indicate various threats to harm President-Elect Biden ahead of the presidential inauguration. Additional reports indicate threats against VP-Elect Harris and Speaker Pelosi.

(U) OTHER

As of 6 January, the FBI issued a request for information leading to the location, arrest, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the placement of the suspected pipe bombs on 6 January in Washington, D.C. The FBI is offering a reward of up to $50,000 for information.
On 6 January, the FBI activated a digital media tip line URL (https://www.fbi.gov/USCapitol) which is now open to the public. As of 07h, 12 January, the FBI has received nearly 100,000 Digital Media Tips (DMTs).
FYSA

-------- Forwarded message --------

---- Original Appointment ----

From: b6 -1  
Subject: DT / Capitol Riots Briefing  
To: 
When: Jan 13, 2021 1:00:00 PM  
Where: Room 117  
All, ASAC ______ has asked I extend this invitation to all SSAs. Tomorrow at 1pm we will be providing an overview of the Capitol Riot case out of WFO, our posture through Inauguration and a summary of what we're seeing in the DT world right now. We will conduct the brief in Room 117 and via Teams for anyone who can't make it. Please forward the invite to your squad if appropriate, please assist with tech if able. Thanks,  
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:39:32 AM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada) To: 

Microsoft Teams Meeting Learn more about Teams

-------- Forwarded message --------

--- Original Appointment ---

From: b6 -1  
Subject: DT / Capitol Riots Briefing  
To: 
When: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:00 PM-9:00 PM. Where: Room 117  
All, ASA ______ has asked I extend this invitation to all SSAs. Tomorrow at 1pm we will be providing an overview of the Capitol Riot case out of WFO, our posture through Inauguration and a summary of what we're seeing in the DT world right now. We will conduct the brief in Room 117 and via Teams for anyone who can't make it. Please forward the invite to your squad if appropriate, please assist with tech if able. Thanks,  
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 19:23:55 UTC
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:39:32 AM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)
To: [Redacted]
Subject: DT / Capitol Riots Briefing
When: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:00 PM-2:00 PM.
Where: Room 117

Come to hear a fascinating debrief on all things DT! And to receive a little guidance on the Capitol Riot investigation and upcoming inauguration CP.

Please forward to your squad.

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting
Learn more about Teams
From: Meacham, Robert W. Jr. (SU) (FBI)

Subject: DT / Capitol Riots Briefing

To: 

Cc: 

Sent: January 12, 2021 8:41 PM (UTC-05:00)

FYSA

---------- Forwarded message ----------

---- Original Appointment ----

From: 

Subject: DT / Capitol Riots Briefing

To:

When: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Where: Room 117

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Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 1:12:24 PM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)

To: 

Subject: DT / Capitol Riots Briefing

When: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Where: Room 117

Come to hear a fascinating debrief on all things DT! And to receive a little guidance on the Capitol Riot investigation and upcoming Inauguration CP please forward to your squad.

Microsoft Teams Meeting Learn more about Teams

Join
From: Haertel, Paul H. (SU) (FBI)
Subject: DT / Capitol Riots Briefing
To:
Bcc: 
Sent: Tuesday, 12 January 2021 19:23:55 UTC

Subject: DT / Capitol Riots Briefing
When: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:00 PM-9:00 PM.
Where: Room 117

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FBI(21cv558)-3750
Good evening,

Please find attached the 12 January 2021 National Crisis Coordination Center (NC3) SITREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

Please note that this document is Unclassified/Law Enforcement Sensitive (U/LES). The FBI Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) at FBI Headquarters approves further dissemination with your trusted law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners in accordance with the LES handling caveat.

Thank you.
Good evening,

On behalf of OPE AD George P. Beach, please send the below message and attached SITREP to all FBIHQ EADs and ADs, and to all field office ADs and SACs.

Thank you!
Good evening,

Please find attached the 12 January 2021 National Crisis Coordination Center (NC3) SITREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

Please note that this document is Unclassified//Law Enforcement Sensitive (U//LES). The FBI Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) at FBI Headquarters approves further dissemination with your trusted law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners in accordance with the LES handling caveat.

Thank you.
Subject: Fuck FW: Schurner No-Fly Letter

Fa: Brown, John A. (NSB)

Sent: January 12, 2021 9:04 PM (UTC-05:00)

Attached: 2021.01.12


---------- Forwarded message ----------

From: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)

Date: Jan 12, 2021 6:28 PM

Subject: Fwd: FW: Schumer No-Fly Letter

To: "Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)"

Ce:

Hey Jodi,

See below. Give me a call if the boss wanted any changes after the meeting.

Thanks!


---------- Forwarded message ----------

From: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)

Date: Jan 12, 2021 3:04 PM

Subject: FW: Schumer No-Fly Letter

To:

Cc:

FYSA looping you in for awareness. I believe AD Kable is planning to forward the below information to EAD Brown as well.

Thanks,


From: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)

Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:43 PM

To: Kable, Charles H. (TSC) (FBI)

Cc:

Subject: FW: Schumer No-Fly Letter

Good Afternoon Sir,

Per your request

In addition

Thank you,
Subject: RE: Schumer No-Fly Letter

Good afternoon,

Thank you,

From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:39 PM
To:
Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI)
Co: Hale, Brian Patrick (OCA) (FBI)
Cc: Hale, Brian Patrick (OCA) (FBI)

Subject: RE: Schumer No-Fly Letter
Thank you

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:38 PM

To: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) [FBI] Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) [FBI] Dunham, Christopher G. (OCA) [FBI]

Cc: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) [FBI] Winston, Alvin M. (OPA) [FBI]

Subject: Stoller No-Fly Letter

All,

This is the information that I have...
Very respectfully,

From: Tyson, JHEC. [OCA] (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:70 PM
To: Williams, Douglas A. Jr. [OCA] (FBI)
      Dunham, Christopher G. [OCA] (FBI)
Cc: Hale, Brian Patrick [OPA] (FBI)
    Winston, Alvin M. [OPA] (FBI)

Subject: RE: Schumer No-Fly Letter

Team OCA:

Adding here so he can share with this group the background on this issue, which we got in response to multiple Hill offices.

-JCT

From: Tyson, JHEC. [OCA] (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:70 PM
To: Williams, Douglas A. Jr. [OCA] (FBI)
      Dunham, Christopher G. [OCA] (FBI)
Cc: Hale, Brian Patrick [OPA] (FBI)
    Winston, Alvin M. [OPA] (FBI)

Subject: RE: Schumer No-Fly Letter

Hello,
Thank you.
Please find the attached FBI SitRep for today 12 January.

Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center
Santa Ana, CA 92702-1755
Office (714) 289-3949
Fax
E-mail: ociac@ociac.ca.gov
Website: https://ociac.ca.gov/

“

A SAFE AND SECURE ORANGE COUNTY AND HOMELAND”

Good evening,

Please find attached the 12 January 2021 National Crisis Coordination Center (NC3) SITREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

Please note that this document is Unclassified/Law Enforcement Sensitive (U/LES). The FBI Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) at FBI Headquarters approves further dissemination with your trusted law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners in accordance with the LES handling caveat.

Thank you.
Thank you again. Please call me, your ASAC, or SSRA with any questions.
Can you get him on the phone and call me?

Bryan

---

From:

Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)

To:

Veltri, Jeffrey B. (NO) (FBI)

Subject: Re:

Sent: January 12, 2021 9:29 PM (UTC-05:00)

---

All-

Info only.

Thanks everyone,

-------- Forwarded message --------

From:

Date: Jan 12, 2021 5:06 PM

Subject:

To:

Cc:
Good evening,

Please find attached the 12 January 2021 National Crisis Coordination Center (NCC) STREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

Please note that this document is Unclassified // Law Enforcement Sensitive (ULES). The FBI Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) at FBI Headquarters approves further dissemination with your trusted law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners in accordance with the IES handling caveat.

Thank you.
On Jan 12, 2021 8:29 PM, “Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)” wrote:

Can you get him on the phone and call me?

Bryan

Bryan Vorndran
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
New Orleans Division

From:

Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 5:35 PM
To: Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)

Subject: Fwd:

All-

Info only:

Thanks everyone,

--------- Forwarded message ---------
Jeff, Thanks for sending.

Boss, this may help feed into the intel picture the DD is looking for.

Thanks

Ed

Edward Gray
Deputy Assistant Director
Critical Incident Response Group
Federal Bureau of Investigation

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Downey, Jeffrey R. (CIRG) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 12, 2021 9:25 PM
Subject: Fwd: 12 January 2021 1800 CIRG EM SITREP
To: "Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI)"
Cc: "Gray, Edward J. (CIRG) (FBI)"
Sir,

DAD Gray spoke with me following your meeting this evening and asked that I share the attached document with you. This is an internal CIRG document we started a couple of days ago to make sure our leadership team was up to speed on daily events in NC3. This document includes a summary of the daily briefings with WTO.

I had a meeting earlier today with the DI and CTD and we will be starting an executive summary tomorrow morning similar to the one we did in the Spring.

Please let me know if you or anyone else would like to receive this attached document moving forward.

Jeff
Good evening,

Attached is the 12 January 2021 CIRG 1800 EM Sitrep for PVCA.

Please pass any RFIs.

 under FISA policy and procedures, no investigative activity may be based solely on First Amendment activity. The FBI does not investigate, solicit, or maintain information on U.S. persons solely for the purpose of monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment. Moreover, the FBI will not maintain records describing how an individual exercises rights guaranteed by the First Amendment unless expressly authorized by statute or by the individual about whom the record is maintained or unless pertinent to and within the scope of an authorized law enforcement activity (U.S. Privacy Act of 1974, section 5527).
Subject: NCO DAILY SEREP 01/42/2627 (O/7RFSS)

From: SIOC
To: SIOC
Cc: SIOC

Sent: January 12, 2021 9:47 PM (UTC-6)

Attached: OPE_SI REP_Jan 12.pdf

UNCLASSIFIED//LES

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
STRATEGIC INFORMATION & OPERATIONS CENTER

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS NOTIFICATION

The below message is sent on behalf of Assistant Director George Beach II:

Good evening,

Please find attached the 12 January 2021 National Crisis Coordination Center (NC3) SITREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

Please note that this document is Unclassified//Law Enforcement Sensitive (U//LES). The FBI Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) at FBI Headquarters approves further dissemination with your trusted law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners in accordance with the LES handling caveat.

As a reminder, if you respond to this message, please do not “Reply All.”

This message and any attachments are for situational awareness and may be confidential/legally privileged. If you received this in error, please delete, do not disseminate further, and notify SIOC immediately.

UNCLASSIFIED//LES
Good evening,

Please find attached the 12 January 2021 National Crisis Coordination Center (NC3) SITREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

Please note that this document is Unclassified//Law Enforcement Sensitive (U//LES). The FBI Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) at FBI Headquarters approves further dissemination with your trusted law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners in accordance with the LES handling caveat.

As a reminder, if you respond to this message, please do not “Reply All.”
Good Morning,

As a follow up to my email from last Thursday, I wanted to provide an update.

Second, we are tracking... 

As a result of this increase in activity, we will be implementing... will come from your ASAC.

Thank you for remaining flexible and available.

Bryan

Good Evening,

I'm asking that everyone take time to read the below summary from today's Critical Incident Conference Call re the recent events at the U.S. Capitol. The below outlines... Thank you for taking the time to read the rest of the information captured below.

Thank you,
Bryan

UPDATE: This afternoon, all field office SACs attended a Critical Incident Conference Call (CICC) with FBIHQ to discuss the plan of action in light of the recent events at the U.S. Capitol and threat reporting indicating additional acts of violence may be planned leading up to the Presidential inauguration scheduled for January 20, 2021.
INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW: SSAs and SSRAs are requested to

FBI ROLE: We are positioning ourselves to investigate those 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. 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.

Captured below are several relevant federal statutes:

FBHQ AND REPORTING OF PVCA INCIDENTS: All New PVCA incidents should be promptly reported to ASA. ASA will further disseminate information as appropriate to. Note that field offices have been requested to report any PVCA matters to. A field office survey will be provided to FBHQ by 11AM CST each day.

SENTINEL CRISIS has requested ALL field office to send information and intelligence leads via the Sentinel Crisis File.

NEW DOCUMENTATION: In order to track, organize and coordinate incoming incidents, the following tag has been created for use within.

RESPONSIBILITIES:
Please direct any questions or concerns to ASAQ.
From: Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:15 PM
To: Vorndran, Bryan A. (NO) (FBI)
Cc: 
Subject: Fw: Preventing Violence and Criminal Activity

Let me know your thoughts....
Trusted Partners,

Please find attached the 12 January 2021 National Crisis Coordination Center (NC3) SITREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests. This document is produced by the FBI’s Office of Partner Engagement in concert with the Strategic Information Operations Center (SIOC).

Please note that this document is Unclassified/Law-Enforcement-Sensitive (U/LES). The FBI Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) at FBI Headquarters approves further dissemination with your trusted law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners in accordance with the LES handling caveat.
Pelosi Attempted A Military Coup Against Trump While Falsely Blaming Him For Leading An "Insurrection"

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 by JD Heyes

(Natural News) In the age of President Donald Trump, nothing is as it seems as one norm, one system, after another has been torn asunder by his political enemies in their never-ending, maniacal effort to depose him.

And every step of the way, the garbage 'establishment media' has been in on those efforts.

In recent days, several hundred of the president’s supporters broke away from the main group that had gathered to hear him speak Jan. 6, the day Congress was to meet in joint session to certify electoral ballots for Joe Biden in a stolen election. Frustrated and angry that too few lawmakers were at least willing to stand up and object to slates of electors in states that unconstitutionally changed their voting rules ahead of Nov. 3, those Trump supporters fought past barricades and Capitol Police officers and broke into the U.S. Capitol Building.

Was it wrong? Sure it was — but only to people who aren’t supporters of President
Trump, the same ones who believe that Antifa and BLM rioting all last summer, to include attacks against police stations and the siege of a federal courthouse in Portland, were perfectly fine and were simply ‘mostly peaceful demonstrations against racial injustice.’

After the assault on the Capitol, Democrats and their media sycophants all claimed that Trump “incited an insurrection” when in fact, he never asked or ordered his supporters to storm the building. In fact, he said just the opposite:

We have come to demand that Congress do the right thing and only count the electors who have been lawfully slated, lawfully slated. I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard. Today we will see whether Republicans stand strong for integrity of our elections, but whether or not they stand strong for our country, our country.

Meanwhile, it was House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) who actually went behind the president’s back in an attempt to stage a military coup against him, in an unprecedented manner, by trying to remove the commander-in-chief from the chain of command.

RedState notes:

Those on the left have been accusing President Donald Trump of fomenting an insurrection because of the Capitol protest. But Trump never called for violence or a riot.

But these are the same people who for four years tried to take out and undermine the duly elected president of the United States through a false Russia Collusion hoax story...

The New York Times ran a story today about the actions of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi behind the scenes against the president. Talk about “insurrection,” she was essentially fomenting a coup, and fomenting the military against the president, trying to remove him from the chain of command.

“In a phone call to the chairman [of the Joint Chiefs of Staff], [U.S. Army] Gen. Mark A. Milley, Ms. Pelosi appeared to be seeking to have the Pentagon leadership essentially remove Mr. Trump from his authorities as the commander in chief. That could be accomplished by ignoring the president’s orders or slowing them by questioning whether they were issued legally,” the Times reported.

“But General Milley appears to have made no commitments. Short of the cabinet invoking the 25th Amendment or removing Mr. Trump through impeachment in the House and conviction in the Senate, it is unconstitutional to defy legal orders from the commander in chief,” the Times reported.

Straight up, it is Nancy Pelosi who is the insurrectionist, along with her Marxist
Democrat Party and the enabling sycophantic media lying to their readers and viewers about what President Trump did and did not do.

If there are Americans who still believe Democrats are the ‘party of unity’ or that President Trump, not them, is the real threat to the Constitution and our republic, then reread what the Times reported and let it sink in real good.

Nancy Pelosi attempted to stage a military coup against President Trump, and she’s going to get away with it.

See more reporting like this at Treason.news.

Sources include:

RedState.com
Rev.com
NYTimes.com
Situation Update, Jan. 12, 2021 – Sources FRACTURE On Outcome: Is Trump Winning At Unconventional Warfare?

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 by Mike Adams

(Natural News) The CIA clowns who spread deliberate disinformation across the 'net are doing an outstanding job of pushing noise and confusion. As a result, my sources are have now fractured into split realities, where in one reality Trump has given up and surrendered while in another reality Trump is about to achieve a decisive victory and astonish the world.

In today's podcast, I discuss both arguments for what's happening now, and I lay out details on how the US Secret Service tried to set up Alex Jones to be arrested on terrorism charges in D.C.

Most importantly, I discuss whether the troop expansion in DC is actually part of an unconventional warfare strategy being carried out by President Trump and Chris Miller, the Secretary of Defense. If Biden isn't inaugurated on the 20th, the radical Left will stage an attempted color revolution siege of Washington D.C., but thanks to these maneuvers by Trump and Miller, there are 15,000 troops in place with the support of the Democrats and the media. Perhaps they are being played and don't yet realize it.

Here are the two Whitehouse.gov documents mentioned in the podcast:

- President Donald J. Trump Approves District of Columbia Emergency Declaration
- Executive Order on Addressing the Threat from Securities Investments that
Here’s what else I cover in today’s podcast:

- The FBI is planning to run false flag operations at state capitol buildings in order to further demonize conservatives and set the stage for nationwide gun confiscation.
- The real story of how US Secret Service tried to set up Alex Jones to be charged with terrorism on Jan 6th. But they failed and Jones averted the trap. (This is based in part on my private phone call with Alex Jones yesterday.)
- There has been a coup in America, carried out by the globalists, the Deep State and the CCP.
- My sources are now fractured, with some saying Trump has surrendered and others saying Trump will achieve a decisive victory.
- The bad news sources say everyone around Trump is refusing to follow orders for fear they will be charged with treason.
- The good news sources say Trump is still maneuvering for a decisive counterinsurgency attack against the coup plotters and Deep State traitors.
- Chris Miller of the DoD signed the order for 15,000 National Guard troops to be mobilized into the DC area.
- Importantly, when Trump announces the Insurrection Act, all National Guard troops are federalized under Trump.
- Note: We still believe Trump has already invoked the Insurrection Act, but this has not yet been made public.
- Sources say Democrats and left-wing media were tricked into supporting a massive build-up of troops in DC because they mistakenly think those troops will protect Biden. In reality, they say, Trump will command them.
- Most National Guard troops are loyal to Trump and despise Biden.
- The Jan 6th “siege” theater at the capitol was necessary to acquire Pelosi’s laptop and also trick the Left into supporting a massive troop buildup in DC.
- The troops are necessary to protect Trump from the “color revolution” attempt of the radical Left, which will activate the moment they see Biden not getting inaugurated.
- No outcome is certain. There are two paths, and many traitors are still inside the Trump administration. Trump’s own plans may be thwarted at the last minute.
- Discussion of consciousness, God, divinity and the role of suffering for the journey of self-discovery.
- Why the real war is beyond the 3D realm and exists in the realm of spirituality and consciousness.
- Is humanity ready to move to a higher state of existence, paired with self-responsibility? Or will we stay stuck in the “infant” stage of fighting and suffering?

Listen to today’s podcast:
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Fw: Op-Ed Final Draft
To: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 12, 2021 11:17 PM (UTC-05:00)
FYI...

Regards,

John

From: Sallet, Jeffrey S. (HRB) (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:08
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Op-Ed Final Draft

Op-Ed-final-draft.pdf
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOU/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOU/PA# 21-cv-558

Total Deleted Page(s) = 47
Page 21 ~ b7E - 1,5;
Page 22 ~ b7E - 1,5;
Page 23 ~ b5 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,5;
Page 24 ~ b5 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,5;
Page 25 ~ b3 - 1; b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,5;
Page 26 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1;
Page 27 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1;
Page 31 ~ b3 - 1; b7A - 1; b7E - 1,2,5,8,9;
Page 36 ~ b7E - 1,5,8,11;
Page 37 ~ b7E - 5,8,11;
Page 38 ~ Duplicate;
Page 39 ~ Duplicate;
Page 40 ~ Duplicate;
Page 41 ~ Duplicate;
Page 42 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 46 ~ Duplicate;
Page 47 ~ Duplicate;
Page 61 ~ Duplicate;
Page 62 ~ Duplicate;
Page 63 ~ Duplicate;
Page 64 ~ b3 - 1; b7A - 1; b7E - 1,2,5,8;
Page 65 ~ b3 - 1; b6 - 1,3; b7A - 1; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,5,8,11;
Page 66 ~ b3 - 1; b6 - 1,3; b7A - 1; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,5,8,11;
Page 67 ~ b3 - 1; b5 - 1,3; b7A - 1; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,5,8,11;
Page 68 ~ b3 - 1; b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 5,8,11;
Page 69 ~ b3 - 1; b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 5,8,11;
Page 70 ~ b5 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 71 ~ b5 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 72 ~ b5 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 74 ~ b7E - 1,2;
Page 75 ~ b7E - 1,2,4,13;
Page 76 ~ b7D - 5; b7E - 1,2;
Page 77 ~ b7E - 1,2;
Page 78 ~ b7E - 1;
Page 80 ~ b7D - 5; b7E - 1,2;
Page 81 ~ b7E - 1,3;
Page 83 ~ Duplicate;
Page 84 ~ Duplicate;
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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.

**Contractual Obligations and Copyright:** This copyrighted material is for the internal use of FBI employees only and, by contract, may not be redistributed without Bulletin Intelligence's express written consent.

**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.
**FBI Public Affairs – Director’s AM News Briefing**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:00 AM EST**

**FBI Office Warned Extremists Planned Violence Prior To Attack.** The *Washington Post* (1/12, Zapotosky, 10.52M) reports that, in “the most stark evidence yet of the sizable intelligence failure that preceded” a mob attacking the Capitol, a day before the violence the FBI’s Norfolk, Virginia office “issued an explicit internal warning that extremists were preparing to travel to Washington to commit violence and ‘war.’” The report “painted a dire portrait of dangerous plans, including individuals sharing a map of the complex’s tunnels and meeting places for would-be conspirators.” While “it was not immediately clear how many law enforcement agencies outside the FBI were told,” a law enforcement official said the bureau’s Washington field office was briefed on it. The memo “contradicts a senior official’s declaration the bureau had no intelligence indicating” protesters planned harm. The Post adds that before the attack “FBI officials discounted any suggestion that the pro-Trump supporters could be a security threat, and even the report “expressed concern that the FBI might be encroaching on free speech rights.”

The *New York Times* (1/12, Goldman, 20.8M) reports, “Officials cautioned the information in the Norfolk report was uncorroborated,” but “the report is likely to put the F.B.I. on the defensive with members of Congress and the public” as they seek answers on why the FBI and other law enforcement were unprepared for the attack.

The *AP* (1/12, Balsamo, Tucker) reports, “In the immediate aftermath of the riot, some law enforcement officials, including the Capitol police chief, said they were unaware of serious concerns leading up to Jan. 6 and had prepared only for a free-speech protest,” but “on Tuesday, The Washington Post reported on the existence of a Jan. 5 report from the FBI’s field office in Norfolk, Virginia, that forecast, in detail, the chances that extremists could commit ‘war’ in Washington the following day.” Steven D’Antuono, the assistant director in charge of the FBI’s Washington field office, said that once he received the Jan. 5 warning, “the information was quickly shared with other law enforcement agencies through the joint terrorism task force.”

The *Washington Times* (1/12, Mordock, 625K) reports, “While they announced the aggressive prosecutions, FBI officials also countered reports that agents failed to act swiftly the day before the attack when they discovered Internet posts plotting a ‘war’ on Congress.” D’Antuono said the threat was vague and could not be tied to a specific person or group. But the FBI notified other agencies within 40 minutes of learning about the threat. “We deal with specifics and facts,” he said. “We have to separate the aspirational from the intentional and determine which of the individuals saying despicable things on the internet are just practicing keyboard bravado.”

The *Hill* (1/12, Neidig, 5.69M) reports that D’Antuono “defended the bureau’s actions during the lead-up to the riot as it was monitoring online discussions among right-wing demonstrators,” as offensive as a statement can be, the FBI cannot open an investigation without a threat of violence or alleged criminal activity,” D’Antuono said. “However, when that language does turn to a call of violence or criminal activity, the FBI is able to undertake investigative action. And in this case, we had no indication, information was linked to any specific person, but that this is a matter of an online discussion.”

*US News & World Report* (1/12, 1.91M) reports that D’Antuono said the bureau adequately warned local authorities of what it knew about the planned violence at the U.S. Capitol last week. “That was a thread on a message board that was being attributable to an individual person,” D’Antuono said of the news, first reported by The Washington Post. “My Washington field office received that information, we briefed that within 40 minutes to our law enforcement partners, federal [and] state.” He said the information, which reportedly included maps of the Capitol complex tunnels and plans for swarming it, was “ingested” by the Joint Terrorism Task Force, which helps link FBI initiatives with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. “That’s the action we took on that, and that’s it,” D’Antuono said.

*USA Today* (1/12, 12.7M) reports that D’Antuono said the intelligence report was shared within “40 minutes” with law enforcement partners, although “it was still unclear, however, whether officials specifically altered security preparations to account for that warning.” D’Antuono said, “In the weeks leading up to the January 6 rally, the FBI worked internally with every FBI field office to ensure they were looking for any intelligence they may have developed about potential violence during the rally on January 6.”

*NBC News* (1/12, 4.91M) reports, “Former FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday that an FBI bulletin about potential violence at 50 state capitol buildings is ‘very, very unusual.’ Law enforcement definitely can handle these kinds of riots, attacks and civil disturbances, if they have the information they need and they prepare. This is something law enforcement was built for,” he said in an interview on NBC’s ‘TODAY’ show.” NBC News adds, “Reacting to the storming of the Capitol last Wednesday, Comey said, ‘I was also really angry about the failure to secure in the face of a threat that was obvious on a date that’s been marked for 130 years, Jan. 6. You knew it was coming. You knew it was literally coming to you from the president’s rally walking down Pennsylvania Avenue – very, very upsetting to watch it happen anyway.”
NEC News: FBI Never Issued Intel Bulletin About Potential Capitol Violence. BY Dilaran, Ainsley, 1/13 reports, "Analysts in the FBI’s Intelligence Division gathered information about possible violence involving the Capitol on Jan. 6., but the FBI never distributed a formal intelligence bulletin, in part because of concerns that doing so might have run afoul of free speech protections, one current and two former senior FBI officials familiar with the matter told NBC News." NBC News adds, "While the FBI did share some threat intelligence with law enforcement, the lack of a comprehensive Joint Intelligence Bulletin compiled by the FBI’s Intelligence Branch – which would have made assessments about possible threats and have been shared with relevant law enforcement agencies – left the Capitol Police and other agencies lacking the full picture of what the FBI had learned from human sources and social media postings about what extremists were saying about plans to assault the Capitol."

Rioters Came Within Feet And Seconds Of Legislators. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Mann, Volz, Wise, Day) reports that during the attack on the Capitol last week rioters were feet or seconds away from fleeing lawmakers as outnumbered Capitol Police officers at the entrances to both chambers of Congress tried to slow down the mob. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) estimates that the House was evacuated 30 to 60 seconds before it would have been overrun.

US Capitol Police Intel Chief Warned Congress In July Of Right-Wing Attacks. Reuters (1/12, Shiffman) reports, "The director of intelligence for the U.S. Capitol Police warned Congress in July that rebellion against COVID-19 precautions had accelerated violence by right-wing "revolutionary extremists," according to congressional testimony." Reuters adds, "Four months before he joined the force, John K. Donohue, then a private security consultant, testified that the country desperately needed a sophisticated social media early-warning system, akin to the U.S. nuclear missile launch detection capability, to prevent a catastrophe. 'America is at a crossroads,' Donohue told the U.S. House Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism during a July 16 hearing. 'The intersection of constitutional rights and legitimate law enforcement has never been more at risk by domestic actors as it is now as extremists actively promote a revolution.' According to Reuters, 'Donohue's public warning, which has not been previously reported, came six months before a right-wing mob stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6."

Rep. Krishnamoorthi: Capitol Attack Was An FBI intel Failure. WLS-TV Chicago (1/12, Goudie, Markoff) reports from Chicago that Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) "told the ABC7 I-Team that what happened was the result of an FBI intelligence failure. 'There’s failures at multiple levels, and right now we’ve launched an investigation with regard to the security situation,' Krishnamoorthi said. 'Unfortunately there are militia groups, armed militia groups across the country that are coordinating to make a show of force especially around Inauguration Day. And I have to tell you Chuck that we are not going to stand by and allow these militia groups to reap the kind of havoc that they did last Wednesday.'" WLS-TV adds, "The head of the FBI in Washington and D.C.’s top federal prosecutor pushed back Tuesday on allegations that the mob attack on the Capitol last Wednesday was the result of an intelligence failure."

Nearly 100 Arrested So Far In Probe Of Capitol Violence. USA Today (1/12, Penzenstadler, Salman, Wedell, 12.7M) reports, "Nearly 100 people have been arrested so far for their roles in the attack. Many currently face lesser charges such as unlawful entry, disorderly conduct and defacing public property. Only a few have been accused of more serious crimes such as felony violations of the Riot Act." The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Gurman, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports FBI Washington field office Assistant Director in Charge Steven D’Antuono said the FBI has opened more than 160 case files and has received more than 100,000 videos and other forms of digital media related to the attacks.

Press الجوالي, (1/12, Hosenball, Beech) reports Acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin said at a news briefing, "I think the scope and scale of this investigation and these cases are really unprecedented, not only in FBI history, but probably DOJ history. The Capitol grounds outside and inside are essentially a crime scene." The CBS Evening News (1/12, story 2, 3:15, O’Donnell, 4.30M) reported Sherwin says the public will be shocked when it learns all the details from the assault. The New York Times (1/12, Shear, Goldman, Berner, 20.06M) reports Sherwin’s comments "came as evidence mounted that before the grim events at the Capitol – in which lawmakers and others hid from an angry, surging mob and five people died in the riot and near riot – top officials in government had reason to be deeply concerned about the possibility of violence."

CNN (1/12, 9.21M) reports that while the FBI has opened more than 160 case files in the six days since pro-Donald Trump rioters breached the US Capitol building, officials acknowledged Tuesday that the evidence gathered so far is just the tip of the iceberg. "People are going to be shocked by some of the egregious contact that happened in the Capitol," acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin said in reference to assaults on federal and DC police officers. CNN adds that officials from the FBI and Department of Justice sought to reassure the American public Tuesday that they are up to the task on both
FBI agents are scouring more than 100,000 digital media files, and federal prosecutors have spent hours presenting felony cases to a Washington grand jury, as they seek to bring to justice those who committed crimes in the riot at the Capitol, authorities said Tuesday. FBI Director Christopher Wray said Tuesday that he was the target of the threat. Wray said the FBI had opened 160 case files, and that this is only the beginning, as Sherwin put it, outlining a large number of serious crimes that carry decades-long prison terms. The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are investigating, for example, who put two pipe bombs outside the Capitol with timers and detonators.

FBI tcv558) -3966
FBI: Iowa QAnon Backer Was Among First To Breach Capitol. The AP (1/12, Foley) reports from Iowa City, Iowa, "A right-wing conspiracy theorist from Iowa was among the first to break into the U.S. Capitol during last week's deadly pro-Trump insurrection, chasing and menacing a Black police officer, federal agents said Tuesday." Douglas A. Jensen, 41, "surrendered to police in his hometown of Des Moines on Friday, two days after the Jan. 6 rampage in Washington, D.C., left five people dead and disrupted U.S. democracy. Investigators say he told them he positioned himself to be among the leaders of the Capitol siege because he was wearing a shirt promoting QAnon, the apocalyptic conspiracy theory that he follows. "He wanted to have his T-shirt seen on video so that 'Q' could "get the credit." FBI special agent Julie Williams wrote in a statement outlining the allegations against Jensen, who posted photos of himself at the riot on social media."

Son Of New York Judge Charged For Role In Capitol Riot. The New York Post (1/12, Rosenberg, 7,465M) reports, "The fur-loving son of a prominent Brooklyn judge touted his 'caveman' getup to a pal during the US Capitol riots last week — but was dismayed to learn his photo was turned into a viral meme, according to new court papers." Federal prosecutors "took the unusual step of including the Instagram post in their filing that charges Aaron Mostofsky, 34, with four counts in the deadly protests at the nation's capital, including theft of government property, illegal entry into a restricted area and disorderly conduct. In papers unsealed on Tuesday, authorities said Mostofsky blabbed about heading down to DC on social media, including telling a pal he was trying to meet up with at the rally. "If we find each other they look like a cavemen."

The New York Times (1/12, Hong, 20.6M) reports, "Mostofsky, 34, is the son of Kings County Supreme Court Judge Steven Mostofsky, who also goes by Shimon. He and his father are registered Democrats, according to New York State election records. Aaron Mostofsky was taken into custody by F.B.I. agents at his brother's home in Brooklyn, according to two people briefed on the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation."

The AP (1/12, Hays) reports, "At a teleconference hearing in federal court in Brooklyn, Mostofsky's lawyer argued that the evidence didn't back up the accusations. Mostofsky was released on $100,000 bond but banned from traveling Washington except for purposes of prosecution of his case there." Assistant US Attorney Josh Hafetz "told a magistrate judge in Brooklyn federal court that the government would agree to Mostofsky's release even though it was 'deeply troubled by the conduct of the defendant' in a 'mob attack.' "The charges include a felony count of theft of government property — a bulletproof police vest worth $1,905 and a riot shield valued at $265."

FBI: Arrest Of Miami-Based Proud Boys Leader Linked To Capitol Riot. The Miami Herald (1/12, Smiley, 647K) reports, "The FBI on Tuesday said Washington, D.C. police arrested the Miami-based leader of the far-right Proud Boys days before the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol because they had developed information showing he was among those planning to incite violence as Congress voted to certify the presidential election. The Herald adds, "Steven D'Antuono, assistant director in charge at the FBI's Washington field office, said federal authorities had worked in the preceding days to identify bad actors planning to attend a Jan. 6 rally near the White House and "held up the arrest of Henry 'Enrique' Tarrio Jr. as an example of efforts to stop the violence before it began. "In the weeks leading up to the Jan. 6 rally, the FBI worked internally with every FBI field office to ensure we were looking for any intelligence that may have developed about potential violence during the rally of Jan. 6," D'Antuono said."

Idaho Man Arrested For Role In Capitol Riot. The AP (1/12, Boone) reports from Boise, Idaho, "An Idaho man whose photograph was included on a federal list of those considered 'persons of interest' in the Jan. 6 siege of the U.S. Capitol has been jailed in Boise, the Ada County Sheriff's Office confirmed Tuesday." Josiah Colt, 34, "turned himself in at the Ada County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday afternoon and was being held on a U.S. Marshal's hold, sheriff's spokesman Patrick Orr said." The AP adds, "After the insurgency, Colt posted a video to Facebook erroneously claiming he was the first person in the mob to sit in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's chair. Photos from the siege, however, show him in the seat normally used by Vice President Mike Pence in the Senate chamber."

FBI Tracking Down "Pittsburgh Based Individual" In Capitol Assault Probe. WPXI-TV Pittsburgh (1/12, 149K) reports from Pittsburgh. "FBI agents from the Pittsburgh field office tracked and interviewed a 'Pittsburgh based individual' cited in a report describing protests and violence in the area leading up to Inauguration Day. According to investigators, there are no related threats in the region leading up to Jan. 20." WPXI-TV adds, "Over the weekend, reports emerged that posts across a variety of social media platforms promised protests would take place in cities across the country, including Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City and Columbus, Ohio. On Friday, Twitter posted a statement saying in part, 'Plans for future armed protests have already begun proliferating.' Additionally, FBI agents from the Pittsburgh office are still investigating the destructive mob that descended on the U.S. Capitol last week. The agency is accepting tips, pictures and videos of the rioting and violence. The Pittsburgh FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force is taking the lead in any local investigations."

Suspended MTA Employee Charged With Capitol Riot. The AP (1/12) reports, "An employee of the Metro-North commuter railroad was arrested Tuesday by the FBI on charges that he participated in last week's mob assault on the U.S. Capitol. Will Pepe "was in federal custody and was scheduled to make an initial court appearance Wednesday at the federal
court in White Plains, according to Nicholas Biase, a spokesperson for the U.S. attorney in Manhattan. Pepe was previously suspended without pay from his job with the Metro-North commuter railroad after he was photographed inside the Capitol during the unrest. MTA officials said he had called in sick to attend the protests in Washington, D.C. "The FBI had put Pepe's image on a 'Seeking Information' poster related to Wednesday's violence at the Capitol. He is seen wearing an American flag bandana around his neck while holding up his mobile phone, as if to take a picture or video of himself."

The New York Post (1/12, Meyer, 7.45M) reports, "Pepe, 31, of Beacon, was cuffed Tuesday afternoon and is set to appear in federal court in White Plains on Wednesday on charges out of Washington, D.C., a spokesman for the Southern District of New York said. "Participation in the riot which resulted in deadly violence at the Capitol last week was abhorrent to the values of the MTA and New Yorkers, and those who attacked that symbol of American democracy disqualified themselves from working for the People of New York," MTA spokesman Tim Minton said Tuesday."

Seven Philadelphia Transit Officers Under Probe For Attending Rally Prior To Capital Attack. CBS News (1/12, Martinez, 5.39M) reports, "Seven Philadelphia transit police officers are under investigation for attending President Trump's rally in Washington, D.C., last week, officials said Tuesday. The investigation into the officers, who are part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), will examine if they were involved in any illegal behavior. [The officers] are being investigated to see if they were involved in riotous behavior or for violations of our social media policies," SEPTA Police Chief Thomas Nestel said, according to CBS Philly. "According to CBS News, "The station said that there was a tip that a SEPTA employee was at the rally, and the investigation revealed several more officers who were in attendance. SEPTA is looking into whether the employees were part of the mob that breached the U.S. Capitol. SEPTA said any information about the investigation will be shared with the FBI."

Olympic Swimmer Reportedly Identified As Participating In Capitol Riot. USA Today (1/12, Harris, Mercafe, 12.7M) reports, "Olympic gold medalist swimmer Katie Keller may have joined the riot inside the U.S. Capitol last week, according to multiple media reports that identify him based on photos and videos taken that day." Keller, 38, is a three-time Olympic swimmer, who earned five medals overall, including gold medals in the 2004 and 2008 Summer Games for Team USA. He was, until Tuesday, listed as a real estate agent with Hoff & Leigh in Colorado. Hoff & Leigh issued a statement on Tuesday afternoon saying Keller, an independent contractor, had resigned. Swimswall, a website about competitive swimming, first reported that Keller may have been among the crowd, basing the claim on "at least a dozen people" who had reviewed images and video from the raid. The New York Times said Keller was in the crowd, according to "former teammates and coaches" who identified him in photos.

FBI Arrests New York Man After Alleged Posts Seeking Armed Caravan To DC. WNBC-TV New York (1/12, Dienst, Miller, 289K) reports, "A man was arrested after the FBI searched a Queens home Tuesday evening following online threats that were allegedly posted in the aftermath of last week's riots at the U.S. Capitol, law enforcement officials said." WNBC-TV adds, "The suspect, identified as Eduard Florea, was arrested by the FBI on a weapons-related charge, a law enforcement official said. An FBI spokesperson would not comment on specific charges, only confirming that an arrest had been made. The home that was searched is located near Elliot Avenue and 76th Street in Middle Village, the FBI spokesperson said. Florea, "who was believed to be responsible for the online threats, did not appear to have been at the Capitol during the violent protests, a senior law enforcement source said."

Sen. Cassidy Releases Photos Of Man Wanted in Connection With Capitol Riot. The Hill (1/12, Coleman, 5.86M) reports, "Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) released photos of a man he said was wanted in connection with last week's deadly riot at the Capitol. Cassidy posted two photos on Twitter, saying he received them from the Capitol Police," and he "said the man was wanted in connection with the death of U.S. Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick's death due to injuries sustained during the Capitol riot last week," but "police later disputed Cassidy's characterization, telling The Hill that the individual in the photo is a person of interest for another incident. The U.S. Capitol Police and FBI are looking for any information about the individual and his activities on January 6, 2021."

Nebraska GOP Official's Letter Draws Calls For FBI Probe. The AP (1/12, Ritter) reports from Las Vegas, "Nebraska's two U.S. senators have joined calls for an investigation of comments by the Republican Party chairman in rural Nye County that they warned could incite violence and insurrection against elected officials." The AP adds, "Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen, both Democrats, said in a Monday letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray that county GOP chief Chris Zimmerman's open letter 'denies basic facts about the 2020 election and falsely claims that President (Donald) Trump - not President-elect (Joe) Biden - will be inaugurated' on Jan. 20. 'We are urging that the threats described in this letter be taken seriously,' the senators said after pointing to the storming of the U.S. Capitol last week Trump loyalists, and the deaths of six people. The letter describes being in a 'battle for our republic' and ends by saying that, 'it's 1776 all over again?,' the letter to Wray said.

LAPD Directs Officer Who Attended Trump Rally To Speak With FBI. The Los Angeles Times (1/12, Rector, 3.37M) reports, "A Los Angeles police officer has been ordered by LAPD Chief Michel Moore to tell FBI agents about his attendance at
the pro-Trump rally that preceded the attack on the U.S. Capitol." The Times adds, "The unnamed officer told police officials that he attended the large pro-Trump rally on the National Mall on Jan. 6, where Trump spoke, but left "prior to any other activity and did not participate in anything that occurred at the Capitol," Moore said. "Moore stressed that while simply attending the rally would be a protected 1st Amendment activity, any involvement in the attack on the Capitol would not be and could expose an officer to criminal charges. A department spokesman said the LAPD would cooperate with the FBI if additional investigation into the officer is necessary."

**Federal Prosecutors Weighing Sedition Charges in Capitol Attack.** The AP (1/12, Balsamo, Tucker) reports. "Prosecutors are now weighing sedition charges against at least some of the Trump loyalists who stormed the US Capitol one week ago, officials said Tuesday. Pete Williams said on NBC Nightly News (1/12, story 4, 0:40, Holt, 5:85M), "Federal prosecutors say tonight they've opened more than 170 cases so far, a number that's likely to grow much bigger in the coming days. The potential charges: simple trespass, theft of mail, digital devices, and classified information; assault on police officers, and murder. But they're also considering a charge of seditious conspiracy, meaning opposing the government by force. That carries a 20-year maximum sentence. The FBI is also looking at whether the rioters had a leader and if they intended to take members of Congress hostage."

**Law Enforcement Agencies Prepare Unprecedented Security Precautions For Inauguration.** Pierre Thomas reported on ABC News Tonight (1/12, story 2, 3:40, Muir, 7:37M) that law enforcement agencies are "racing to disrupt any plans for violence on Inauguration Day." Capitol Police told House Democrats that they are "preparing for more than 10,000 armed Trump supporters to descend on the Capitol for the inauguration. Some [are] reportedly planning to form perimeters around the Capitol complex, the White House and the Supreme Court, blocking anyone who doesn’t support Trump, perhaps assassinating them." Tom Costello said on NBC Nightly News (1/12, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 5:85M) that Capitol Police "are warning members of Congress of new violent threats against them described as chilling. ... Right-wing extremists and white supremacists are using encrypted internet chat rooms to plan future attacks, even sharing a US Army field manual with calls to shoot politicians and encourage armed struggle." Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA): "We were told about specific numbers of people who intend to come here armed with weapons on specific dates at specific times and for specific reasons, including justice for the woman that was killed last week, in their words, 'justice' or 'vengeance.'"

"The Washington Post" (1/14, Cooper, Goldman, 20.6M) reports Army Secretary McCarthy has decided that "National Guard troops who are flooding into Washington to secure the Capitol for inauguration Day will be armed. ... The armed troops will be responsible for security around the Capitol building complex." The decision came after a meeting with House Speaker Pelosi, who, "according to congressional staff members, demanded that the Pentagon take a more muscular posture after a mob, egged on by President Trump last week, breached the Capitol." The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports the Secret Service will on Wednesday "take command of security preparations at the U.S. Capitol and other federal buildings, backed by as many as 15,000 National Guard troops, thousands of police and tactical officers, and layers of eight-foot steel fencing," a full week before the inauguration. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Parti, Siddiqui, Subscription Publication, 8.4M) reports a House Democratic aide said "efforts are now under way to erect the largest perimeter ever established around the Capitol."

Acting Deputy DHS Secretary Ken Cuccinelli spoke on WMAL-AM Washington (1/12) about security measures ahead of January 20 amid the FBI's warning regarding armed protests planned in all 50 states. Cuccinelli said, "America can be very confident that this inauguration and everything surrounding and running up to it is going to be safe." Cuccinelli said on Fox News' America's Newsroom (1/12, 985K), "While we need to take [the threats] seriously, at the same time, it would be an incredible unlikely to see what is described in those threats actually take place."

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) editorializes, "Just as it was important for Congress to return to the Capitol on Wednesday night to continue its work certifying the November election, so is it important that nothing be allowed to impede Mr. Biden from taking the oath of office at noon on Jan. 20 on the steps of the Capitol. Pandemic restrictions have already curtailed public events, and we hope Washington area residents heed the advice to stay home and enjoy the inauguration virtually. We also hope — no, we urge — that this country's leadership recognize the very real threat that is posed by white domestic terrorism and marshal the resolve and resources to control and eliminate it."

**Pentagon Weighs Preparation For Threats In State Capital Cities With DC Threats.** The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports Defense Department leaders said Tuesday that they "must balance an array of threats on state capitals.
nationwide against the potential for renewed extremist violence in Washington. ... Intelligence suggesting the potential for armed 
riots or attacks on state capitals across the country came into focus as the Defense Department scrambled to ensure an 
adequate plan for providing National Guard aid for the Jan. 20 inauguration and avoid a repeat of last week’s insurrection at the 
U.S. Capitol.”

The CBS Evening News (1/12, story 4, 1.45, O’Donnell, 4.39M) reported the FBI warned “of possible armed protests 
leading up to the inauguration,” leading Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ohio to activate National Guard troops and state capitals to 
increase security. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (1/12, 855K) reports the FBI “has credible evidence of a threat of violence on 
Sunday specifically aimed at the Minnesota and Michigan state capitols by right-wing extremists as part of their preparation for 
armed protests in every state and Washington, D.C., leading up to [Biden’s inauguration].” The Boston Globe (1/12, 1.04M) 
reports, “The special agent in charge of the FBI Boston office said Tuesday that the bureau had no information on credible 
threats to any of the four New England state capitols in his jurisdiction, but he warned things could change ‘in a second.’

**DC Area Battens Down Amid Threats Of Violent Protests.** The Washington Post (1/12, Zauzmer, Lang, Cox, 
Schneider, Jouvenal, 10.52M) reports, “Fences were going up across downtown Washington, and National Guard troops took up 
posts on street corners Tuesday, part of a sweeping lockdown aimed at heading off any unrest during a weekend of right-wing 
protests and the presidential inauguration that follows.” The Post adds, “Officials said the massive security cordon could grow 
even larger in the District in coming days as they consider shutting hotels, stopping some Metro service and denying permits 
for demonstrations, fearing another wave of violence like the one that rocked the U.S. Capitol last week.” According to the Post, 
“Already, D.C. officials said local and federal law enforcement were establishing a perimeter around the White House, the Capitol 
and part of downtown Washington that allows them to conduct security screenings on anyone entering the area over the next 
week.”

**Airbnb To Review DC-Area Reservations.** USA Today (1/12, Hines, 12.7M) reports that ahead of Biden’s 
inauguration next week, Airbnb is taking precautions against “violent hate group members” with a special “Capitol Safety Plan.” In 
a statement provided by Airbnb spokesperson Christopher Nulty, the company said, “Airbnb strongly condemns last week’s 
attack on the Capitol and the efforts to undermine our democratic process.” Among the steps Airbnb will take, it will ban 
people involved in last week’s Capitol riot, and review existing reservations in the Washington area.

**March For Reparations Still Hopeful About Holding Protest During Inauguration.** DCist (1/12, 18K) reports, “During the 
Biden-Harris inauguration, local and national organizations plan to lead a March for Reparations in D.C. and 
other major cities to address gaps in health care, economics, and access to home ownership due to redlining.” Organizers say 
they hope the event “can still go on despite the temporary public emergency order in place in the District, as a result of armed 
Trump supporters breaching the Capitol last week. The group is still awaiting a permit from the National Park Service, says 
Tara Perry, lead organizer of the march and founder of Black PACT, a California-based group that organizes reparations 
movements.”

**FBI May Add Capitol Attackers To Do-Not-Fly List.** Tom Costiello reported on NBC Nightly News (1/12, story 3, 
0.20, Holt, 5.85M) that the FBI, which creates the airlines’ do-not-fly list, “says it’s considering adding the Capitol Hill attackers” to 
the list. CNN (1/12, 9.21M) reports that FBI Washington Field Office Assistant Director in Charge Steven D’Antuono “said Tuesday that the bureau would consider adding rioters to the no-fly list, which is maintained by the bureau and administered by the 
Transportation Security Administration.” D’Antuono said, “As for the no-fly list, we look at all tools and techniques that we 
possibly can use within the FBI and that’s something we are actively looking at.” D’Antuono said in response to a question from 
CNN’s Evan Perez.

**Joint Chiefs Condemn Capitol Riot.** The AP (1/12, Burns) reports, a memo signed by all members of the Joint Chiefs 
of Staff reminds military members that Joe Biden was duly elected as the next president, “that the deadly insurrection at the 
Capitol last week was an anti-democratic, criminal act, and that the right to free speech gives no one the right to commit 
violence.” The memo said, “We support and defend the Constitution. Any act to disrupt the Constitutional process is not only 
against our traditions, values and oath; it is against the law.”
Reuters (1/12, Ali) reports the memo "breaks nearly a week of silence by the military leaders after the assault on the Capitol," and some service members had "privately expressed concern that they had not been getting any direction from senior leaders" after the attack. JCS Chairman Gen. Mark Milley's silence on the matter until now "was in sharp contrast to June, when Milley made a controversial walk to a church with Trump after law enforcement officers backed by National Guard troops used tear-inducing chemicals and rubber bullets to clear the area of peaceful protesters.

The New York Times (1/12, Schmitt, 20.6M) casts the memo as "unusual," adding that the chiefs "found it necessary to remind their rank and file of their sworn oath to the country was extraordinary." The Times characterizes the memo as illustrating how the apolitical American military has been "thrust into an awkward, even potentially dangerous, position of possibly having to weigh dubious orders from the president against their oath to uphold the Constitution."

CNN (1/12, Liebermann, Starr, Gacouette, 89.21M) reports on its website that the memo "underscores the scale of the challenge, as officials across the US security establishment scramble to deal with the aftermath of the chaos at the Capitol and determine how best to protect lawmakers." USA Today (1/12, Brook, 12.7M) reports, "The Pentagon is seeking to determine how many troops may have taken part in the riot," already having found an Army Special Forces captain was at the Capitol and investigating what she did there.

Facebook, Twitter Bans Splinter Fringe Groups Online. The New York Times (1/12, Frenkel, 20.6M) reports that after many fringe groups "were banned from mainstream social media platforms" in the wake of the Capitol violence, they "have been relegated to half a dozen apps and platforms to organize their next steps." With Parler effectively taken offline due to Amazon no longer hosting the service in its data centers and President Trump getting kicked off Twitter and Facebook — making it "harder for organizers to rally around a singular voice" — the groups' "scattered attempts to coordinate next steps appeared to be confusing for many of Mr. Trump's supporters." However, it also could mean that attempts at disruption will "be harder to predict and could stretch for days."

Parler Faces Complex, Costly Barriers To Returning Online. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Tilley, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Parler, a social network popular in right-wing circles, faces complex and costly challenges to returning online after Amazon stopped hosting it on Amazon's cloud-computing service. It must either find a new vendor willing to host its data following the app's users stoking the deadly attack on the Capitol, or create its own network infrastructure. Social-media platform Gab chose the second approach after its cloud provider dropped it in the wake of an attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue, as the shooter used the platform to post anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denying messages.

Panel: Online Misinformation That Led To Capitol Violence Is "Radicalization." Reuters (1/12, Cullford) reports researchers told a Reuters Next panel that the online misinformation that led to the Capitol violence last week has passed false claims, reaching the point of "radicalization." Anti-disinformation nonprofit First Draft cofounder Claire Wardle and Atlantic Council Digital Forensic Research Lab Director Graham Brookie "emphasized that these conspiracy theories would outlast the Trump administration and said it would likely play into upcoming events such as the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine." Additionally, Graphika Chief Innovation Officer Camille Francois and Brunswick Group Director Preston Golin "emphasized the growing threat of real-world harms from online disinformation in corporate industries."

Continuing Coverage: FBI Investigating Pipe Bombs Discovered In DC. CBS News (1/12, 5.36M) reports that the FBI has released images of a suspect wanted as part of the agency's investigation into pipe bombs discovered in DC last week. Fox News (1/12, Wallace, 23.99M) reports that there is a $50,000 award for any information. The released photos "showed an individual dressed in a gray sweatshirt with a hood over his head and a white mask hiding the person's face."

Acting US Attorney Christine Says "There's Just Nothing To" Trump's Claims Of Voter Fraud In Georgia. The Washington Post (1/12, Zapotocky, 10.52M) reports acting US Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Bobby Christine, "whose predecessor abruptly resigned one week ago after President Trump complained officials were not doing enough to find election fraud in the state," on Monday "declared on a call with his staff...that there's just nothing to the few claims of fraud the office was examining, according to an audio recording obtained by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution." The Post adds Christine "suggested that he was surprised to learn the office had not found significant election fraud issues."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (1/12, Joyner, 1.46M) reports Christine had "apparently convened the conference call to reassure federal lawyers in the Northern District office — most of whom are working remotely — that he was not pushing what Justice Department officials have called baseless claims of election fraud in...Joe Biden's victory in Georgia. Yet the questions from staff attorneys revealed deep suspicions and fears of political interference." According to the Journal-Constitution,
“Attorneys asked and re-asked why First Assistant U.S. Attorney Erskine had not been appointed as Pak’s replacement during the transition.”

**NYTimes Analysis: Trump’s Election Challenges To “Haunt” Georgia Republicans.** A *New York Times* (1/12, Faustet, Hakim, 206M) analysis titled “In Georgia, Trump’s Attacks On Election Still Haunt Republicans” says that while the House impeachment charge against the President “stems from his role in inciting a mob to attack the U.S. Capitol last week,” the resolution includes “another element of Mr. Trump’s behavior that is also drawing condemnation as an abuse of presidential power. His pressure campaign to persuade Georgia officials to overturn his electoral loss in the state.” The Times adds that even if the impeachment bid “fails or fades, Mr. Trump’s efforts to subvert the will of Georgia’s voters will continue to resonate, both for the president and for politicians in Georgia.”

**FBI Agent Infiltrated Group Allegedly Plotting To Kidnap Michigan Governor.** *WKMG-TV* Grand Rapids, Mi (1/12, Martin, 105K) reports, “Court transcripts released in the alleged Governor Whitmer kidnapping conspiracy say that an FBI agent infiltrated the group claiming to be an explosives expert.” The FBI agent “was only able to get into the group after one of the members got cold feet about the plan and went to a local police department with his concerns.” The defendants in the case face “federal charges of conspiracy to commit kidnapping.” The transcripts unsealed Tuesday “reveal that the group participated in an additional, highly intricate dry run of the kidnapping, all under the cover of night in mid-September.” The FBI agent “was along for the trip,” and “told the group that they would need about $4,000 worth of explosives to knock the bridge out.”

**San Francisco City Administrator Resigns Amid Corruption Probe.** The *San Francisco Examiner* (1/12, 408K) reports that San Francisco City Administrator Naomi Kelly tendered her resignation Tuesday after federal authorities charged her husband with fraud for allegedly accepting bribes including a paid family vacation to China. Kelly is resigning after taking a six-week leave of absence Dec. 2 in light of the allegations against her husband, former San Francisco Public Utilities Commission General Manager Harlan Kelly. Naomi Kelly denied the allegations in her resignation letter Tuesday to Mayor London Breed and said the case was ‘based on the false statements of an admitted liar.’ She was casting doubt on the credibility of Walter Wong, the permit expeditor who cooperated with the FBI against her husband in exchange for leniency in his own federal case.

**Official Expects Number Of Russian Hack Victims To Grow.** The *AP* (1/12, Tucker) reports William Evanina, the director of the US National Counterintelligence and Security Center, said in a live-stream interview with the Washington Post Tuesday that as the investigation into the massive Russian hack continues, the number of federal agencies and companies impacted by it is expected to grow. Last week, the FBI and other agencies “attributed the intrusions to Russia as part of what officials described as an intelligence-gathering operation rather than an effort to damage or disrupt U.S. government operations.” While officials “said at the time that fewer than 10 federal agencies were believed to have been compromised,” Evanina said Tuesday, “I think this will expand accordingly as we identify additional victims.” Evanina added, “I think the hard part for the investigators is we don’t know what we don’t know, but I think this will continue to grow.

**SolarWinds Says Hackers Were Accessing Its Systems in September 2019.** The *Wall Street Journal* (1/12, Sebastian, Subscription Publication, 841M) reports SolarWinds Corp. said Tuesday that the computer breach linked to the Russian hack began at least a month earlier than it first disclosed. According to the company, hackers were accessing its systems in early September 2019, but cybersecurity experts suspect preparations for the attack go back even further.

The *Austin (TX) American Statesman* (1/12, Carlson, Subscription Publication, 281K) reports that SolarWinds’ investigation “has shown the breach likely has affected nearly every level of government, as well as potentially hundreds of private companies.” High-profile targets reportedly include DOJ, the Treasury Department, DHS, and DOE, “along with private companies including Microsoft.” In an SEC filing, SolarWinds “said a highly sophisticated and novel code was designed to inject malicious code into the system without arousing the suspicion of the software development and build teams.” On Tuesday, CrowdStrike, “said it has also identified a third malware strain, called Sunspot, tied to the attack.”

**Gov Info Security** (1/12, Schwartz) reports that “experts have said that the SolarWinds supply chain attack has all of the hallmarks of an espionage operation.” The outlet adds that confirmed victims “of second-stage attacks” also include branches of the Pentagon and the Departments of Commerce and State. The company “says digital forensic investigators have determined that the attackers appear to have first penetrated its network by September 2019,” and by the “following month, they altered Orion code builds to test their ability to inject malicious code into the software builds, the company says.”

**NextGov** (1/12, Kuldell, Boyd) reports that the “federal government’s response group – the Cyber Unified Coordination Group – previously said Russia was ‘likely’ behind what it believes is a widespread intelligence-gathering
campaign." SolarWinds "acknowledges" the group's statement, but "said its team has yet to independently verify who the attackers are." CrowdStrike "also does not attribute the Sunspot, Sunburst or the post-exploitation tool called Teardrop to known adversaries and is tracking the activity as 'StellarParticle.'"

Also reporting is the Wall Street Journal (1/12, McMillan, Subscription Publication, 8.41M).

**Media Analyses: Impeachment Looms As Trump Defends “Totally Appropriate” Speech.** President Trump traveled to the border town of Alamo, Texas, on Tuesday to highlight progress made on the US-Mexico border wall during his term, but a near-certain second impeachment and the aftermath of last week's Capitol riot by Trump supporters overshadows the trip in media coverage. Reports highlight Trump's rejection of culpability for the fatal violence, noting that Trump said his words at a rally immediately prior to the melee were "totally appropriate." Late Tuesday, for the first time several House Republicans said they will vote in favor of the article of impeachment Wednesday.

The Houston Chronicle (1/12, Wallace, Wermund, 982K) reports the President "returned to Texas Tuesday to make his first public appearance since his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol last week as he visited the border wall that he made central to his campaign for president in 2016." Trump "touted his immigration crackdown," which he "deemed 'an incredible success story,'" as he signed a 'Donald Trump' plaque mounted at the bottom of a segment of the wall in the town of Alamo in Hidalgo County.

Trump said, "It's been tremendously successful, far beyond what anyone thought... We can't let the next Administration even think about taking it down."

Also reporting is the Wall Street Journal (1/12, McMillan, Subscription Publication, 8.41M).
The New York Times (1/12, Dobbs, Romero, 20.6M) says Trump's "choice of Texas for his first public appearance since the Capitol mob attack was not accidental: The state not only showcases the border wall, which Mr. Trump is celebrating in his presidency's chaotic last days, but the Republican Party's success in limiting the game-changing Democratic gains that flipped states such as Arizona and Georgia." Fox News (1/12, Shaw, 23.99M) reports on its website that the visit offered Trump "an opportunity to draw attention away from the growing controversy related to the riots last week at the Capitol building."

The New York Daily News (1/12, Sommerfeldt, 2.51M) reports Trump "insisted Tuesday that his riot-inciting speech last week was "totally appropriate" — even though it prompted his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol in a blood-curding attack on democracy that left a police officer and at least four other people dead." CNN (1/12, 89.21M) reports on its website that Trump "likened attempts to impeach him for a second time to a 'witch hunt' and baselessly warned that his successor...might be removed from office himself."

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports that Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) "joined Trump aboard Air Force One on Tuesday...less than one week after declaring on the Senate floor that he and the president had been 'at a hell of a journey' but that it was time to count him out of Trump's efforts to overturn the results of the November election." The Hill (1/12, Samuels, 5.69M) reports officials in the city of Alamo saying there was "little advance notice from the White House and no details provided about the president's visit. City manager Robert Salinas said in a letter Monday that officials there had not been contacted about the visit and had no details about his schedule while in town." Reuters (1/12, Shalal), Bloomberg (1/12, Wingrove, 3.57M), the New York Post (1/12, Nelson, 7.45M), and Politico (1/12, Forgey, 6.73M) are among the other sources covering the visit.

Cheney, Several Other House Republicans Say They Will Vote To Impeach. All three broadcast networks opened their Tuesday evening newscasts with the growing momentum toward impeachment on Capitol Hill. David Muir said on ABC World News Tonight (1/12, lead story, 7:15, 7.37M), "House Democrats are moving forward, [with] a vote set for tomorrow to impeach the President for incitement of insurrection. That would make him the first President in history to be impeached twice." Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), "the daughter of the former Vice President and the number three Republican in the House," said Tuesday that she will back impeachment ABC's Jonathan Karl: "This is a big deal. Liz Cheney is a conservative Republican who commands respect, and her words about the President couldn't be more damning. She says, The President of the United States summoned this mob, assembled the mob and lit the flame of this attack. None of this, she says, would have happened without the President."

Noran O'Donnell said in opening the CBS Evening News (1/12, lead story, 4:20, 4.39M) that in "bombshell" news, "the third-highest ranking Republican in the US House... is breaking with her party, saying she will vote to impeach President Trump tomorrow, because, she says, there has 'never been a greater betrayal by a president of his office and oath.' Now, Cheney's decision will no doubt open the floodgates for Republicans, all but assuring Mr. Trump will become the only President to be impeached twice." CBS' Nancy Cordes: "Cheney is a member of Republican leadership, and, so her support for impeachment is sure to influence others, as will this news from the Senate's Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who has reportedly told associates that impeachment could help his party get past President Trump."

Lester Holt said on NBC Nightly News (1/12, lead story, 3:50, 5.85M), "We heard from the President today, who offered no regrets or contrition for his role in egging on the attack on the Capitol. And so, with eight days left in his term. Democrats are focusing on ending the Trump presidency the hard way — impeachment." NBC's Peter Alexander: "President Trump, in his first public appearance since the Capitol riots he's accused of inciting, expressed no regrets and took no responsibility. That defiance as he faces becoming the first President ever to be impeached twice." Senate Minority Leader Schumer: "He blames the violence that he helped cause on others. He blamed the divisiveness that he regularly caused on others. Donald Trump should not hold office one day longer."

The AP (1/12, Mascaro, Miller, Jalonick) reports, "Already scheduled to leave office next week, Trump is on the verge of becoming the only president in history to be twice impeached. His incendiary rhetoric at a rally ahead of the Capitol uprising is now in the impeachment charge against him, even as the falsehoods he spread about election fraud are still being championed by some Republicans." Reuters (1/12, Cornwell) reports, "At least four Republicans said on Tuesday they would join Democrats in voting to impeach." The New York Times (1/12, Fandos, 20.6M) reports Cheney "dismissed fellow Republicans arguing that the impeachment was rushed, premature or unwarranted. Her words were unequivocal and likely to give cover to two dozen or so other House Republicans looking to break ranks." CNN (1/12, Mahtani, 89.21M) reports on its website, "A White House official says they expect as many as 20 or more Republicans to vote for impeachment...on Wednesday, though they do not have a firm figure."

USA Today (1/12, Hayes, 12.7M) reports Cheney "noted that the attack, which resulted in five deaths including a Capitol Police officer, aimed to obstruct America's democratic processes and caused 'injury, death and destruction in the most sacred space in our Republic.' For that, Cheney said the president — and the president alone — was to blame." The Washington Post (1/12, Kranish, 10.52M) says her "historic decision...had its roots in a dramatic phone call from her father.
former vice president Richard B. Cheney, who was watching events unfold on television last week and warned that she was being verbally attacked by the president.” The *Casper (WY) Star-Tribune* (1/12, 94K) reports, “Cheney has sided with Trump in the vast majority of her votes during his presidency. Still, she has publicly broken with Trump in numerous instances in the past—never more prominently than last week.” *Axios* (1/12, Rummell, 1.28M), *Politico* (1/12, Ferris, Caygle, 6.73M), and *The Hill* (1/12, Brufke, 5.89M) also cover Cheney’s announcement.

The *Washington Post* (1/12, 10.52M) reports Reps. John Katko (R-NY), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), and Fred Upton (R-MI) all said Tuesday that they will back impeachment. The *Chicago Tribune* (1/12, Rothart, 2.03M) reports Kinzinger said in a statement, “There is no doubt in my mind that the President of the United States broke his oath of office and incited this insurrection.” The *Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard* (1/12, 467K) reports Katko, who was “the first House Republican” to publicly come out for impeachment, “said he felt compelled to uphold his oath of office and defend the Constitution by impeaching Trump.”

**McConnell Reportedly Believes Trump Has Committed Impeachable Offenses.** The *New York Times* (1/12, Haberman, 20.6M) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell has told associates that he believes [Trump] committed impeachable offenses and that he is pleased that Democrats are moving to impeach him, believing that it will make it easier to purge him from the party.” The Times adds that House Minority Leader McCarthy “has asked other Republicans whether he should call on Mr. Trump to resign in the aftermath of the riot at the Capitol last week.”

**Pence Tells Pelosi He Will Not Invoke 25th Amendment.** The House voted 223-205 Tuesday evening in favor of a resolution calling on Vice President Pence and the Cabinet to remove Trump through the 25th Amendment, with Kinzinger the only Republican in support. The vote came several hours after Pence said in a letter to House Speaker Pelosi. Pence wrote in part, “I do not believe that such a course of action is in the best interest of our Nation or consistent with our Constitution.” *Reuters* (1/12, Beech, Shalal) reports Pence “told Pelosi the administration’s energy was focused on ensuring an orderly transition, and appealed to her and other members of Congress to avoid actions that would further divide and inflame the passions of the moment.” The *New York Times* (1/12, Cameron, 20.6M) reports Pence “privately indicated last week that he did not support invoking the 25th Amendment, and his public rejection of the resolution all but ensured that the House would vote to impeach” Trump on Wednesday. The *Wall Street Journal* (1/12, Peterson, Andrews. Subscription Publication. 8.41M) says the House has vowed to move on impeachment if Pence does not invoke the 25th Amendment.

**USA Today** (1/12, King, Jansen, 12.7M) reports Democrats have “called for [Trump’s] resignation, [and] urged the Cabinet to remove him under the 25th Amendment and, with those two options looking extremely unlikely, are preparing to impeach the president for a second time.” The *Charlotte (NC) Observer* (1/12, 443K) reports Rep. David Price (D-NC) “said the best course of action is for senior Republican officials to convince Trump to resign. The second best option, he said, was for [Pence] and embers of the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment.”

The *New York Times* (1/12, Baker, Haberman, Karni, 20.6M) examines the deterioration in relations between Pence and Trump, who “was enraged that Mr. Pence was refusing to try to overturn the election. In a series of meetings, the president had pressed relentlessly, alternately cajoling and browbeating him.” Last Wednesday, “just before Mr. Pence headed to the Capitol to oversee the electoral vote count,” Trump called the Pence at his residence and said, “You can either go down in history as a patriot, or you can go down in history as a p—y.” The Times says “the blowup between the nation’s two highest elected officials then played out in dramatic fashion as the president publicly excoriated the vice president at an incendiary rally and sent agitated supporters to the Capitol where they stormed the building—some of them chanting ‘Hang Mike Pence.’”

**Politico** (1/12, On, 6.73M) writes, “After four-and-a-half years of unbending loyalty, [Pence] is ready to move on from Donald Trump. All it took was the president inciting a riot that, quite literally, put Pence’s life in danger.” Pence “has spent the past few days navigating between two political forces. There is bipartisan praise for his refusal to indulge the president’s...”
unconstitutional ploy for a second term. But the MAGA base he cultivated alongside Trump is now threatening him with political retribution and even death for that same refusal.”
Sens. Skeptical About Waiver For Biden’s Defense Pick

Senators on the Armed Services Committee indicated Tuesday that defense secretary nominee Gen. Lloyd Austin may face a tough battle over a waiver to serve in the role, raising concerns about issues such as undermining civilian control of the military.

Read full article »

GSA To Remove Non-US Drones From Schedule Contracts

The U.S. General Services Administration said Tuesday it will remove all drones from its governmentwide Federal Supply Schedule program — aside from a handful of trusted U.S.-made models — citing potential security risks and acquisition law violations.

Read full article »

DOJ Gets Month To Probe Manafort Pardon’s Effect On Assets

A D.C. federal judge has agreed to give prosecutors a month to examine how President Donald Trump’s recent pardon of his onetime campaign chairman Paul Manafort affects their efforts to seize millions of dollars in assets Manafort agreed to surrender.

Read full article »
Boeing-Owned Drone Co. to Pay $25M Over False Claims

A subsidiary of the Boeing Co. agreed Tuesday to dote out $25 million to the U.S. government to settle False Claim Act allegations that it submitted inflated cost and pricing data for drone contracts with the U.S. Navy and other agencies.

POLICY & REGULATION

FCC Invalidates Chicago Satellite Dish Restrictions

The Federal Communications Commission has nixed a Chicago ordinance that restricted satellite dish antennas that can be viewed from the street, following the 2018 preemption of a similar Philadelphia ordinance.

ENFORCEMENT

Feds Want Jury Told Of Ex-Theranos CEO’s ‘Lavish Lifestyle’

Prosecutors have asked a California federal judge to deny former Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes’ request to exclude testimony regarding her wealth and “lavish lifestyle” from an upcoming criminal fraud trial, arguing that the information shows she had a “powerful motive” to defraud investors, doctors and the public.

LITIGATION

1st Circ. Revives Asylum-Seeker’s Bid Based On Iraq War Role

An asylum-seeker who instructed U.S. Army personnel on Iraqi culture during the Iraq War saw the First Circuit revive his case when it asked a Board of Immigration Appeals ruling that said Iraqis with U.S. ties weren’t a specific group that faced peril in Iraq.

Ex-DOD Att’y’s Suits Says Female Bosses Tormented Him

A U.S. Department of Defense lawyer said in a federal lawsuit that his female bosses eavesdropped on his phone calls and regularly showed him out as part of a campaign of anti-male harassment that was so bad he had to quit.

States, Advocates Tell Justice To Bar Wall Funds Improper

The Trump administration cannot lose a standoff with Congress over appropriations for a border wall and then instruct for funds be diverted to build it anyway, California, New Mexico and two advocacy groups told the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday.

EXPERT ANALYSIS

The Benefits Of More Alternative Dispute Resolution At GAO

While disruption amid the pandemic undoubtedly contributed to a 21% uptick in the use of alternative dispute resolution at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in fiscal year 2020, bid protest practitioners should hope the upward trend continues given the various efficiencies it brings to the procurement process, says Noah Blicher at Jenner & Block.

ABA Approves Remote Practice, But Questions Remain

Lawyers working remotely during the pandemic while physically outside the
Law Deans Say Election Challengers 'Betrayed' Profession

The deans of more than 150 law schools, including Yale and Harvard, released a joint statement on Tuesday condemning the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol last week and calling out lawyers who have challenged the outcome of the election without evidence, saying those attorneys have "betrayed the values of our profession."

Read full article »

As House Impeaches, Seniors, And Scholars Debate Trial Timing

With the House set to impeach President Donald Trump as soon as Wednesday, lawmakers and scholars are debating when the Senate will hold a trial and vote on disqualifying him from holding office in the future — and whether the Senate can act after his term ends.

Read full article »

Feds Arrest Brooklyn Judge's Son Who Stormed US Capitol

The son of a New York state judge — Kings County Supreme Court Justice Steven "Shlomo" Mostofsky — was arrested Tuesday morning in Brooklyn in connection with the riots at the U.S. Capitol last week, before a federal judge released him on bail later that afternoon.

Read full article »

Diversity Among Legal Tech Founders Up Since 2018

Women now comprise 14.5% of U.S. legal technology company founders, up from 13.5% in early 2018, and the number of founders of color jumped from 26.5% to 31.6% during that time, according to data released Monday.

Read full article »

Willkie Ex-Chair And 'Senior Statesman' Nusbaum Dies At 90

Longtime Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP mergers and acquisitions partner and former Chairman Jack H. Nusbaum has died, the firm confirmed Tuesday. He was 80.

Read full article »

Stanford Legal Ethics Heavyweight Deborah Rhode Dead At 69

Stanford Law School professor Deborah Rhode, a legal ethicist and advocate for women's rights and access to justice, has died, the law school confirmed. She was 69.

Read full article »
Sara O’Reilly, the first nonlawyer to hold the position of chief executive officer at Chicago law firm Horwood Marcus & Berk Child, likens her new role to that of an orchestra conductor.

H. Laddie Montague, Pa. Class Action Pioneer, Retires
H. Laddie Montague Jr., a veteran Philadelphia attorney considered an influential figure in the development of class action litigation, announced his retirement from Berger Montague on Tuesday.

Legal services giant UnitedLex asked a Virginia bankruptcy judge to toss the bulk of a $128 million conspiracy and breach of duty lawsuit brought by the trustee for now-bankrupt law firm LeClairRyan, asserting Monday that the suit offers a “misguided narrative” that clashes with “overwhelming evidence to the contrary.”

Clark Hill Must Produce Cyberattack Report In Malpractice Suit
A.D.C. federal court granted a Chinese defendant’s bid Monday to compel Clark Hill PLC, which used to represent him, to produce a report it commissioned on a cyberattack at the center of the defendant’s $50 million malpractice suit, ruling the report is neither protected work product nor attorney-client privileged.

Intercept Pharma Brings On Immunomedics GC As Top Ally
The top lawyer at the drug development firm Immunomedics has left for a general counsel spot at liver disease-focused Intercept Pharmaceuticals Inc., following Immunomedics’ $21 billion sale to Gilead Sciences last year.

Coronavirus Regulations: A State-By-State Week In Review
Surges in COVID-19 cases led to renewed restrictions in Delaware, Massachusetts and New York this past week, while the pandemic also steered new guidance for New Jersey public schools and a workforce development boost in Pennsylvania.

Why This Chicago Firm Hired A Nonlawyer CEO
Musick Peeler
Fenwick Cole
Potomac Rose
Pawsey Cour
Greene Pottier
Williams & Connolly
Williams Fair
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Congressional Research Service
Defense Finance and Accounting Services
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Communications Commission
Food and Drug Administration
Government Accountability Office
New York State Department of Motor Vehicles
U.S. Army
U.S. Attorney’s Office
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of California
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
U.S. General Services Administration
U.S. Navy
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
U.S. Special Operations Command
U.S. Supreme Court
United Nations
United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
All information and inquiries should be directed to: [Redacted]
From: SIOC
Subject: CIRG'S DAILY SITREP
To: 
Cc: SIOC
Sent: January 13, 2021 5:49 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: FBIDirBriefing210113.doc

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

SIOC On-Duty Watch Commanders

* Support efforts for Preventing Violence and Criminal Activity (PVCA) 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.
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FBI(21cv558)-3994
Agent Eliezer Hernandez-Cartagena, of the Puerto Rico Police Department and Agent Luis A. Marrero-Diaz of the Carolina Municipal Police Department, were murdered on 01/22/2027, while attempting to arrest a man who had just murdered Agent Luis Salaman-Conde, of the Carolina Municipal Police Department.

Agent Luis Salaman-Conde, of the Carolina Municipal Police Department, Puerto Rico, was shot and killed on 01/11/2024, after responding to the scene of an accident.

Master Corporal Brian LaVigne, of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Florida was killed on 01/11/2021 when his patrol car was intentionally rammed by another vehicle.

Unit Team Supervisor Gabe Morales, of the Kansas Department of Corrections, Kansas, died as the result of complications after contracting COVID-19 in a presumed exposure while on duty.

Sergeant Frederick “Butch” Cameron, of the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office, Virginia died on 01/12/2021, as the result of contracting COVID-19 while on duty.


Lieutenant William Gardner, Denver City Police Department, Texas died from complications as the result of contracting COVID-19 while on duty.
WEATHER FOR TODAY

NCR — Mostly sunny, with a high/low of 51°/35°
There are no active watches, warnings or advisories.

Richmond, VA — Mostly sunny, with a high/low of 54°/33°
There are no active watches, warnings or advisories.
FBI Office Warned Extremists Planned Violence Prior To Attack. The Washington Post (1/12, Zapotosky, 10.52M) reports that, in "the most stark evidence yet of the sizable intelligence failure that preceded the mob attacking the Capitol," a day before the violence the FBI’s Norfolk, Virginia office "issued an explicit internal warning that extremists were preparing to travel to Washington to commit violence and ‘war.’" The report “painted a dire portrait of dangerous plans, including individuals sharing a map of the complex’s tunnels and meeting places for would-be conspirators. While it was not immediately clear how many law enforcement agencies outside the FBI were told," a law enforcement official said the bureau’s Washington field office was briefed on it. The memo "contradicts a senior official’s declaration the bureau had no intelligence indicating protesters planned harm. The Post adds that before the attack “FBI officials discounted any suggestion that the pro-Trump supporters could be a security threat, and even the report "expressed concern that the FBI might be encroaching on free speech rights.”

The New York Times (1/12, Goldman, 20.6M) reports, "Officials cautioned the information in the Norfolk report was uncorroborated," but "the report is likely to put the F.B.I. on the defensive with members of Congress and the public” as they seek answers on why the FBI and other law enforcement were unprepared for the attack.

The AP (1/12, Balsamo, Tucker) reports, "In the immediate aftermath of the riot, some law enforcement officials, including the Capitol police chief, said they were unaware of serious concerns leading up to Jan. 6 and had prepared only for a free-speech protest," but "on Tuesday, The Washington Post reported on the existence of a Jan. 5 report from the FBI’s field office in Norfolk, Virginia, that forecast, in detail, the chances that extremists could commit ‘war’ in Washington the following day. Steven D’Antuono, the assistant director in charge of the FBI’s Washington field office, said that once he received the Jan. 5 warning, the information was quickly shared with other law enforcement agencies through the joint terrorism task force.”

The Washington Times (1/12, Mordock, 626K) reports, "While they announced the aggressive prosecutions, FBI officials also countered reports that agents failed to act swiftly the day before the attack when they discovered Internet posts plotting a ‘war’ on Congress." D’Antuono said the threat was vague and could not be tied to a specific person or group. But the FBI notified other agencies within 40 minutes of learning about the threat. ‘We deal with specifics and facts,’ he said. ‘We have to separate the aspirational from the intentional and determine which of the individuals saying despicable things on the internet are just practicing keyboard bravado.’

The Hill (1/12, Neidig, 5.89M) reports that D’Antuono "defended the bureau’s actions during the lead-up to the riot as it was monitoring online discussions among right-wing demonstrators. ‘As offensive as a statement can be, the FBI cannot open an investigation without a threat of violence or alleged criminal activity,’” D’Antuono said. ‘However, when that language does turn to a call of violence or criminal activity, the FBI is able to undertake investigative action. And in this case, we had no indication, information was linked to any specific person, but that is a matter of an online discussion.’

US News & World Report (1/12, 1.91M) reports that D’Antuono “said the bureau adequately warned local authorities of what it knew about the planned violence at the U.S. Capitol last week. ‘That was a thread on a message board that was being attributable to an individual person,” D’Antuono said of the news, first reported by The Washington Post. ‘My Washington field office received that information, we briefed that within 40 minutes to our law enforcement partners, federal and state.’ He said the information, which reportedly included maps of the Capitol complex tunnels and plans for swarming it, was ‘ingested’ by the Joint Terrorism Task Force, which helps link FBI initiatives with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. ‘That’s the action we took on that, and that’s it,’ D’Antuono said.”

USA Today (1/12, 12.7M) reports that D’Antuono said the intelligence report was shared within “40 minutes” with law enforcement partners, although “it was still unclear, however, whether officials specifically altered security preparations to account for that warning.” D’Antuono said, “In the weeks leading up to the January 6 rally, the FBI worked internally with every FBI field office to ensure they were looking for any intelligence they may have developed about potential violence during the rally on January 6.”

NBC News (1/12, 4.91M) reports, “Former FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday that an FBI bulletin about potential violence at 50 state capitol buildings is ‘very, very unusual.’ Law enforcement definitely can handle these kinds of riots, attacks and civil disturbances, if they have the information they need and they prepare. ‘This is something law enforcement was built for,’ he said in an interview on NBC’s ‘TODAY’ show.” NBC News adds, “Reacting to the storming of the Capitol last Wednesday, Comey said, ‘I was also really angry about the failure to secure in the face of a threat that was obvious on a date that’s been marked for 130 years, Jan. 6. You knew it was coming, You knew it was literally coming to you from the president’s rally walking down Pennsylvania Avenue – very, very upsetting to watch it happen anyway.’"
NBC News: FBI Never Issued Intel Bulletin About Potential Capitol Violence. NBC News (1/13, Dilanian, Ainsley, 4.97M) reports, "Analysts in the FBI’s Intelligence Division gathered information about potential violence involving the Capitol on Jan. 6, but the FBI never distributed a formal intelligence bulletin, in part because of concerns that doing so might have run afoul of free speech protections, one current and two former senior FBI officials familiar with the matter told NBC News." NBC News adds, "While the FBI did share some threat intelligence with law enforcement, the lack of a comprehensive Joint Intelligence Bulletin compiled by the FBI’s Intelligence Branch—which would have made assessments about possible threats and have been shared with relevant law enforcement agencies—left the Capitol Police and other agencies lacking the full picture of what the FBI had learned from human sources and social media postings about what extremists were saying about plans to assault the Capitol."

US Capitol Police Intel Chief Warned Congress in July Of Right-Wing Attacks. Reuters (1/12, Shiffman) reports, "The director of intelligence for the U.S. Capitol Police warned Congress in July that rebellion against COVID-19 precautions had accelerated violence by right-wing ‘revolutionary extremists,’ according to congressional testimony." Reuters adds, "Four months before he joined the force, John K. Donohue, then a private security consultant, testified that the country desperately needed a sophisticated social media early-warning system, akin to the U.S. nuclear missile launch detection capability, to prevent a catastrophe. ‘America is at a crossroads,’ Donohue told the U.S. House Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism during a July 16 hearing. ‘The intersection of constitutional rights and legitimate law enforcement has never been more at risk by domestic actors as it is now as seditionists actively promote a revolution.’ According to Reuters, “Donohue’s public warning, which has not been previously reported, came six months before a right-wing mob...stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6.”

Rep. Krishnamoorthi: Capitol Attack Was An FBI Intel Failure. WLS-TV Chicago (1/12, Goudie, Markoff, 334K) reports from Chicago that Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) told the ABC7 I-Team that what happened was the result of an FBI intelligence failure. ‘There’s failures at multiple levels, and right now we’ve launched an investigation with regard to the security situation,’ Krishnamoorthi said. ‘Unfortunately there are militia groups, armed militia groups across the country that are coordinating to make a show of force especially around Inauguration Day. And I have to tell you Chuck that we are not going to stand by and allow these militia groups to reap the kind of havoc that they did last Wednesday.” WLS-TV adds, “The head of the FBI in Washington and D.C.’s top federal prosecutor pushed back Tuesday on allegations that the mob attack on the Capitol last Wednesday was the result of an intelligence failure.”

Nearly 100 Arrested So Far In Probe Of Capitol Violence. USA Today (1/12, Penzenstadler, Sainian, Wedell, 12.7M) reports, “Nearly 100 people have been arrested so far for their roles in the attack. Many currently face lesser charges such as unlawful entry, disorderly conduct and defacing public property. Only a few have been accused of more serious crimes such as felony violations of the Riot Act.” The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Gunman, Viewanatha, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports FBI Washington field office Assistant Director in Charge Steven D’Antuono said the FBI has opened more than 160 case files and has received more than 100,000 videos and other forms of digital media related to the attacks.

Reuters (1/12, Rosenbull, Beech) reports Acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin said at a news briefing, “I think the scope and scale of this investigation and these cases are truly unprecedented, not only in FBI history, but probably DOJ history. The Capitol grounds outside and inside are essentially a crime scene.” The CBS Evening News (1/12, story 2, 3:15, O’Donnell, 4.39M) reported Sherwin “says the public will be shocked when it learns all the details from the assault.” The New York Times (1/12, Shear, Goktman, Benner, 20.8M) reports Sherwin’s comments came as evidence mounted that before the grim events at the Capitol—in which lawmakers and others hid from an angry, surging mob and five people died in the riot and nearby tumult—top officials in government had reason to be deeply concerned about the possibility of violence.”

CNN (1/12, 89.21M) reports that “while the FBI has opened more than 160 case files in the six days since pro-Donald Trump rioters breached the US Capitol building, officials acknowledged Tuesday that the evidence gathered so far is just the tip of the iceberg. ‘People are going to be shocked by some of the egregious contact that happened in the Capitol,’ acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin said in reference to assaults on federal and DC police officers.” CNN adds that “officials from the FBI and Department of Justice sought to reassure the American public Tuesday that they are up to the task on both fronts during a news conference that also laid bare the enormity of the challenge currently facing law enforcement agencies involved in both

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efforts. ‘The FBI is quite familiar with large-scale, complex investigations ... we are up to the challenge,' FBI Washington DC field office assistant director Steven D’Antuono said.”

NBC News (1/12, Dillan, 4.91M) reports, “FBI agents are securing more than 100,000 digital media files, and federal prosecutors have spent hours presenting felony cases to a Washington grand jury, as they seek to bring to justice those who committed crimes in the riot at the Capitol, authorities said Tuesday.” Sherwin and D’Antuono “discussed the sprawling criminal investigation designed to catch those who broke the law, but said little about the intelligence and security failures that allowed the Capitol to be overrun. They said that the FBI had opened 160 case files, and that ‘this is only the beginning,’ as Sherwin put it, outlining a large number of serious crimes that carry decades-long prison terms. The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are investigating, for example, who put two pipe bombs outside the Capitol with timers and detonators.”

Fox News (1/12, Betz, 23.99M) reports on its website that Sherwin said, “This is not going to be solved overnight. It’s not going to be solved within the coming weeks. It’s not going to be solved within the coming months. This is going to be a long-term investigation and rest assured, the Bureau, the Department of Justice, all the U.S. attorneys across the United States that are assisting these investigations, everyone is in for the long haul.” Bloomberg (11/2, Voreacos, 3.57M), the Los Angeles Times (1/12, 3.37M), Axios (1/12, Rummier, 1.26M), and the CNN (1/12, 89.21M) website also report.

Arkansas Man Identified As Speaker’s Office Invader Appears Before Judge. The AP (1/12) reports from Fayetteville, Arkansas, “The man identified as the rioter photographed sitting in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office chair during last week’s Capitol insurrection made his initial federal court appearance Tuesday.” Richard Barnett, 60, of Gravette, Arkansas, “appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Erin Wiedemann in Fayetteville, Arkansas, to hear the charges against him. Among them is a charge that he unlawfully entered a restricted area with a lethal weapon – in this case, a stun gun.” Barnett “also is charged with disorderly conduct and theft of public property. Barnett conceded the validity of the arrest against him, said his attorney, Anthony Siano of White Plains, New York.” Barnett “will remain in federal custody at the Washington County Detention Center in Fayetteville pending a Friday virtual detention hearing, at which time a judge will decide whether to grant him bond.”

Alabama Man Charged With Bringing Weapons, Molotov Cocktails To Capitol. The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports a federal grand jury has indicted Lonnie Coffman of Alabama, who allegedly brought 14 molotov cocktails and five loaded weapons to the U.S. Capitol, the first public indictment stemming from last Wednesday’s storming of Congress.

Chicago-Area Man Charged With Threats Surrounding Inauguration. The Chicago Tribune (1/12, Melsner, 2.03M) reports a Chicago-area man “who authorities said has a history of threatening members of Congress was arrested Tuesday on federal charges alleging he promised violence at the upcoming presidential inauguration.” In a voicemail message left for a House Democrat on December 29, Louis Capriottti said, “We will surround the m——-f----- White House and we will kill any m——- f----- Democrat that steps on the m——-f----- lawn.” Authorities say Capriottti directly threatened both Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA). The Chicago Sun-Times (1/12, 970K) reports, “Prosecutors say Capriottti was arrested near his home at 5:42 a.m. Tuesday and is charged with transmitting a threat. During a court appearance Tuesday afternoon, a judge said Capriottti would be held in custody at least until a detention hearing Friday.”

The AP (1/12, Babwin) reports from Chicago that federal prosecutors in Chicago “said in a news release that Louis Capriottti of Chicago Heights faces a federal charge of transmitting a threat in interstate commerce. At a hearing Tuesday afternoon, hours after Capriottti’s early morning arrest, U.S. Magistrate Judge Gabriel A. Fuentes ordered him to remain in custody until a detention hearing on Friday.” Capriottti, 45, “is accused of leaving a threatening voicemail for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 29.”

The Washington Examiner (1/12, Halaszak, 888K) reports that Capriottti “was arrested near his Chicago Heights home on Tuesday and charged with transmitting a threat in interstate commerce. According to the criminal complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court in Chicago, Capriottti called and left a Nov. 18 voicemail on the phone of an unnamed U.S. representative, saying that he was a ‘nine-year Marine, active duty’ and had killed terrorists and ‘will continue to kill them because that’s what I am trained to do.’ He allegedly went on to tell the lawmaker that ‘in the next couple weeks, some big news is about to go down’ and certain individuals are going to be astonished of what’s going to be revealed.”

NJ News (1/12, Atmonavage, 1.47M) reports that Capriottti “is charged with transmitting a threat in interstate commerce after he allegedly called the New Jersey lawmaker on Dec. 29, saying ‘we will kill any mother—-ing Democrat that steps on the mother—-ing lawn’ of the White House, according to the criminal complaint. He said if people expect President-elect Joe Biden to be able to put his hand on the Bible during his inauguration and then walk into the White House, ‘they’re sadly f—-ing mistaken.’” Capriottti “allegedly closed his voicemail to the unnamed New Jersey lawmaker by saying he would ‘like to put one in,’ a former N.J. governor, according to the complaint. Former Gov. Chris Christie is not named in the complaint, but he confirmed to NorthJersey.com that he was the target of the threat.”

FBI: Iowa QAnon Backer Was Among First To Breach Capitol. The AP (1/12, Foley) reports from Iowa City, Iowa, “A right-wing conspiracy theorist from Iowa was among the first to break into the U.S. Capitol during last week’s deadly pro-Trump
insurrection, chasing and menacing a Black police officer, federal agents said Tuesday." Douglas A. Jensen, 41, "surrendered to police in his hometown of Des Moines on Friday, two days after the Jan. 6 rampage in Washington, D.C., left five people dead and disrupted U.S. democracy. Investigators say he told them he positioned himself to be among the leaders of the Capitol siege because he was wearing a shirt promoting QAnon, the apocalyptic conspiracy theory that he follows. "He wanted to have his T-shirt seen on video so that "Q" could "get the credit,"" FBI special agent Julie Williams wrote in a statement outlining the allegations against Jensen, who posted photos of himself at the riot on social media."

**Son Of New York Judge Charged For Role In Capitol Riot.** The New York Post (1/12, Rosenberg, 7.46M) reports, "The fur-loving son of a prominent Brooklyn judge touted his "caveman" getup to a pal during the US Capitol riots last week - but was dismayed to learn his photo was turned into a viral meme, according to new court papers." Federal prosecutors "took the unusual step of including the Instagram post in their filing that charges Aaron Mostofsky, 34, with four counts in the deadly protests at the nation's capital, including theft of government property, illegal entry into a restricted area and disorderly conduct. In papers unsealed on Tuesday, authorities said Mostofsky alluded to heading down to DC on social media, including telling a pal he was trying to meet up with at the rally, "If we find each other look for a guy looking like a caveman."

The New York Times (1/12, Hong, 20.6M) reports, "Mostofsky, 34, is the son of Kings County Supreme Court Judge Steven Mostofsky, who also goes by Shlomo. He and his father are registered Democrats, according to New York State election records. Aaron Mostofsky was taken into custody by F.B.I. agents at his brother's home in Brooklyn, according to two people briefed on the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation."

The AP (1/12, Hays) reports, "At a teleconference hearing in federal court in Brooklyn, Mostofsky's lawyer argued that the evidence didn't back up the accusations. Mostofsky was released on $100,000 bond but banned from traveling Washington except for purposes of prosecution of his case there." Assistant US Attorney Josh Hafez told a magistrate judge in Brooklyn federal court that the government would agree to Mostofsky's release even though it was "deeply troubled by the conduct of the defendant in a mob attack. The charges include a felony count of theft of government property - a bulletproof police vest worth $1,905 and a riot shield valued at $265."

**FBI: Arrest Of Miami-Based Proud Boys Leader Linked To Capitol Riot.** The Miami Herald (1/12, Smiley, 847K) reports, "The FBI on Tuesday said Washington, D.C. police arrested the Miami-based leader of the far-right Proud Boys days before the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol because they had developed information showing he was among those planning to incite violence as Congress voted to certify the presidential election." The Herald adds, "Steven D'Antuono, assistant director in charge at the FBI's Washington field office, said federal authorities had worked in the preceding days to identify bad actors planning to attend a Jan. 6 rally near the White House" and "held the arrest of Henry "Enrique" Tarrio Jr. as an example of efforts to stop the violence before it began. "In the weeks leading up to the Jan. 6 rally, the FBI worked internally with every FBI field office to ensure we were looking for any intelligence that may have developed about potential violence during the rally of Jan. 6," D'Antuono said."

**Idaho Man Arrested For Role In Capitol Riot.** The AP (1/12, Boone) reports from Boise, Idaho, "An Idaho man whose photograph was included on a federal list of those considered 'persons of interest' in the Jan. 6 siege of the U.S. Capitol has been jailed in Boise, the Ada County Sheriff's Office confirmed Tuesday." Josiah Colt, 34, "turned himself in at the Ada County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday afternoon and was being held on a U.S. Marshal's hold, sheriff's spokesman Patrick Orr said." The AP adds, "After the insurgency, Colt posted a video to Facebook erroneously claiming he was the first person in the mob to sit in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's chair. Photos from the scene, however, show him in the seat normally used by Vice President Mike Pence in the Senate chamber."

**FBI Tracking Down "Pittsburgh Based Individual" In Capitol Assault Probe.** WPXI-TV Pittsburgh (1/12, 149K) reports from Pittsburgh, "FBI agents from the Pittsburgh field office tracked and interviewed a "Pittsburgh based individual" cited in a report describing protests and violence in the area leading up to Inauguration Day. According to investigators, there are no related threats in the region leading up to Jan. 20." WPXI-TV adds, "Over the weekend, reports emerged that posts across a variety of social media platforms promised protests would take place in cities across the country, including Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City and Columbus, Ohio. On Friday, Twitter posted a statement saying in part, 'Plans for future armed protests have already begun proliferating. Additionally, FBI agents from the Pittsburgh office are still investigating the destructive mob that descended on the U.S. Capitol last week. The agency is accepting tips, pictures and videos of the rioting and violence. The Pittsburgh FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force is taking the lead in any local investigations."

**Suspended MTA Employee Charged With Capitol Riot.** The AP (1/12) reports, "An employee of the Metro-North commuter railroad was arrested Tuesday by the FBI on charges that he participated in last week's mob assault on the U.S. Capitol." Will Pepe "was in federal custody and was scheduled to make an initial court appearance Wednesday at the federal court in White Plains, according to Nicholas Biase, a spokesperson for the U.S. attorney in Manhattan. Pepe was previously suspended without pay from his job with the Metro-North commuter railroad after he was photographed inside the Capitol during
the unrest. MTA officials said he had called in sick to attend the protests in Washington, D.C. The FBI "had put Pepe's image on a 'Seeking information' poster related to Wednesday's violence at the Capitol. He is seen wearing an American flag bandana around his neck while holding up his mobile phone, as if to take a picture or video of himself."

The New York Post (1/12, Meyer, 7.45M) reports, "Pepe, 31, of Beacon, was cuffed Tuesday afternoon and is set to appear in federal court in White Plains on Wednesday on charges out of Washington, DC, a spokesman for the Southern District of New York said. Participation in the riot which resulted in deadly violence at the Capitol last week was abhorrent to the values of the MTA and New Yorkers, and those who attacked that symbol of American democracy disqualified themselves from working for the People of New York," MTA spokesman Tim Minton said Tuesday.

Seven Philadelphia Transit Officers Under Probe For Attending Rally Prior To Capital Attack. CBS News (1/12, Martinez, 5.39M) reports, "Seven Philadelphia transit police officers are under investigation for attending President Trump's rally in Washington, D.C. last week, officials said Tuesday. The investigation into the officers, who are part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), will examine if they were involved in any illegal behavior. [The officers] are being investigated to see if they were involved in riotous behavior or for violations of our social media policies," SEPTA Police Chief Thomas Nestel said, according to CBS Philly. According to CBS News, "The station said that there was a tip that a SEPTA employee was at the rally, and the investigation revealed several more officers who were in attendance. SEPTA is looking into whether the employees were part of the mob that breached the U.S. Capitol. SEPTA said any information about the investigation will be shared with the FBI." Olympic Swimmer Reportedly Identified As Participating In Capitol Riot. USA Today (1/12, Harris, Metzlafe, 12.7M) reports, "Olympic gold medalist swimmer Klete Keller may have joined the riot inside the U.S. Capitol last week, according to multiple media reports that identify him based on photos and videos taken that day." Keller, 38, is a three-time Olympic swimmer, who earned five medals overall, including gold medals in the 2004 and 2008 Summer Games for Team USA. He was, until Tuesday, listed as a real estate agent with Hoff & Leigh in Colorado. Hoff & Leigh issued a statement on Tuesday afternoon saying Keller, an independent contractor, had resigned. Swimswam, a website about competitive swimming, first reported that Keller may have been among the crowd, basing the claim on 'at least a dozen people' who had reviewed images and video from the raid. The New York Times said Keller was in the crowd at the Capitol, according to 'former teammates and coaches' who identified him in photos.

FBI Arrests New York Man After Alleged Posts Seeking Armed Caravan To DC. WABC-TV New York (1/12, Dienst, Miller, 289K) reports, "A man was arrested after the FBI searched a Queens home Tuesday evening following online threats that were allegedly posted in the aftermath of last week's riots at the U.S. Capitol, law enforcement officials said." WABC-TV adds, "The suspect, identified as Eduard Florea, was arrested by the FBI on a weapons-related charge, a law enforcement official said. An FBI spokesperson would not comment on specific charges, only confirming that an arrest had been made. The home that was searched is located near Elliot Avenue and 76th Street in Middle Village, the FBI spokesperson said." Florea, "who was believed to be responsible for the online threats, did not appear to have been at the Capitol during the violent protests, a senior law enforcement source said."

Sen. Cassidy Releases Photos Of Man Wanted In Connection With Capitol Riot. The Hill (1/12, Coleman, 5.69M) reports, "Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) released photos of a man he said was wanted in connection with last week's deadly riot at the Capitol." Cassidy "posted two photos on Twitter, saying he received them from the Capitol Police," and he "said the man was wanted in connection with the death of U.S. Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick's death due to injuries sustained during the Capitol riot last week," but police later disputed Cassidy's characterization, telling The Hill that the individual in the photo is a person of interest for another incident. The U.S. Capitol Police and FBI are looking for any information about the individual and his activities on January 6, 2021.

Nebraska GOP Official's Letter Draws Calls For FBI Probe. The AP (1/12, Ritter) reports from Las Vegas, "Nevada's two U.S. senators have joined calls for an investigation of comments by the Republican Party chairman in rural Nye County that they warn could incite violence and insurrection against elected officials." The AP adds, "Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen, both Democrats, said in a Monday letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray that county GOP chair Chris Zimmerman's open letter 'denies basic facts about the 2020 election and falsely claims that President (Donald) Trump -- not President-elect (Joe) Biden -- will be inaugurated' on Jan. 20. 'We are urging that the threats described in this letter be taken seriously,' the senators said after pointing to the storming of the U.S. Capitol last week Trump loyalists, and the deaths of six people. The letter describes being in a "battle for our republic" and ends by saying that, 'it's 1776 all over again!" the letter to Wray said."

LAPD Directs Officer Who Attended Trump Rally To Speak With FBI. The Los Angeles Times (1/12, Rector, 3.37M) reports, "A Los Angeles police officer has been ordered by LAPD Chief Michel Moore to tell FBI agents about his attendance at the pro-Trump rally that preceded the attack on the U.S. Capitol!" The Times adds, "The unnamed officer told police officials that he attended the large pro-Trump rally on the National Mall on Jan. 6, where Trump spoke, but left 'prior to any other activity and
did not participate in anything that occurred at the Capitol," Moore said. "Moore "stressed that while simply attending the rally would be a protected 1st Amendment activity, any involvement in the attack on the Capitol would not be and could expose an officer to criminal charges. A department spokesman said the LAPD would cooperate with the FBI if additional investigation into the officer is necessary."

**Federal Prosecutors Weighing Sedition Charges in Capitol Attack.** The AP (1/12, Balsamo, Tucker) reports, "Prosecutors are now weighing sedition charges against at least some of the Trump loyalists who stormed the US Capitol one week ago, officials said Tuesday. Patrick Fitzgerald said on NBC Nightly News (12/30, story 0, 1:40, Holt, 5.05M), "Federal prosecutors say tonight they've opened more than 170 cases so far, a number that's likely to grow much bigger in the coming days. The potential charges: simple trespass; theft of mail, digital devices, and classified information; assault on police officers; and murder. But they're also considering a charge of seditious conspiracy, meaning opposing the government by force. That carries a 20-year maximum sentence. The FBI is also looking at whether the rioters had a leader and if they intended to take members of Congress hostage." ABC News (1/12, Malin, Barr, 2.44M) reports that acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin "said the department opened a strike force of senior national security and corruption prosecutors focused on seditious and conspiracy charges related to the most heinous acts that occurred in the Capitol." And these are significant charges that have felonies with a prison terms of up to 20 years," he added." CNN (1/12, Mangan, 7.34M) also reports.

**Law Enforcement Authorities Prepare Unprecedented Security Precautions For Inauguration.** Pierre Thomas reported on ABC World News Tonight (1/12, story 2, 3:40, Mair, 7.37M) that law enforcement agencies are "racing to disrupt any plans for violence on Inauguration Day." Capitol Police told House Democrats that they are "preparing for more than 10,000 armed Trump supporters to descend on the Capitol for the inauguration. Some are reportedly planning to form perimeters around the Capitol complex, the White House, and the Supreme Court, blocking anyone who doesn't support Trump, perhaps assasinating them." Tom Costello said on NBC Nightly News (12/30, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 5.05M) that Capitol Police "are warning members of Congress of new violent threats against them described as chilling. Right-wing extremists and white supremacists are using encrypted internet chat rooms to plan future attacks, even sharing a US Army field manual with calls to shoot politicians and encourage armed struggle." Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA): "We were told about specific numbers of people who intend to come here armed with weapons on specific dates at specific times and for specific reasons, including justice for the woman that was killed last week, in their words, 'justice' or 'vengeance.'"

The New York Times (1/12, Cooper, Goldman, 20.8M) reports Army Secretary McCarthy has decided that "National Guard troops who are flooding into Washington to secure the Capitol for Inauguration Day will be armed. The armed troops will be responsible for security around the Capitol building complex." The decision came after a meeting with House Speaker Pelosi, who, "according to congressional staff members, demanded that the Pentagon take a more muscular posture after a mob, egged on by President Trump last week, breached the Capitol." The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports the Secret Service will on Wednesday "take command of security preparations at the U.S. Capitol and other federal buildings, backed by as many as 15,000 National Guard troops, thousands of police and tactical officers, and layers of eight-foot steel fencing," a full week before the inauguration. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Parti, Siddiqui, Subscription Publication, 2.41M) reports a House Democratic aide said "efforts are now under way to erect the largest perimeter ever established around the Capitol."

Acting Deputy DHS Secretary Ken Cuccinelli spoke on W.J.M.A.L.A.M Washington (1/12) about security measures ahead of January 20 amid the FBI's warning regarding armed protests planned in all 50 states. Cuccinelli said, "America can be very confident that this inauguration and everything surrounding and running up to it is going to be safe." Cuccinelli said on Fox News' America's Newsroom (1/12, 895K), "While we need to take [the threats] seriously, at the same time, it would be an incredible unlikelyd to see what is described in those threats actually take place."

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) editorializes, "Just as it was important for Congress to return to the Capitol on Wednesday night to continue its work certifying the November election, so is it important that nothing be allowed to impede Mr. Biden from taking the oath of office at noon on Jan. 20 on the steps of the Capitol. Pandemic restrictions have already curtailed public events, and we hope Washington area residents heed the advice to stay home and enjoy the inauguration virtually. We also hope — no, we urge — that this country's leadership recognize the very real threat that is posed by white domestic terrorism and marshal the resolve and resources to control and eliminate it."

**Pentagon Weighs Preparation For Threats In State Capital Cities With DC Threats.** The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports Defense Department leaders said Tuesday that they "must balance an array of threats on state capitals nationwide against the potential for renewed extremist violence in Washington. Intelligence suggesting the potential for armed riots or attacks on state capitals across the country came into focus as the Defense Department scrambled to ensure an
adequate plan for providing National Guard aid for the Jan. 20 inauguration and avoid a repeat of last week’s insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.”

The CBS Evening News (1/12, story 4, 1:45, O’Donnell, 4.39M) reported the FBI warned “of possible armed protests leading up to the inauguration,” leading Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ohio to activate National Guard troops and state capitals to increase security. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (1/12, B55K) reports the FBI “has credible evidence of a threat of violence on Sunday specifically aimed at the Minnesota and Michigan state capitols by right-wing extremists as part of their preparation for armed protests in every state and Washington, D.C., leading up to Biden’s inauguration.” The Boston Globe (1/12, 1.04M) reports, “The special agent in charge of the FBI Boston office said Tuesday that the bureau had no information on credible threats to any of the four New England state capitols in his jurisdiction, but he warned things could change ‘in a second’.”

DC Area Battens Down Amid Threats Of Violent Protests. The Washington Post (1/12, Zauzmer, Lang, Cox, Schneider, Jouvenal, 10.52M) reports, “Fences were going up across downtown Washington, and National Guard troops took up posts on street corners Tuesday, part of a sweeping lockdown aimed at heading off any unrest during a weekend of right-wing protests and the presidential inauguration that follows.” The Post adds, “Officials said the massive security cordon could grow even larger in the District in coming days as they consider shuttering hotels, stopping some Metro service and denying permits for demonstrations, fearing another wave of violence like the one that rocked the U.S. Capitol last week.” According to the Post, “Already, D.C. officials said local and federal law enforcement were establishing a perimeter around the White House, the Capitol and part of downtown Washington that allows them to conduct security screenings on anyone entering the area over the next week.”

Airbnb To Review DC-Area Reservations. USA Today (1/12, Hines, 12.7M) reports that ahead of Biden’s inauguration next week, Airbnb is taking precautions against “violent hate group members” with a special “Capitol Safety Plan.” In a statement provided by Airbnb spokesperson Christopher Nulty, the company said, “Airbnb strongly condemns last week’s attack on the U.S. Capitol and the efforts to undermine our democratic process.” Among the steps Airbnb will take, it will ban people involved in last week’s Capitol riot, and review existing reservations in the Washington area.

March For Reparations Still Hopeful About Holding Protest During Inauguration. DCist (1/12, 18K) reports, “During the Biden-Harris inauguration, local and national organizations plan to lead a March for Reparations in D.C. and other major cities to address gaps in health care, economics, and access to home ownership due to redlining.” Organizers say they hope the event “can still go on despite the temporary public emergency order in place in the District, as a result of armed Trump supporters breaching the Capitol last week.” According to the Post, “The group is still awaiting a permit from the National Park Service, says Tara Perry, lead organizer of the march and founder of Black PACT, a California-based group that organizes reparations movements.”

FBI May Add Capitol Attackers To Do-Not-Fly List. Tom Costello reported on NBC Nightly News (1/12, story 3, 0:20, Holt, 5.85M) that the FBI, which creates the airlines’ do-not-fly list, “says it’s considering adding the Capitol Hill attackers” to the list. CNN (1/12, 89.21M) reports that FBI Washington Field Office Assistant Director in Charge Steven D’Antuono said Tuesday that the bureau would consider adding rioters to the no-fly list, which is maintained by the bureau and administered by the Transportation Security Administration. D’Antuono said, “As for the no-fly list, we look at all tools and techniques that we possibly can use within the FBI and that’s something we are actively looking at.” D’Antuono said in response to a question from CNN’s Evan Pérez.

Reuters (1/12) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called on the FBI to place those who were inside the Capitol to be added to “no-fly” list. Schumer said at a news briefing, “We cannot allow these same insurrectionists to get on a plane and cause more violence and more damage.” He discussed the matter with FBI Director Christopher Wray.

The Hill (1/12, Carney, 5.69M) reports that Schumer also said, “These insurrectionists many of whom are known to be at large should not be able to hop on a flight. The insurrectionists who breached the U.S. Capitol fall under the definition of threats to the homeland.” The New York Daily News (1/12, Sommerfeldt, Guse, 2.51M) also reports on Schumer’s comments.

Joint Chiefs Condemn Capitol Riot. The AP (1/12, Burns) reports, a memo signed by all members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff reminds military members that Joe Biden was duly elected as the next president, “that the deadly insurrection at the Capitol last week was an anti-democratic, criminal act, and that the right to free speech gives no one the right to commit violence.” The memo said, “We support and defend the Constitution. Any act to disrupt the Constitutional process is not only against our traditions, values and oath; it is against the law.”

Reuters (1/12, Ali) reports the memo “breaks nearly a week of silence by the military leaders after the assault on the Capitol.” and some service members had “privately expressed concern that they had not been getting any direction from senior leaders” after the attack. JCS Chairman Gen. Mark Milley’s silence on the matter until now was in sharp contrast to June, when
Milley made a controversial walk to a church with Trump after law enforcement officers backed by National Guard troops used tear-inducing chemicals and rubber bullets to clear the area of peaceful protesters.

The New York Times (1/12, Schmitt, 20.8M) casts the memo as "unusual," adding that the chiefs "found it necessary to remind their rank and file of their sworn oath to the country was extraordinary." The Times characterizes the memo as illustrating how the apolitical American military has been "thrust into an awkward, even potentially dangerous, position of possibly having to weigh dubious orders from the president against their oath to uphold the Constitution."

CNN (1/12, Liebmann, Starr, Gauette, 89.21M) reports on its website that the memo "underscores the scale of the challenge, as officials across the US security establishment scramble to deal with the aftermath of the chaos at the Capitol and determine how best to protect lawmakers." USA Today (1/12, Brook, 12.7M) reports, "The Pentagon is seeking to determine how many troops may have taken part in the riot," already having found an Army Special Forces captain was at the Capitol and investigating what she did there.

Facebook, Twitter Bans Splinter Fringe Groups Online. The New York Times (1/12, Frenkel, 20.8M) reports that after many fringe groups "were banned from mainstream social media platforms" in the wake of the Capitol violence, they "have been relegated to half a dozen apps and platforms to organize their next steps." With Parler effectively taken offline due to Amazon no longer hosting the service in its data centers and President Trump getting kicked off Twitter and Facebook - making it "harder for organizers to rally around a singular voice" - the groups "scattered attempts to coordinate next steps appeared to be confusing for many of Mr. Trump's supporters." However, it also could mean that attempts at disruption will "be harder to predict and could stretch for days."

Parler Faces Complex, Costly Barriers To Returning Online. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Tilley, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Parler, a social network popular in right-wing circles, faces complex and costly challenges to returning online after Amazon stopped hosting it on Amazon's cloud-computing service. It must either find a new vendor willing to host its data following the app's users stoking the deadly attack on the Capitol, or create its own network infrastructure. Social-media platform Gab chose the second approach after its cloud provider dropped it in the wake of an attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue, as the shooter used the platform to post anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denying messages.

Panel: Online Misinformation That Led To Capitol Violence Is "Radicalization." Reuters (1/12, Culford) reports researchers told a Reuters Next panel that the online misinformation that led to the Capitol violence last week has passed false claims, reaching the point of "radicalization." Anti-disinformation nonprofit First Draft co-founder Claire Wardle and Atlantic Council Digital Forensic Research Lab Director Graham Brookie "emphasized that these conspiracy theories would outlast the Trump administration and said it would likely play into upcoming events such as the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine." Additionally, Graphika Chief Innovation Officer Camille Francois and Brunswick Group Director Preston Golstein "emphasized the growing threat of real-world harms from online disinformation in corporate industries."

Continuing Coverage: FBI Investigating Pipe Bombs Discovered In DC. CBS News (1/12, 5.39M) reports that the FBI has released images of a suspect wanted as part of the agency's investigation into pipe bombs discovered in DC last week. Fox News (1/12, Wallace, 23.99M) reports that there is a $50,000 award for any information. The released photos "showed an individual dressed in a gray sweatshirt with a hood over his head and a white mask hiding the person's face."

Acting US Attorney Christine Says "There's Just Nothing To" Trump's Claims Of Voter Fraud In Georgia. The Washington Post (1/12, Zapotosky, 10.52M) reports acting US Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, Bobby Christine, "whose predecessor abruptly resigned one week ago after President Trump complained officials were not doing enough to find election fraud in the state," on Monday "declared on a call with his staff...that there's just nothing to the few claims of fraud the office was examining, according to an audio recording obtained by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution." The Post adds Christine "suggested that he was surprised to learn the office had not found significant election fraud issues."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (1/12, Joyner, 1.46M) reports Christine had "apparently convened the conference call to reassure federal lawyers in the Northern District office - most of whom are working remotely - that he was not pushing what Justice Department officials have called baseless claims of election fraud in...Joe Biden's victory in Georgia. Yet the questions from staff attorneys revealed deep suspicions and fears of political interference." According to the Journal-Constitution, "Attorneys asked and re-asked why First Assistant U.S. Attorney Erskine had not been appointed as Pak's replacement during the transition."

NYTimes Analysis: Trump's Election Challenges To "Haunt" Georgia Republicans. A New York Times (1/12, Fausset, Hakim, 20.6M) analysis titled "In Georgia, Trump's Attacks On Election Still Haunt Republicans" says that while the
House impeachment charge against the President "stems from his role in inciting a mob to attack the U.S. Capitol last week," the resolution includes "another element of Mr. Trump's behavior that is also drawing condemnation as an abuse of presidential power: His pressure campaign to persuade Georgia officials to overturn his electoral loss in the state." The Times adds that even if the impeachment bid "fails or fades, Mr. Trump’s efforts to subvert the will of Georgia’s voters will continue to resonate, both for the president and for politicians in Georgia."

FBI Agent Infiltrated Group Allegedly Plotting To Kidnap Michigan Governor. The Austin (TX) American Statesman (4/42, Kulde, Boyd) reports that "experts have said that the SolarWinds supply chain attack has all of the hallmarks of an espionage operation." The outlet adds that confirmed victims "of second-stage attacks" also include branches of the Pentagon and the Departments of Commerce and State. The company "says digital forensic investigators have determined that the attackers appear to have first penetrated its network by September 2020, and by the following month, they altering Orion code builds to test their ability to inject malicious code into the software builds, the company says."

San Francisco City Administrator Resigns Amid Corruption Probe. The San Francisco Examiner (1/12, Martin, 105K) reports, "Court transcripts released in the alleged Governor Whitmer kidnapping conspiracy case show that an FBI agent infiltrated the group claiming to be an explosives expert." The FBI agent "was able to get into the group after one of the members got cold feet about the plan and went to a local police department with his concerns." The defendants in the case face "federal charges of conspiracy to commit kidnapping." The transcripts unsealed Tuesday "reveal that the group participated in an additional, highly intricate dry run of the kidnapping, all under the cover of night in mid-September." The FBI agent "was along for the trip," and "told the group that they would need about $4,000 worth of explosives to knock the bridge out."

Official Expects Number Of Russian Hack Victims To Grow. The AP (1/12, Tucker) reports William Evanina, the director of the US National Counterintelligence and Security Center, said in a live-stream interview with the Washington Post Tuesday that as the investigation into the massive Russian hack continues, the number of federal agencies and companies impacted by it is expected to grow. Last week, the FBI and other agencies "attributed the intrusions to Russia as part of what officials described as an intelligence-gathering operation rather than an effort to damage or disrupt U.S. government operations." While officials "said at the time that fewer than 10 federal agencies were believed to have been compromised," Evanina said Tuesday, "I think this will expand accordingly as we identify additional victims. Evanina added, "I think the hard part for the investigators is we don't know what we don't know, but I think this will continue to grow."

SolarWinds Says Hackers Were Accessing Its Systems in September 2019. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Sebastian, Subscription Publication, 8,414M) reports SolarWinds Corp. said Tuesday that the computer breach linked to the Russian hack began at least a month earlier than it first disclosed. According to the company, hackers were accessing its systems in early September 2019, but cybersecurity experts suspect preparations for the attack go back even further. The Austin (TX) American Statesman (1/12, Carlson, Subscription Publication, 261K) reports that SolarWinds’ investigation "has shown the breach likely has affected nearly every level of government, as well as potentially hundreds of private companies." High-profile targets reportedly include DOJ, the Treasury Department, DHS, and DOE, "along with private companies including Microsoft." In an SEC filing, SolarWinds said a "highly sophisticated and novel code" was designed to inject malicious code into the system without arousing the suspicion of the software development and build teams. On Tuesday, CrowdStrike, "said it has also identified a third malware strain, called Sunspot, tied to the attack."

Gov Info Security (1/12, Schwartz) reports that "experts have said that the SolarWinds supply chain attack has all of the hallmarks of an espionage operation." The outlet adds that confirmed victims "of second-stage attacks" also include branches of the Pentagon and the Departments of Commerce and State. The company "says digital forensic investigators have determined that the attackers appear to have first penetrated its network by September 2019," and by the following month, they altered Orion code builds to test their ability to inject malicious code into the software builds, the company says."

NextGov (1/12, Kuldei, Boyd) reports that "the federal government's response group -- the Cyber Unified Coordination Group -- previously said Russia was 'likely' behind what it believes is a widespread intelligence-gathering campaign." SolarWinds "acknowledges" the group’s statement, but "said its team has yet to independently verify who the attackers are." CrowdStrike "also does not attribute the Sunspot, Sunburst or the post-exploitation tool called Teardrop to known adversaries and is tracking the activity as 'StellarParticle.'"

Also reporting is the Wall Street Journal (1/12, McMillan, Subscription Publication, 8,414M).
Media Analyses: Impeachment Looms As Trump Defends “Totally Appropriate” Speech. President Trump traveled to the border town of Alamo, Texas, on Tuesday to highlight progress made on the US-Mexico border wall during his term, but a near-certain second impeachment and the aftermath of last week’s Capitol riot by Trump supporters overshadows the trip in media coverage. Reports highlight Trump’s rejection of culpability for the fatal violence, noting that Trump said his words at a rally immediately prior to the melee were “totally appropriate.” Late Tuesday, for the first time several House Republicans said they will vote in favor of the article of impeachment Wednesday.

The Houston Chronicle (1/12, Wallace, Wermund, 982K) reports the President “returned to Texas Tuesday to make his first public appearance since his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol last week as he visited the border wall that he made central to his campaign for president in 2016.” Trump “touted his immigration crackdown,” which he “deemed ‘an incredible success story,’ as he signed a ‘Donald Trump’ plaque mounted at the bottom of a segment of the wall in the town of Alamo in Hidalgo County.” Trump said, “It’s been tremendously successful, far beyond what anyone thought ... We can’t let the next Administration even think about taking it down.”

The Dallas Morning News (1/12, Corchado, Gillman, 772K) reports Trump “boasted that his signature project has saved countless lives and billions of tax dollars,” and “also insisted that he bears no blame for last week’s riot at the Capitol and shrugged aside Democrats’ demand to hold him accountable and curb him with just days left on his term.” The Corpus Christi Caller-Times (1/12, Moritz, 152K) reports Trump, “in a tone far more measured and reserved than the often raucous one he often used at rallies to cement support for his immigration policies, also tacitly acknowledged the unrest and violence last week.”

Trump said, “This was a difficult year and a very difficult election. Now is the time for our nation to heal. And it’s time for peace and for calm, respect for law enforcement and the great people within law enforcement.”

The AP (1/12, Covin, Miller) reports Trump “took no responsibility for his part in fomenting a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol last week, despite his comments encouraging supporters to march on the Capitol and praise for them while they were still carrying out the assault.” Trump said, “People thought that what I said was totally appropriate.” The McAllen (TX) Monitor (1/12, 101K) reports Trump “also pushed back at discussions that have been floating around” since last week about removing him via the 25th Amendment. KTRK-TV Houston (1/12, 97K) reported that “the White House hailed this as a commemoration of President Trump’s the 450 miles of border wall,” but Trump “could not escape the politics of the moment.” Trump: “The 25th Amendment is of zero risk to me, but will come back to haunt Joe Biden and the Biden Administration.”

KPKN-TV Dallas (1/12, 108K) reported Trump “addressed last week’s siege that killed five people, including a police officer though he did not take blame for it, and he defended the speech he gave prior to the assault, calling it totally appropriate.” Trump “also alluded to the tearing down of monuments across the country this summer during protests following the death of George Floyd.” Trump: “As I have consistently said throughout my administration, we believe in respecting America’s history and traditions, not tearing them down. We believe in the rule of law, not in violence or rioting.”

KAMR-TV Amarillo, TX (1/12, 5K) reported Trump “did address the recent events in our national capital...but the majority of his speech here in Alamo revolved around the border wall.” Trump: “Unlike those who came before me, I kept my promises. And today we celebrate an extraordinary milestone, the completion of the promised 450 miles of border wall.” Acting Deputy DHS Secretary Ken Cuccinelli said on WMAQ Chicago (1/12), “This is the first president to actually execute on the wall.”

Ben Tracy said on the CBS Evening News (1/12, story 3, 2:15, O’Donnell, 4.36M), “Trump now claims there was nothing wrong with what he said last week that incited the assault on the Capitol.” Trump: “It’s been analyzed and people thought what I said was totally appropriate.” Tracy: “That is obviously not true, given Democrats are set to impeach the President, and many members of his own party say he is at least partially responsible for what his supporters did after he told them this.” Trump: “We fight like hell, and if you don’t fight like hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore.”

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports Trump “warned Democrats not to press for the invocation of the 25th Amendment, declaring that such a move would come back to haunt Biden. Trump also “continued to pressure Democrats not to impeach him for a second time, claiming that such a move would further divide the country.” The Los Angeles Times (1/12, 3.37M) reports Trump said, “The impeachment hoax is a continuation of the greatest and most vicious witch hunt in the history of our country. It’s causing tremendous anger, division and pain, far greater than most people will ever understand, which is very dangerous for the USA, especially at this very tender time.”

The New York Times (1/12, Dobbins, Romero, 20.8M) says Trump’s “choice of Texas for his first public appearance since the Capitol mob attack was not accidental: The state not only showcases the border wall, which Mr. Trump is celebrating in his presidency’s chaotic last days, but the Republican Party’s success in limiting the game-changing Democratic gains that flipped states such as Arizona and Georgia.” Fox News (1/12, Shaw, 23.99M) reports on its website that the visited offered Trump “an opportunity to draw attention away from the growing controversy related to the riots last week at the Capitol building.”
The New York Daily News (1/12, Sommerfeldt, 257M) reports Trump “insisted Tuesday that his riot-inciting speech last week was ‘totally appropriate’ — even though it prompted his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol in a blood-curding attack on democracy that left a police officer and at least four other people dead.” CNN (1/12, 89.21M) reports on its website that Trump “likened attempts to impeach him for a second time to a ‘witch hunt’ and baselessly warned that his successor...might be removed from office himself.”

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports that Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) “joined Trump aboard Air Force One on Tuesday...less than one week after declaring on the Senate floor that he and the president had had ‘a hell of a journey’ but that it was time to count him out of Trump’s efforts to overturn the results of the November election.” The Hill (1/12, Samuels, 5.69M) reports officials in the city of Alamo saying there was “little advance notice from the White House and no details provided about the president’s visit. City manager Robert Salinas said in a letter Monday that officials there had not been contacted about the visit and had no details about his schedule while in town.” Reuters (1/12, Shalal), Bloomberg (1/12, Wingrove, 3.57M), the New York Post (1/12, Nelson, 7.45M), and Politico (1/12, Forgey, 6.73M) are among the other sources covering the visit.

Cheney, Several Other House Republicans Say They Will Vote To Impeach. All three broadcast networks opened their Tuesday evening newscasts with the growing momentum toward impeachment on Capitol Hill. David Muir said on ABC “World News Tonight” (1/12, lead story, 7:15, 7.37M), “House Democrats are moving forward, [with] a vote set for tomorrow to impeach the President for incitement of insurrection. That would make him the first President in history to be impeached twice.” Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), the daughter of the former Vice President and the number three Republican in the House,” said Tuesday that she will back impeachment. ABC’s Jonathan Karl: “This is a big deal. Liz Cheney is a conservative Republican who commands respect, and her words about the President couldn’t be more damning. She says, ‘The President of the United States summoned this mob, assembled the mob and lit the flame of this attack. None of this,’” she says, ‘would have happened without the President.”

Norah O’Donnell said in opening the CBS Evening News (1/12, lead story, 4:20, 4.39M) that in “bombshell” news, “the third-highest ranking Republican in the US House...is breaking with her party, saying she will vote to impeach President Trump tomorrow, because, she says, there has never been a greater betrayal by a president of his office and oath.” Now, Cheney’s decision will no doubt open the floodgates for Republicans, all but assuring Mr. Trump will become the only President to be impeached twice.” CBS’ Nancy Cordes: “Cheney is a member of Republican leadership, and, so her support for impeachment is sure to influence others, as will this news from the Senate’s Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who has reportedly told associates that impeachment could help his party get past President Trump.”

Lester Holt said on NBC Nightly News (1/12, lead story, 3:50, 5.85M), “We heard from the President today, who offered no regrets or contrition for his role in egging on the attack on the Capitol. And so, with eight days left in his term, Democrats are focused on ending the Trump presidency the hard way — impeachment.” NBC’s Peter Alexander: “President Trump, in his first public appearance since the Capitol riots he’s accused of inciting, expressed no regrets and taking no responsibility... That defiance as he faces becoming the first President ever to be impeached twice.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer: “He blames the violence that he helped cause on others. He blamed the divisiveness that he regularly caused on others. Don’t let Trump should not hold office one day longer.”

The AP (1/12, Mascaro, Miller, Jalonick) reports, “Already scheduled to leave office next week, Trump is on the verge of becoming the only president in history to be twice impeached. His inflammatory rhetoric at a rally ahead of the Capitol uprising is now in the impeachment charge against him, even as the falsehoods he spread about election fraud are still being championed by some Republicans.” Reuters (1/12, Cornwell) reports, “At least four Republicans said on Tuesday they would join Democrats in voting to impeach.” The New York Times (1/12, Fandos, 20.6M) reports Cheney “dismissed fellow Republicans arguing that the impeachment was rushed, premature or unwarranted. Her words were unequivocal and likely to give cover to two dozen or so other House Republicans looking to break ranks.” CNN (1/12, Mahtani, 89.21M) reports on its website, “A White House official says they expect as many as 20 or more Republicans to vote for impeachment...on Wednesday, though they do not have a firm figure.”

USA Today (1/12, Hayes, 12.7M) reports Cheney “noted that the attack, which resulted in five deaths including a Capitol Police officer, aimed to obstruct America’s democratic processes and caused ‘injury, death and destruction in the most sacred space in our Republic.’ For that, Cheney said the president — and the president alone — was to blame.” The Washington Post (1/12, Krantz, 10.52M) says her “historic decision...had its roots in a dramatic phone call from her father, former vice president Richard B. Cheney, who was watching events unfold on television last week and warned that she was being verbally attacked by the president.” The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (1/12, 94K) reports, “Cheney has sided with Trump in the vast majority of her votes during his presidency. Still, she has publicly broken with Trump in numerous instances in the past — never more prominently than last week.” Axios (1/12, Rummler, 1.26M), Politico (1/12, Ferris, Caygile, 6.73M), and The Hill (1/12, Brufke, 5.65M) also cover Cheney’s announcement.
The *Washington Post* (1/12, 10.52M) reports Reps. John Katko (R-NY), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), and Fred Upton (R-MI) all said Tuesday that they will back impeachment. The *Chicago Tribune* (1/12, Ruthhart, 2.03M) reports Kinzinger said in a statement, “There is no doubt in my mind that the President of the United States broke his oath of office and incited this insurrection.” The *Syracuse NY Post-Standard* (1/12, 467K) reports Katko, who was “the first House Republican” to publicly come out for impeachment, “said he felt compelled to uphold his oath of office and defend the Constitution by impeaching Trump.”

Politico (1/12, Niedzwiedek, 6.73M) reports that “a Republican group has pledged to amass a $50 million war chest to help GOP lawmakers who vote to impeach…Trump ward off potential primary challenges.” The *New York Times* (1/12, Karl, 20.6M) reports, “The financial commitment by the group, the Republican Accountability Project, is designed to incentivize Republicans who have appeared open to voting in favor of the new article of impeachment that is expected to be considered by the House on Wednesday.”

McConnell Reportedly Believes Trump Has Committed Impeachable Offenses. The *New York Times* (1/12, Haberman, 20.6M) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “has told associates that he believes [Trump] committed impeachable offenses and that he is pleased that Democrats are moving to impeach him, believing that it will make it easier to purge him from the party.” The Times adds that House Minority Leader McCarthy “has asked other Republicans whether he should call on Mr. Trump to resign in the aftermath of the riot at the Capitol last week.”

CNN (1/12, 89.21M) reports on its website that according to a “person with direct knowledge,” McConnell is “furibous about last week’s attack on the US Capitol by the President’s supporters, even more so that Trump has shown no contrition. His silence has been deliberate as he leaves open the option of supporting impeachment.” Fox News (1/12, Singman, 23.99M) reports on its website, “Part of McConnell’s anger, according to sources, is that the Senate Majority was lost to the Democrats just last Tuesday in the Georgia Senate runoffs, but sources said that McConnell is extremely upset about the president’s actions Wednesday leading up to the riot at the Capitol.”

Pence Tells Pelosi He Will Not invoke 25th Amendment. The House voted 233-205 Tuesday evening in favor of a resolution calling on Vice President Pence and the Cabinet to remove Trump through the 25th Amendment, with Kinzinger the only Republican in support. The vote came several hours after Pence said in a letter to House Speaker Pelosi, Pence wrote in part, “I do not believe that such a course of action is in the best interest of our Nation or consistent with our Constitution.” Reuters (1/12, Beesch, Shalal) reports Pence “told Pelosi the administration’s energy was focused on ensuring an orderly transition, and appealed to her and other members of Congress to avoid actions that would further divide and inflame the passions of the moment.” The *New York Times* (1/12, Cameron, 20.6M) reports Pence “privately indicated last week that he did not support invoking the 25th Amendment, and his public rejection of the resolution all but ensured that the House would vote to impeach” Trump on Wednesday. The *Wall Street Journal* (1/12, Peterson, Andrews, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says the House has vowed to move on impeachment if Pence does not invoke the 25th Amendment.

USA Today (1/12, King, Jansen, 12.7M) reports Democrats have “called for [Trump’s] resignation, [and] urged the Cabinet to remove him under the 25th Amendment and, with those two options looking extremely unlikely, are preparing to impeach the president for a second time.” The *Charlotte (NC) Observer* (1/12, 443K) reports Rep. David Price (D-NC) “said the best course of action is for senior Republican officials to convince Trump to resign. The second best option, he said, was for [Pence] and members of the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment.”

The *New York Times* (1/12, Baker, Haberman, Karl, 20.6M) examines the deterioration in relations between Pence and Trump, who “was enraged that Mr. Pence was refusing to try to overturn the election. In a series of meetings, the president had pressured relentlessly, alternately cajoling and browbeating him.” Last Wednesday, “just before Mr. Pence headed to the Capitol to oversee the electoral vote count,” Trump called the Pence at his residence and said, “You can either go down in history as a patriot, or you can go down in history as a p---y.” The Times says “the blowup between the nation’s two highest elected officials then played out in dramatic fashion as the president publicly excoriated the vice president at an incendiary rally and sent agitated supporters to the Capitol where they stormed the building—some of them chanting ‘Hang Mike Pence.’”

Politico (1/12, Orr, 6.73M) writes, “After four-and-a-half years of unbending loyalty, [Pence] is ready to move on from Donald Trump. All it took was the president inciting a riot that, quite literally, put Pence’s life in danger.” Pence “has spent the past few days navigating between two political forces. There is bipartisan praise for his refusal to indulge the president’s unconstitutional ploy for a second term. But the MAGA base he cultivated alongside Trump is now threatening him with political retribution and even death for that same refusal.”
Good Morning PSCs,

Please see attached the first OPS Inauguration Daily SitRep, which will be posted on both the InfraGard and DSAC portals. We will continue to update this product and have it available each morning.

Please reach out to our unit with any questions or comments on this report.

Regards,

IA
A new file has been posted by [Redacted] in the Intelligence Products community.

(U//FOUO)-OPS Inauguration Daily SitRep - 13 January 2021

Summary

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of Private Sector
OPS Inauguration Daily SitRep
13 January 2021
From: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Subject: Thx
To: Fioris, Nikki L. (CD) (FBI)
Sent: January 13, 2021 6:04 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2021 DT Threats_01122021_REV.docx

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
From: Sweeney, William F. Jr. (NY) (FBI)
Subject: 
To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI); Crouch, George M. Jr. (NK) (FBI); Driscoll, Michael J. (PH) (FBI)
Sent: January 33, 2021 6:48 AM (UTC-05:00)

...
From: theSkimm
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - [BLK] Daily Skimm: With a little help from mom Smile
To: 
Sent: January 13, 2021 6:22 AM (UTC-05:00)

[Image]
Skimmed while doing today's challenge?
Quote of the Day

"It's part of life to have some good food and good wine" — The CEO of a European startup, who sent French wine to space to see how it aged. All ABordeaux.

A Week Later
The Story

It's been exactly a week since the Capitol was under siege.

Feels much longer than that.

We know. Last Wednesday, pro-Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol, breaking into federal offices and occupying the Senate floor. Five people died, including an officer. The attack has lawmakers calling on President Donald Trump to resign. But over the course of the last few days, many developments have come to light. Including about...

The president...Yesterday, Trump made his first public remarks since the riots. He rejected responsibility for the protesters' actions and said people thought his comments urging his supporters to "fight like hell" were "totally appropriate." This, as he faces growing restrictions online, three of his Cabinet members have resigned, lawmakers have condemned his comments, and as a second impeachment is on the horizon.

The FBI...The day before rioters attacked the Capitol, FBI officials in Virginia received a report warning law enforcement about extremists traveling to Washington, DC, for "war." It also said they were reportedly calling for violence in an online thread, saying things like "be ready to fight." It's unclear how widely this was shared with law enforcement agencies, but it could raise further scrutiny against law enforcement for their handling of the riots.

Arrests...This week, a grand jury indicted three men in connection with the riots. Mark Leffingwell, of Seattle, was charged with several counts including assaults on police. Lonnie Coffman, of Alabama, was charged for possessing 11 Molotov cocktails and other weapons. And Jacob Chansley, of Arizona, was indicted for violent entry on Capitol grounds along with other offenses. Dozens more were also arrested. Meanwhile, several Capitol Police officers were suspended in connection to the riots, and about a dozen are under investigation.

Lawmakers...After sheltering in place at the Capitol last week, at least three of them tested positive for COVID-19. Reps Brad Schneider (D-IL), Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) were in the same room as Republican lawmakers accused of not wearing masks. Jayapal said it created a "superspreader event on top of a domestic terrorist attack."

A hero...While last week's riots led to a lot of negative news, a hero still rose from the ashes. The name to remember: Eugene Goodman. He's been identified as the Capitol Police officer who lured a mob of rioters away from the Senate chambers filled with lawmakers.

theSkimm

America is grappling with the aftermath of the deadly Capitol siege. And the possibility of additional attacks. But as our democracy is put to the test, may we all remember the people who fought to protect it.
Yesterday, the House voted 223-205 on a resolution calling on VP Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment. The measure is considered to be nonbinding and was shot down prior to the vote by the vice president himself. In a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Pence said he didn’t think it would be "in the best interest of our Nation or consistent with our Constitution." Now, the House is expected to switch to 'Plan B.'

Today, the House will move to impeach President Trump. They plan to charge him with "incitement of insurrection" for encouraging "imminent lawless action at the Capitol." It's expected to pass since Dems control the House, and have garnered some support across the aisle.

As many as 10 to 20 Republicans could reportedly vote to impeach the president. While some have been vocal about their desire to hold Trump accountable, others are just coming out of the woodwork. Among them: Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), the third-ranking House Republican, who believes there has "never been a greater betrayal by a President of the United States of his office and his oath to the Constitution." And Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) who’s apparently pleased House Dems started the impeachment process. But has not commented on how he would vote.

And Also...This
What's getting a revamp...

COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Yesterday, the Trump admin announced all available doses of the coronavirus vaccine would be released in an attempt to speed up vaccination efforts. Reminder: Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines require two doses, to be administered 21 and 28 days apart, respectively. And the gov was holding on to millions of doses for people's second round. But now it's saying 'let's give more people the first dose, ASAP.' And is pushing states to prioritize people 65 and older and those with high-risk health issues.

- Sound familiar? The news comes only days after President-elect Joe Biden said he would release nearly all the vaccines upon taking office.
- A risky move: Some health experts worry that this could delay the administering of second doses. But HHS Secretary Alex Azar said the consistent pace of vaccine production helps put those worries to rest.

...Oh and speaking of major changes, international airline travelers will have to show a negative coronavirus test before boarding flights to the US starting Jan 26.

Who people are talking about...

Lisa Montgomery. Last night, the Supreme Court cleared the way for her execution. Montgomery, the only woman on federal death row, was pronounced dead a few hours later. She was scheduled to be executed yesterday, but her case was held up in the courts as her lawyers argued she was too mentally ill to be put to death (see: the Eighth Amendment). Montgomery is the first woman to be put to death by the fed gov in 67 years. Her attorney called the decision "far from justice."

Who's taking it back...

SCOTUS. Yesterday, it reinstated a fed requirement that women must visit a hospital, clinic, or doctor's office to pick up a pill used for medication-induced abortions. Because of the pandemic, a lower court had waived FDA rules and allowed the medication to be distributed by mail. Now, in a 6-3 decision, the Supremes sided with the Trump admin to stop mail deliveries of the pill despite coronavirus concerns. In her dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor (joined by Justice Elena Kagan) said the decision put an "unnecessary, unjustifiable, irrational, and undue burden" on women. This is the first abortion case to come before Justice Amy Coney Barrett.
What's delivering bites of joy...

Girl Scout cookies.

New Year, New Gear
Raise your hand if you want 2021 to be really different (read: more relaxed) than 2020. Same. That's why we partnered with Athleta to give you tips to help deepen your yoga practice. Ready, set, flow...

1. **Listen to your body.** Do what's right for your zen. Past...it's okay if that means modifying some moves.

2. **Remember to cool down.** Ending each sesh with a 5-minute savasana gives your heart rate the chance to return to normal. Plus, it can help relieve stress.

3. **Wear something that makes it easy to check your form in the mirror.** So you know you're nailing every pose. Enter: breathable, super soft *Salutation Tights from Athleta*. The compression will help you feel confident and stay engaged.

Om...
'Ear that? It's the sound of your podcast library begging for some TLC. If yours is a graveyard of pods you listened to once and abandoned, join the club.

Today’s challenge? Unsubscribe from podcasts you no longer listen to, to free up storage space and headspace. Then subscribe to some that will help you learn something new. Check out our guide for ideas. And see all of our past challenges here.

PS: Speaking of learning something new, enter here for a chance to join our co-founders Carly and Danielle for a virtual live recording of "Skimm'd from the Couch" with author Rachel Hollis. They'll be chatting about finding your drive and taking care of your mental health.
Here are our favorite picks to help you take a break today...

1. Smart and creative things to do with your phone’s camera roll. Goodbye dreaded “storage almost full” pop-up. Hello, cute photo calendars and fridge magnets. Oh snap.

2. The best things to stream this January. What’s that you say? You watched all of “Bridgerton” and need something else to binge? Here’s what to expect from Netflix, HBO Max, Disney+, and more this month.

3. 15 make-ahead breakfasts for when mornings are not your friend. If 'become a morning person’ is on your 2021 to-do list, there’s a smarter way. Enter: these easy, delightful recipes that’ll be waiting for you when you wake up.

PS: Want more? Sign up to get weekly recs in your inbox.
For when you're dreaming of an adventure-filled 2021...

This club can help you save up to 90% on your next trip. Think: round-trip flights to Hawaii from $109 or Greece from $247 on airlines with flexible change policies. For the next 48 hours, Skimm'rs can join for just $1. Go, go, go.*

For when you just spent an hour on your ex's IG...

Where did the time go? This wellness program only needs ten minutes of your day. It'll help you discover the "why" behind your decisions. So being healthy becomes second nature. Oh, and Skimm'rs get a free 14-day trial. Get in control.*

For when the delivery driver knows you by name...

New year, same you. With this company, you choose from over 23 recipes every week. Then they send the instructions and ingredients to your door. PS: Skimm'rs get $90 off, plus free shipping on their first box. Order now.*

*PS: This is a sponsored post.

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.

Fighting for justice... a social impact startup that helps secure evidence and enables transparency in an effort to fight racial inequality in the criminal justice system. Learn more.

Feeling supreme... have turned their catering company into a take-out restaurant. It’s called and it offers a variety of delicious foods. Slice into it.

(Some) Birthdays.

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

Skimm Share
Skimm HQ's craving a breakfast pizza. Share theSkimm with your friend who'd like a slice.

Or use this referral link theskimm.com/?r=3J121

Skimm'd by Maria del Carmen Corpus, Mariza Smajli, Kamal Ranadeen, and Clem Robineau
TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF  
DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021 6:30 AM  

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FBI Office Warned Extremists Planned Violence Prior To Attack.

The *Washington Post* (1/12, Zapotosky, 10.52M) reports that, in "the most stark evidence yet of the sizable intelligence failure that preceded" a mob attacking the Capitol, a day before the violence the FBI's Norfolk, Virginia office "issued an explicit internal warning that extremists were preparing to travel to Washington to commit violence and 'war.'" The report "painted a dire portrait of dangerous plans, including individuals sharing a map of the complex's tunnels" and meeting places for would-be conspirators. While "it was not immediately clear how many law enforcement agencies outside the FBI were told," a law enforcement official said the bureau's Washington field office was briefed on it. The memo "contradicts a senior official's declaration the bureau had no intelligence indicating" protesters planned harm. The Post adds that before the attack "FBI officials discounted any suggestion that" the pro-Trump supporters could be a security threat, and even the report "expressed concern that the FBI might be encroaching on free speech rights."

The *New York Times* (1/12, Goldman, 20.6M) reports, "Officials cautioned the information in the Norfolk report was uncorroborated," but "the report is likely to put the F.B.I. on the defensive with members of Congress and the public" as they seek answers on why the FBI and other law enforcement were unprepared for the attack.

The *AP* (1/12, Balsamo, Tucker) reports, "In the immediate aftermath of the riot, some law enforcement officials, including the Capitol police chief, said they were unaware of serious concerns leading up to Jan. 6 and had prepared only for a free-speech protest," but "on Tuesday, The Washington Post reported on the existence of a Jan. 5 report from the FBI's field office in Norfolk, Virginia, that forecast, in detail, the chances that extremists could commit 'war' in Washington the following day. Steven D'Antuono, the assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington field office, said that once he received the Jan. 5 warning, the information was quickly shared with other law enforcement agencies through the joint terrorism task force."

The *Washington Times* (1/12, Mordock, 626K) reports, "While they announced the aggressive prosecutions, FBI officials also countered reports that agents failed to act swiftly the day before the attack when they discovered internet posts plotting a 'war' on Congress." D'Antuono "said the threat was vague and could not be tied to a specific person or group. But the FBI notified other agencies within 40 minutes of learning about the threat. 'We deal with specifics and facts,' he said. 'We have to separate the aspirational from the intentional and determine which of the individuals saying despicable things on the internet are just practicing keyboard bravado.'"

The *Hill* (1/12, Neidig, 5.69M) reports that D'Antuono "defended the bureau's actions during the lead-up to the riot as it was monitoring online discussions among right-wing demonstrators. 'As offensive as a statement can be, the FBI cannot open an investigation without a threat of violence or alleged criminal activity,'" D'Antuono said. 'However, when that language does turn to a call of violence or criminal activity, the FBI is able to undertake investigative action. And in this case, we had no indication, Information was linked to any specific person, but that this is a matter of an online discussion."

*US News & World Report* (1/12, 1.91M) reports that D'Antuono "said the bureau adequately warned local authorities of what it knew about the planned violence at the U.S. Capitol last week. 'That was a thread on a message board that was being attributable to an individual person,' D'Antuono said of the news, first reported by The Washington Post. 'My Washington field office received that information, we briefed that within 40 minutes to our law enforcement partners, federal [and] state.' He said the information, which reportedly included maps of the Capitol complex tunnels and plans for swarming it, was 'ingested' by the Joint Terrorism Task Force, which helps link FBI initiatives with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. 'That's the action we took on that, and that's it,' D'Antuono said."

*USA Today* (1/12, 12.7M) reports that D'Antuono said the intelligence report was shared within "40 minutes" with law enforcement partners, although "it was still unclear, however, whether officials specifically altered security preparations to account for that warning." D'Antuono
said, "In the weeks leading up to the January 6 rally, the FBI worked internally with every FBI field office to ensure they were looking for any intelligence they may have developed about potential violence during the rally on January 6."

NBC News (1/12, 4.91M) reports, "Former FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday that an FBI bulletin about potential violence at 50 state capitol buildings is "very, very unusual." Law enforcement definitely can handle these kinds of riots, attacks and civil disturbances, if they have the information they need and they prepare. This is something law enforcement was built for," he said in an interview on NBC’s ‘TODAY’ show." NBC News adds, "Reacting to the storming of the Capitol last Wednesday, Comey said, 'I was also really angry about the failure to secure in the face of a threat that was obvious on a date that's been marked for 130 years, Jan. 6. You knew it was coming. You knew it was literally coming to you from the president's rally walking down Pennsylvania Avenue -- very, very upsetting to watch it happen anyway.'"

The New York Daily News (1/12, Ray, 2.51M), Newsweek (1/12, Impelli, 2.67M), and the Daily Beast (1/12, Menendez, 933K) also report.

NBC News: FBI Never Issued Intel Bulletin About Potential Capitol Violence. NBC News (1/13, Dikanian, Ainsley, 4.91M) reports, "Analysts in the FBI’s Intelligence Division gathered information about possible violence involving the Capitol on Jan. 6., but the FBI never distributed a formal intelligence bulletin, in part because of concerns that doing so might have run afoul of free speech protections, one current and two former senior FBI officials familiar with the matter told NBC News." NBC News adds, "While the FBI did share some threat intelligence with law enforcement, the lack of a comprehensive Joint Intelligence Bulletin compiled by the FBI’s Intelligence Branch -- which would have made assessments about possible threats and have been shared with relevant law enforcement agencies - left the Capitol Police and other agencies lacking the full picture of what the FBI had learned from human sources and social media postings about what extremists were saying about plans to assault the Capitol.”

Rioters Came Within Feet And Seconds Of Legislators. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Mann, Voiz, Wise, Day, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that during the attack on the Capitol last week rioters were feet or seconds away from fleeing lawmakers as outnumbered Capitol Police officers at the entrances to both chambers of Congress tried to slow down the mob. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) estimates that the House was evacuated 30 to 60 seconds before it would have been overrun.

US Capitol Police Intel Chief Warned Congress In July Of Right-Wing Attacks. Reuters (1/12, Shiffman) reports, "The director of intelligence for the U.S. Capitol Police warned Congress in July that rebellion against COVID-19 precautions had accelerated violence by right-wing "revolutionary extremists," according to congressional testimony." Reuters adds, "Four months before he joined the force, John K. Donohue, then a private security consultant, testified that the country desperately needed a sophisticated social media early-warning system, akin to the U.S. nuclear missile launch detection capability, to prevent a catastrophe. 'America is at a crossroads,' Donohue told the U.S. House Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism during a July 16 hearing. 'The intersection of constitutional rights and legitimate law enforcement has never been more at risk by domestic actors as it is now as seditionists actively promote a revolution.'" According to Reuters, "Donohue’s public warning, which has not been previously reported, came six months before a right-wing mob...stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6."

Rep. Krishnamoorthi: Capitol Attack Was An FBI Intel Failure. WLS-TV Chicago (1/12, Goudie, Markoff, 334K) reports from Chicago that Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) "told the ABC7 I-Team that what happened was the result of an FBI intelligence failure. 'There's failures at multiple levels, and right now we've launched an investigation with regard to the security situation,' Krishnamoorthi said. 'Unfortunately there are militia groups, armed militia groups across the country that are coordinating to make a show of force especially around Inauguration Day. And I have to tell you Chuck that we are not going to stand by and allow these militia groups to reap the kind of havoc that they did last Wednesday.'” WLS-TV adds, "The head of the FBI in Washington and D.C.'s top federal prosecutor pushed back Tuesday on allegations that the mob attack on the Capitol last Wednesday was the result of an intelligence failure."

Theney, 673M) reports, "Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-N.J.) said Tuesday that she witnessed colleagues escorting people through the Capitol on Jan. 5 for what she described as ‘reconnaissance’ ahead of the next day's violent insurrection that left five dead.” Politico adds, "In a 13-minute Facebook video billed as an address to her constituents about the House’s efforts to hold President Donald Trump accountable for inciting the riot, Sherrill included the allegation as part of a call to hold Trump’s allies in Congress accountable as well. 'I also intend to see that those members of Congress who abetted him – those members of Congress who had groups coming through the capital that I saw on Jan. 5 for reconnaissance for the next day - those members of Congress who incited the violent crowd, those members of Congress that attempted to help our president undermine our democracy, I'm going see that they're held accountable,' Sherrill said.”

**Nearly 100 Arrested So Far In Probe Of Capitol Violence.**

USA Today (1/12, Penzenstadler, Salman, Wedell, 12.7M) reports, "Nearly 100 people have been arrested so far for their roles in the attack. ... Many currently face lesser charges such as unlawful entry, disorderly conduct and defacing public property. Only a few have been accused of more serious crimes such as felony violations of the Riot Act." The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Gurman, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports FBI Washington field office Assistant Director in Charge Steven D’Antuono said the FBI has opened more than 160 case files and has received nearly 100,000 videos and other forms of digital media related to the attacks.

 Reuters (1/12, Hosenball, Beech) reports Acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin said at a news briefing, "I think the scope and scale of this investigation and these cases are really unprecedented, not only in FBI history, but probably DOJ history. The Capitol grounds outside and inside are essentially a crime scene.” The CBS Evening News (1/12, story 2, 3:15, O’Donnell, 4.39M) reported Sherwin "says the public will be shocked when it learns all the details from the assault.” The New York Times (1/12, Shear, Goldman, Benner, 20.6M) reports Sherwin’s comments "came as evidence mounted that before the grim events at the Capitol – in which lawmakers and others hid from an angry, surging mob and five people died in the riot and nearby tumult – top officials in government had reason to be deeply concerned about the possibility of violence.”

CNN (1/12, 89.21M) reports that "while the FBI has opened more than 160 case files in the six days since pro-Donald Trump rioters breached the US Capitol building, officials acknowledged Tuesday that the evidence gathered so far is just the tip of the iceberg.” People are going to be shocked by some of the egregious contact that happened in the Capitol,” acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin said in reference to assaults on federal and DC police officers.” CNN adds that “officials from the FBI and Department of Justice sought to reassure the American public Tuesday that they are up to the task on both fronts during a news conference that also laid bare the enormity of the challenge currently facing law enforcement agencies involved in both efforts. ‘The FBI is quite familiar with large-scale, complex investigations ... we are up to the challenge,’ FBI Washington DC field office assistant director Steven D’Antuono said.”

 NBC News (1/12, Dilanian, 4.91M) reports, “FBI agents are scouring more than 100,000 digital media files, and federal prosecutors have spent hours presenting felony cases to a Washington grand jury, as they seek to bring to justice those who committed crimes in the riot at the Capitol, authorities said Tuesday.” Sherwin and D’Antuono “discussed the sprawling criminal investigation designed to catch those who broke the law, but said little about the intelligence and security failures that allowed the Capitol to be overrun. They said that the FBI had opened 160 case files, and that “this is only the beginning,” as Sherwin put it, outlining a large number of serious crimes that carry decades-long prison terms. The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are investigating, for example, who put two pipe bombs outside the Capitol with timers and detonators.”

 Fox News (1/12, Betz, 23.99M) reports on its website that Sherwin said, “This is not going to be solved overnight. It's not going to be solved within the coming weeks. It's not going to be solved within the coming months. This is going to be a long-term investigation and rest assured, the Bureau, the Department of Justice, all the U.S. attorneys across the United States that are
assisting these investigations, everyone is in for the long haul.” Bloomberg (1/12, Voreacos, 3.57M), the Los Angeles Times (1/12, 3.37M), Axios (1/12, Rummier, 1.26M), and the CNN (1/12, 89.21M) website also report.

**Arkansas Man Identified As Speaker’s Office Invader Appears Before Judge.** The AP (1/12) reports from Fayetteville, Arkansas, “The man identified as the rioter photographed sitting in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office chair during last week’s Capitol insurrection made his initial federal court appearance Tuesday.” Richard Barnett, 60, of Gravette, Arkansas, “appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Erin Wiedemann in Fayetteville, Arkansas, to hear the charges against him. Among them is a charge that he unlawfully entered a restricted area with a lethal weapon – in this case, a stun gun.” Barnett “also is charged with disorderly conduct and theft of public property. Barnett’s conceded the validity of the arrest against him, said his attorney, Anthony Sloan of White Plains, New York.” Barnett “will remain in federal custody at the Washington County Detention Center in Fayetteville pending a Friday virtual detention hearing, at which time a judge will decide whether to grant him bond.”

**Alabama Man Charged With Bringing Weapons, Molotov Cocktails To Capitol.** The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports a federal grand jury has indicted Lonnie Coffman of Alabama, “who allegedly brought 11 molotov cocktails and five loaded weapons to the U.S. Capitol, the first public indictment stemming from last Wednesday’s storming of Congress.”

**Chicago-Area Man Charged With Threats Surrounding Inauguration.** The Chicago Tribune (1/12, Meisner, 2.03M) reports a Chicago-area man “who authorities said has a history of threatening members of Congress was arrested Tuesday on federal charges alleging he promised violence at the upcoming presidential inauguration.” In a voicemail message left for a House Democrat on December 29, Louis Capriotti said, “We will surround the m-----f---- White House and we will kill any m-----f----- Democrat that steps on the m-----f----- lawn.” Authorities say Capriotti directly threatened both Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA). The Chicago Sun-Times (1/12, 970K) reports, “Prosecutors say Capriotti was arrested near his home at 5:42 a.m. Tuesday and is charged with transmitting a threat. During a court appearance Tuesday afternoon, a judge said Capriotti would be held in custody at least until a detention hearing Friday.”

The AP (1/12, Babwin) reports from Chicago that federal prosecutors in Chicago "said in a news release that Louis Capriotti of Chicago Heights faces a federal charge of transmitting a threat in interstate commerce. At a hearing Tuesday afternoon, hours after Capriotti’s early morning arrest, U.S. Magistrate Judge Gabriel A. Fuentes ordered him to remain in custody until a detention hearing on Friday." Capriotti, 45, “is accused of leaving a threatening voicemail for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 29.”

The Washington Examiner (1/12, Halaschak, 888K) reports that Capriotti “was arrested near his Chicago Heights home on Tuesday and charged with transmitting a threat in interstate commerce. According to the criminal complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court in Chicago, Capriotti called and left a Nov. 18 voicemail on the phone of an unnamed U.S. representative, saying that he was a ‘nine-year Marine, active duty’ and had killed terrorists and ‘will continue to kill them because that’s what I am trained to do.’ He allegedly went on to tell the lawmaker that ‘in the next couple weeks, some big news is about to go down’ and certain individuals ‘are going to be astonished of what’s going to be revealed.’”

NJ News (1/12, Atonavage, 1.47M) reports that Capriotti "is charged with transmitting a threat in interstate commerce after he allegedly called the New Jersey lawmaker on Dec. 29, saying ‘we will kill any mother---ing Democrat that steps on the motherf---ing lawn’ of the White House, according to the criminal complaint. He said if people expect President-elect Joe Biden to be able to put his hand on the Bible during his inauguration and then walk into the White House, ‘they’re sadly f---ing mistaken.’” Capriotti "allegedly closed his voicemail to the unnamed New Jersey lawmaker by saying he would ‘like to put one in,’ a former N.J. governor, according to the complaint. Former Gov. Chris Christie is not named in the complaint, but he confirmed to NorthJersey.com that he was the target of the threat.”

FBI: Iowa QAnon Backer Was Among First To Breach Capitol. The AP (1/12, Foley) reports from Iowa City, Iowa, “A right-wing conspiracy theorist from Iowa was among the first to break into the U.S. Capitol during last week’s deadly pro-Trump insurrection, chasing and
menacing a Black police officer, federal agents said Tuesday. "Douglas A. Jensen, 41, "surrendered
to police in his hometown of Des Moines on Friday, two days after the Jan. 6 rampage in
Washington, D.C., left five people dead and disrupted U.S. democracy. Investigators say he told
them he positioned himself to be among the leaders of the Capitol siege because he was wearing a
shirt promoting QAnon, the apocalyptic conspiracy theory that he follows. "He wanted to have his
T-shirt seen on video so that "Q" could "get the credit," FBI special agent Julie Williams wrote in a
statement outlining the allegations against Jensen, who posted photos of himself at the riot on
social media."

Son Of New York Judge Charged For Role In Capitol Riot. The New York Post (1/12,
Rosenberg, 7.4SM) reports, "The fur-loving son of a prominent Brooklyn judge touted his
'caveman' getup to a pal during the US Capitol riots last week - but was dismayed to learn his
photo was turned into a viral meme, according to new court papers." Federal prosecutors "took
the unusual step of including the Instagram post in their filing that charges Aaron Mostofsky, 34,
with four counts in the deadly protests at the nation's capital, including theft of government
property, illegal entry into a restricted area and disorderly conduct. In papers unsealed on
Tuesday, authorities said Mostofsky blabbed about heading down to DC on social media, including
telling a pal he was trying to meet up with at the rally, 'If we find each other look for a guy looking
like a caveman.'"

The New York Times (1/12, Hong, 20.6M) reports, "Mostofsky, 34, is the son of Kings County
Supreme Court Judge Steven Mostofsky, who also goes by Shlomo. He and his father are
registered Democrats, according to New York State election records. Aaron Mostofsky was taken
into custody by F.B.I. agents at his brother's home in Brooklyn, according to two people briefed on
the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation."

The AP (1/12, Hayes) reports, "At a teleconference hearing in federal court in Brooklyn,
Mostofsky's lawyer argued that the evidence didn't back up the accusations. Mostofsky was
released on $100,000 bond but banned from traveling Washington except for purposes of
prosecution of his case there." Assistant US Attorney Josh Hafetz "told a magistrate judge in
Brooklyn federal court that the government would agree to Mostofsky's release even though it was
'deeply troubled by the conduct of the defendant' in a 'mob attack.' The charges include a felony
count of theft of government property - a bulletproof police vest worth $1,905 and a riot shield
valued at $265."

FBI: Arrest Of Miami-Based Proud Boys Leader Linked To Capitol Riot. The Miami
Herald (1/12, Smiley, 647K) reports, "The FBI on Tuesday said Washington, D.C. police arrested
the Miami-based leader of the far-right Proud Boys days before the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol
because they had developed information showing he was among those planning to incite violence
as Congress voted to certify the presidential election." The Herald adds, "Steven D'Antuono,
assistant director in charge at the FBI's Washington field office, said federal authorities had worked
in the preceding days to identify bad actors planning to attend a Jan. 6 rally near the White House
and "held up the arrest of Henry 'Enrique' Tarrio Jr. as an example of efforts to stop the violence
before it began. 'In the weeks leading up to the Jan. 6 rally, the FBI worked internally with every
FBI field office to ensure we were looking for any intelligence that may have developed about
potential violence during the rally of Jan. 6,' D'Antuono said."

Idaho Man Arrested For Role In Capitol Riot. The AP (1/12, Boone) reports from Boise,
Idaho, "An Idaho man whose photograph was included on a federal list of those considered
'persons of interest' in the Jan. 6 siege of the U.S. Capitol has been jailed in Boise, the Ada County
Sheriff's Office confirmed Tuesday." Josiah Colt, 34, "turned himself in at the Ada County Sheriff's
Office on Tuesday afternoon and was being held on a U.S. Marshal's hold, sheriff's spokesman
Patrick Orr said." The AP adds, "After the insurgency, Colt posted a video to Facebook erroneously
claiming he was the first person in the mob to sit in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's chair. Photos
from the siege, however, show him in the seat normally used by Vice President Mike Pence in the
Senate chamber."

FBI Tracking Down "Pittsburgh Based Individual" In Capitol Assault Probe. WPXI-
TV Pittsburgh (1/12, 149K) reports from Pittsburgh, "FBI agents from the Pittsburgh field office
tracked and interviewed a 'Pittsburgh based individual' cited in a report describing protests and
violence in the area leading up to Inauguration Day. According to investigators, there are no related threats in the region leading up to Jan. 20.” WPXI-TV adds, “Over the weekend, reports emerged that posts across a variety of social media platforms promised protests would take place in cities across the country, including Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City and Columbus, Ohio. On Friday, Twitter posted a statement saying in part, 'Plans for future armed protests have already begun proliferating.' Additionally, FBI agents from the Pittsburgh office are still investigating the destructive mob that descended on the U.S. Capitol last week. The agency is accepting tips, pictures and videos of the rioting and violence. The Pittsburgh FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force is taking the lead in any local investigations.”

**Suspended MTA Employee Charged With Capitol Riot.** The AP (1/12) reports, “An employee of the Metro-North commuter railroad was arrested Tuesday by the FBI on charges that he participated in last week's mob assault on the U.S. Capitol.” Will Pepe “was in federal custody and was scheduled to make an initial court appearance Wednesday at the federal court in White Plains, according to Nicholas Biase, a spokesperson for the U.S. attorney in Manhattan. Pepe was previously suspended without pay from his job with the Metro-North commuter railroad after he was photographed inside the Capitol during the unrest. MTA officials said he had called in sick to attend the protests in Washington, D.C.” The FBI “had put Pepe’s image on a ‘Seeking Information’ poster related to Wednesday’s violence at the Capitol. He is seen wearing an American flag bandana around his neck while holding up his mobile phone, as if to take a picture or video of himself.”

The New York Post (1/12, Meyer, 7.45M) reports, “Pepe, 31, of Beacon, was cuffed Tuesday afternoon and is set to appear in federal court in White Plains on Wednesday on charges out of Washington, DC, a spokesman for the Southern District of New York said. Participation in the riot which resulted in deadly violence at the Capitol last week was abhorrent to the values of the MTA and New Yorkers, and those who attacked that symbol of American democracy disqualified themselves from working for the People of New York,’ MTA spokesman Tim Minton said Tuesday.”

**Seven Philadelphia Transit Officers Under Probe For Attending Rally Prior To Capital Attack.** CBS News (1/12, Martinez, 5.39M) reports, “Seven Philadelphia transit police officers are under investigation for attending President Trump’s rally in Washington, D.C., last week, officials said Tuesday. The investigation into the officers, who are part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), will examine if they were involved in any illegal behavior. [The officers] are being investigated to see if they were involved in riotous behavior or for violations of our social media policies,’ SEPTA Police Chief Thomas Nestel said, according to CBS Philly.” According to CBS News, “The station said that there was a tip that a SEPTA employee was at the rally, and the investigation revealed several more officers who were in attendance. SEPTA is looking into whether the employees were part of the mob that breached the U.S. Capitol. SEPTA said any information about the investigation will be shared with the FBI.”

**Olympic Swimmer Reportedly Identified As Participating In Capitol Riot.** USA Today (1/12, Harris, Metcalf, 12.7M) reports, “Olympic gold medalist swimmer Klete Keller may have joined the riot inside the U.S. Capitol last week, according to multiple media reports that identify him based on photos and videos taken that day.” Keller, 38, “is a three-time Olympic swimmer, who earned five medals overall, including gold medals in the 2004 and 2008 Summer Games for Team USA. He was, until Tuesday, listed as a real estate agent with Hoff & Leigh in Colorado. Hoff & Leigh issued a statement on Tuesday afternoon saying Keller, an independent contractor, had resigned. Swimswam, a website about competitive swimming, first reported that Keller among the crowd, basing the claim on ‘at least a dozen people’ who had reviewed images and video from the raid. The New York Times said Keller was in the crowd at the Capitol, according to ‘former teammates and coaches’ who identified him in photos.”

**FBI Arrests New York Man After Alleged Posts Seeking Armed Caravan To DC.** WNBC-TV New York (1/12, Dienst, Miller, 289K) reports, “A man was arrested after the FBI searched a Queens home Tuesday evening following online threats that were allegedly posted in the aftermath of last week’s riots at the U.S. Capitol, law enforcement officials said.” WNBC-TV adds, “The suspect, identified as Eduard Florea, was arrested by the FBI on a weapons-related charge, a law enforcement official said. An FBI spokesperson would not comment on specific.
charges, only confirming that an arrest had been made. The home that was searched is located near Elliot Avenue and 76th Street in Middle Village, the FBI spokesperson said. "Florea, "who was believed to be responsible for the online threats, did not appear to have been at the Capitol during the violent protests, a senior law enforcement source said."

**Sen. Cassidy Releases Photos Of Man Wanted In Connection With Capitol Riot.** The Hill (1/12, Coleman, 5.69M) reports, "Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) released photos of a man he said was wanted in connection with last week’s deadly riot at the Capitol." Cassidy "posted two photos on Twitter, saying he received them from the Capitol Police," and he "said the man was wanted in connection with the death of U.S. Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick’s death due to injuries sustained during the Capitol riot last week," but "police later disputed Cassidy’s characterization, telling The Hill that the individual in the photo is a person of interest for another incident. The U.S. Capitol Police and FBI are looking for any information about the individual and his activities on January 6, 2021."

**Nebraska GOP Official's Letter Draws Calls For FBI Probe.** The AP (1/12, Ritter) reports from Las Vegas, "Nevada’s two U.S. senators have joined calls for an investigation of comments by the Republican Party chairman in rural Nye County that they warn could incite violence and insurrection against elected officials. “The AP adds, “Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen, both Democrats, said in a Monday letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray that county GOP chair Chris Zimmerman’s open letter ‘denies basic facts about the 2020 election and falsely claims that President (Donald) Trump – not President-elect (Joe) Biden – will be inaugurated’ on Jan. 20. We are urging that the threats described in this letter be taken seriously,’ the senators said after pointing to the storming of the U.S. Capitol last week Trump loyalists, and the deaths of six people. The letter describes being in a “battle for our republic” and ends by saying that, “It’s 1776 all over again!” the letter to Wray said."

**LAPD Directs Officer Who Attended Trump Rally To Speak With FBI.** The Los Angeles Times (1/12, Rector, 3.37M) reports, "A Los Angeles police officer has been ordered by LAPD Chief Michel Moore to tell FBI agents about his attendance at the pro-Trump rally that preceded the attack on the U.S. Capitol." The Times adds, "The unnamed officer told police officials that he attended the large pro-Trump rally on the National Mall on Jan. 6, where Trump spoke, but left prior to any other activity and did not participate in anything that occurred at the Capitol," Moore said." Moore "stressed that while simply attending the rally would be a protected 1st Amendment activity, any involvement in the attack on the Capitol would not be and could expose an officer to criminal charges. A department spokesman said the LAPD would cooperate with the FBI if additional investigation into the officer is necessary."

**West Virginia School Bus Drivers Sue District After They Were Suspended For Attending DC Trump Rally.** The AP (1/12) reports two bus drivers are suing Jefferson County School Superintendent Bondy Shay Gibson for suspending them “in retaliation for attending demonstrations in the nation’s capital.” The lawsuit says Tina Renner and Pamela McDonald “were protected under the First Amendment when they traveled to Washington, D.C. to support President Donald Trump.” After hearing Trump speak at the Jan. 6 rally, they “walked to the U.S. Capitol, remained in an area designated for public occupation and did not participate in illegal activities, the lawsuit said.” Renner and McDonald later “received a phone call after returning from the school district’s director of transportation informing them that they would be placed on paid administrative leave. Both also received letters from Gibson”

**Federal Prosecutors Weighing Sedition Charges In Capitol Attack.** The AP (1/12, Balsamo, Tucker) reports, “Prosecutors are now weighing sedition charges against
at least some of the Trump loyalists who stormed the US Capitol one week ago, officials said Tuesday. Pete Williams said on NBC Nightly News (1/12, story 4, 0:40, Holt, 5.85M), "Federal prosecutors say tonight they've opened more than 170 cases so far, a number that's likely to grow much bigger in the coming days. The potential charges: simple trespass; theft of mail, digital devices, and classified information; assault on police officers, and murder. But they're also considering a charge of seditious conspiracy, meaning opposing the government by force. That carries a 20-year maximum sentence. The FBI is also looking at whether the rioters had a leader and if they intended to take members of Congress hostage."

ABC News (1/12, Mallin, Barr, 2.44M) reports that acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin said the department opened a strike force of senior national security and corruption prosecutors focused on seditious and conspiracy charges related to the most heinous acts that occurred in the Capitol. "And these are significant charges that have felonies with a prison terms of up to 20 years," he added." CNBC (1/12, Mangan, 7.34M), and BuzzFeed News (1/12, O'Connor) also report.

**Law Enforcement Agencies Prepare Unprecedented Security Precautions For Inauguration.**

Pierre Thomas reported on ABC World News Tonight (1/12, story 2, 3:40, Muir, 7.37M) that law enforcement agencies are "racing to disrupt any plans for violence on Inauguration Day." Capitol Police told House Democrats that they are "preparing for more than 10,000 armed Trump supporters to descend on the Capitol for the inauguration. Some [are] reportedly planning to form perimeters around the Capitol complex, the White House, and the Supreme Court, blocking anyone who doesn't support Trump, perhaps assassinating them." Tom Costello said on NBC Nightly News (1/12, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 5.85M) that Capitol Police "are warning members of Congress of new violent threats against them described as chilling. ... Right-wing extremists and white supremacists are using encrypted Internet chat rooms to plan future attacks, even sharing a US Army field manual with calls to shoot politicians and encourage armed struggle." Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA): "We were told about specific numbers of people who intend to come here armed with weapons on specific dates at specific times and for specific reasons, including justice for the woman that was killed last week, in their words, 'justice' or 'vengeance.'"

The New York Times (1/12, Cooper, Goldman, 20.6M) reports Army Secretary McCarthy has decided that "National Guard troops who are flooding into Washington to secure the Capitol for Inauguration Day will be armed. ... The armed troops will be responsible for security around the Capitol building complex." The decision came after a meeting with House Speaker Pelosi, who, "according to congressional staff members, demanded that the Pentagon take a more muscular posture after a mob, egged on by President Trump last week, breached the Capitol." The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports the Secret Service will on Wednesday "take command of security preparations at the U.S. Capitol and other federal buildings, backed by as many as 15,000 National Guard troops, thousands of police and tactical officers, and layers of eight-foot steel fencing," a full week before the inauguration. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Parit, Siddiqui, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports a House Democratic aide said "efforts are now under way to erect 'the largest perimeter ever established around the Capitol.'"

Acting Deputy DHS Secretary Ken Cuccinelli spoke on WMAL-AM Washington (1/12) about security measures ahead of January 20 amid the FBI's warning regarding armed protests planned in all 50 states. Cuccinelli said, "America can be very confident that this inauguration and everything surrounding and running up to it is going to be safe." Cuccinelli said on Fox News' America's Newsroom (1/12, 896k), "While we need to take [the threats] seriously, at the same time, it would be an incredible unlikely to see what is described in those threats actually take place."

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) editorializes, "Just as it was important for Congress to return to the Capitol on Wednesday night to continue its work certifying the November election, so is it important that nothing be allowed to impede Mr. Biden from taking the oath of office at noon on Jan. 20 on the steps of the Capitol. Pandemic restrictions have already curtailed public events, and we hope Washington area residents heed the advice to stay home and enjoy the inauguration.
virtually. We also hope — no, we urge — that this country’s leadership recognize the very real threat that is posed by white domestic terrorism and marshal the resolve and resources to control and eliminate it.”

Pentagon Weighs Preparation For Threats In State Capital Cities With DC Threats. The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports Defense Department leaders said Tuesday that they “must balance an array of threats on state capitals nationwide against the potential for renewed extremist violence in Washington. ... Intelligence suggesting the potential for armed riots or attacks on state capitals across the country came into focus as the Defense Department scrambled to ensure an adequate plan for providing National Guard aid for the Jan. 20 inauguration and avoid a repeat of last week’s insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.”

The CBS Evening News (1/12, story 4, 1:45, O’Donnell, 4.39M) reported the FBI warned “of possible armed protests leading up to the inauguration,” leading Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ohio to activate National Guard troops and state capitals to increase security. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (1/12, 855K) reports the FBI “has credible evidence of a threat of violence on Sunday specifically aimed at the Minnesota and Michigan state capitals by right-wing extremists as part of their preparation for armed protests in every state and Washington, D.C., leading up to [Biden’s] inauguration.” The Boston Globe (1/12, 1.04M) reports, “The special agent in charge of the FBI Boston office said Tuesday that the bureau had no information on credible threats to any of the four New England state capitals in his jurisdiction, but he warned things could change ‘in a second.’”

DC Area Battens Down Amid Threats Of Violent Protests. The Washington Post (1/12, Zauzmer, Lang, Cox, Schneider, Jouvenal, 10.52M) reports, “Fences were going up across downtown Washington, and National Guard troops took up posts on street corners Tuesday, part of a sweeping lockdown aimed at heading off any unrest during a weekend of right-wing protests and the presidential inauguration that follows.” The Post adds, “Officials said the massive security cordon could grow even larger in the District in coming days as they consider shuttering hotels, stopping some Metro service and denying permits for demonstrations, fearing another wave of violence like the one that rocked the U.S. Capitol last week.” According to the Post, “Already, D.C. officials said local and federal law enforcement were establishing a perimeter around the White House, the Capitol and part of downtown Washington that allows them to conduct security screenings on anyone entering the area over the next week.”

Airbnb To Review DC-Area Reservations. USA Today (1/12, Hines, 12.7M) reports that ahead of Biden’s inauguration next week, Airbnb is taking precautions against “violent hate group members” with a special “Capitol Safety Plan.” In a statement provided by Airbnb spokesperson Christopher Nulty, the company said, “Airbnb strongly condemns last week’s attack on the U.S. Capitol and the efforts to undermine our democratic process.” Among the steps Airbnb will take, it will ban people involved in last week’s Capitol riot, and review existing reservations in the Washington area.

March For Reparations Still Hopeful About Holding Protest During Inauguration. DCist (1/12, 18K) reports, “During the Biden-Harris inauguration, local and national organizations plan to lead a March for Reparations in D.C. and other major cities to address gaps in health care, economics, and access to home ownership due to redlining.” Organizers say they hope the event “can still go on despite the temporary public emergency order in place in the District, as a result of armed Trump supporters breaching the Capitol last week. ... The group is still awaiting a permit from the National Park Service, says Tara Perry, lead organizer of the march and founder of Black PACT, a California-based group that organizes reparations movements.”

FBI May Add Capitol Attackers To Do-Not-Fly List. Tom Costello reported on NBC Nightly News (1/12, story 3, 0:20, Holt, 5.85M) that the FBI, which creates the airlines’ do-not-fly list, “says it’s considering adding the Capitol Hill attackers” to the list. CNN (1/12, 89.21M) reports that FBI Washington Field Office Assistant Director in Charge Steven D’Antuono “said Tuesday that the bureau would consider adding rioters to the no-fly list, which is maintained by the bureau and administered by the Transportation Security Administration.” D’Antuono said, “As for the no-fly list, we look at all tools and techniques that we
possibly can use within the FBI and that's something we are actively looking at," D'Antuono said in response to a question from CNN's Evan Perez.

Reuters (1/12) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called on the FBI to place those who were inside the Capitol to be added to "no-fly" list. Schumer said at a news briefing, "We cannot allow these same insurrectionists to get on a plane and cause more violence and more damage." He "discussed the matter with FBI Director Christopher Wray." The Hill (1/12, Carney, 5.69M) reports that Schumer also said, "These insurrectionists many of whom are known to be at large should not be able to hop on a flight. The insurrectionists who breached the U.S. Capitol fall under the definition of threats to the homeland." The New York Daily News (1/12, Sommerfeldt, Guse, 2.51M) also reports on Schumer's comments.

Joint Chiefs Condemn Capitol Riot.
The AP (1/12, Burns) reports, a memo signed by all members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff reminds military members that Joe Biden was duly elected as the next president, "that the deadly insurrection at the Capitol last week was an anti-democratic, criminal act, and that the right to free speech gives no one the right to commit violence." The memo said, "We support and defend the Constitution. Any act to disrupt the Constitutional process is not only against our traditions, values and oath; it is against the law."

Reuters (1/12, Ali) reports the memo "breaks nearly a week of silence by the military leaders after the assault on the Capitol," and some service members had "privately expressed concern that they had not been getting any direction from senior leaders" after the attack. JCS Chairman Gen. Mark Milley's silence on the matter until now "was in sharp contrast to June, when Milley made a controversial walk to a church with Trump after law enforcement officers backed by National Guard troops used tear-inducing chemicals and rubber bullets to clear the area of peaceful protesters."

The New York Times (1/12, Schmitt, 20.6M) casts the memo as "unusual," adding that the chiefs "found it necessary to remind their rank and file of their sworn oath to the country was extraordinary." The Times characterizes the memo as illustrating how the apolitical American military has been "thrust into an awkward, even potentially dangerous, position of possibly having to weigh dubious orders from the president against their oath to uphold the Constitution."

CNN (1/12, Liebermann, Starr, Gauette, 89.21M) reports on its website that the memo "underscores the scale of the challenge, as officials across the US security establishment scramble to deal with the aftermath of the chaos at the Capitol and determine how best to protect lawmakers." USA Today (1/12, Brook, 12.7M) reports, "The Pentagon is seeking to determine how many troops may have taken part in the riot," already having found an Army Special Forces captain was at the Capitol and investigating what she did there.

Facebook, Twitter Bans Splinter Fringe Groups Online.
The New York Times (1/12, Frenkel, 20.6M) reports that after many fringe groups "were banned from mainstream social media platforms" in the wake of the Capitol violence, they "have been relegated to half a dozen apps and platforms to organize their next steps." With Parker effectively taken offline due to Amazon no longer hosting the service in its data centers and President Trump getting kicked off Twitter and Facebook -- making it "harder for organizers to rally around a singular voice -- the groups’ scattered attempts to coordinate next steps appeared to be confusing for many of Mr. Trump’s supporters." However, it also could mean that attempts at disruption will "be harder to predict and could stretch for days."

Parler Faces Complex, Costly Barriers To Returning Online. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Tilley, Subscription Publication, 5.41M) reports that Parler, a social network popular in right-wing circles, faces complex an costly challenges to returning online after Amazon stopped hosting it on Amazon's cloud-computing service. It must either find a new vendor willing to host its data following the app's users stoking the deadly attack on the Capitol, or create its own network infrastructure. Social-media platform Gab chose the second approach after its cloud provider dropped it in the wake of an attack on a Pittsburgh synagouge, as the shooter used the platform to post anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denying messages.
Panel: Online Misinformation That Led To Capitol Violence Is “Radicalization.”

Reuters (1/12, Cullford) reports researchers told a Reuters Next panel that the online misinformation that led to the Capitol violence last week has passed false claims, reaching the point of “radicalization.” Anti-disinformation nonprofit First Draft co-founder Claire Wardle and Atlantic Council Digital Forensic Research Lab Director Graham Brookie "emphasized that these conspiracy theories would outlast the Trump administration and said it would likely play into upcoming events such as the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.” Additionally, Graphika Chief Innovation Officer Camille Francois and Brunswick Group Director Preston Golson “emphasized the growing threat of real-world harms from online disinformation in corporate industries”


In a Washington Post Live (1/7, 10.52M) event, Post reporter Ellen Nakashima interviewed NCSC Director William Evanina on a wide range of issues.

The Post put up a new of separate video clips highlighting different aspects of the interview. The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) posted a clip of Evanina saying that he believes that the SolarWinds hack "was the Russians," and that we'll see "more private sector companies that have been affected." The AP (1/12, Tucker) reports Evanina said that as the investigation into the hack continues, the number of federal agencies and companies impacted by it is expected to grow. Last week, the FBI and other agencies “attributed the intrusions to Russia as part of what officials described as an intelligence-gathering operation rather than an effort to damage or disrupt U.S. government operations." While officials "said at the time that fewer than 10 federal agencies were believed to have been compromised," Evanina said Tuesday, "I think this will expand accordingly as we identify” additional victims. Evanina added, "I think the hard part for the investigators is we don’t know what we don’t know, but I think this will continue to grow."

Regarding Twitter’s decision to remove the President from the platform, Evanina says in a Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) clip that such a decision is ultimately up to the company, adding, "Society needs to now come to grips with where we are with that safe space between First Amendment rights and the ability of private companies to do what they want on their own platforms...I don’t know if there’s a right or wrong, but they clearly have a right to do what they want to do."

In another clip, the Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) shows Evanina warning that current US domestic issues should not lull adversaries into believing that the nation is weak. Evanina said, "We don’t expect them to slow down or stop on their disinformation or amplification on social media...We are watching them watch us, and I would very cautiously let them know, do not let our vulnerability domestically here be a sign of weakness."

In another clip posted by the Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M), Evanina "said the three biggest counterintelligence threats to the incoming Biden-Harris administration are the geopolitical aspects of why China, Russia and Iran do what they do, big data theft and concerns about the U.S. supply chain."

Finally, another clip posted by the Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M), shows Evanina saying he was surprised that Iran interfered in the elections. Evanina said, "We saw at the end of the cycle, they were the main catalyst for actually taking action, and they continue to take action. I look at Iran as not having many options left...You really have to look at Iran and where they are in the global economy, which is nowhere. They are a caged animal and I think they’re very dangerous right now."

The interview generated several short Reuters items. Reuters (1/12, Landay) reports that in the interview, Evanina "told an online Washington Post event that U.S. adversaries were trying to interfere with Operation Warp Speed, the U.S. government operation distributing the vaccines." Evanina said, "Our adversaries are trying to disrupt that supply chain," and asked about those he is most concerned about, he replied, "I would say China and Russia right now."

In a separate piece, Reuters (1/12, Staff) reports that Evanina said that people are going to
Biden Team Urging Republicans To Swiftly Confirm National Security Picks.

Politico (1/12, Korecki, 6.73M) reports that President-elect Biden’s team is expected to call on Republicans to swiftly confirm the president-elect’s national security picks so they’re in place when the Democrat takes office next week. The team “will begin making the case Tuesday that there is a unique urgency in getting the positions filled as soon as possible so there is no gap in national security during a presidential transfer of power,” according to an unnamed source. Top priorities include confirming DHS Secretary nominee Alejandro Mayorkas and Defense Secretary nominee Lloyd Austin. They will also push to quickly confirm “secretary of State pick Antony Blinken and Avril Haines as director of national intelligence.”

Fox News (1/12, Singman, 23.99M) reports that Biden transition spokesman Andrew Bates said, “Many of these respected, qualified, crisis-tested nominees were announced in November, many have been previously confirmed, and their paperwork has been submitted. ... We look forward to continuing to work with both parties in good faith on timely confirmations.” Fox adds, “The Senate has traditionally confirmed national security nominees on Inauguration Day.” According to an unnamed source, “following a presidential election year, the Senate traditionally passes an organizing resolution, which includes the nuts and bolts for committees which would conduct the hearings for nominees, and details how the Senate will conduct itself for the next two years.”

Continuing Coverage: FBI Investigating Pipe Bombs Discovered In DC.

CBS News (1/12, 5.39M) reports that the FBI has released images of a suspect wanted as part of the agency’s investigation into pipe bombs discovered in DC last week.

Fox News (1/12, Wallace, 23.99M) reports that there is a $50,000 award for any information.” The released photos “showed an individual dressed in a gray sweatshirt with a hood over his or her head and a white mask hiding the person’s face.”

US Imposes Counter Terrorism Sanctions On Iran-linked People.

Reuters (1/12, Psaledakakis) reports that the US on Tuesday “imposed counter terrorism sanctions on five people it tied to Iran, designating them each as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT), according to the U.S. Treasury Department’s website.”

Pompeo: Iran Worked More Closely With Al Qaeda Following 2015 Nuclear Deal.

The AP (1/12) reports that on Tuesday, Secretary of State Pompeo “accused Iran of having secret ties with the al-Qaeda network and imposed new sanctions on several senior Iranian officials.” In a speech to the National Press Club, Pompeo “attacked Iran for alleged secret ties with al-Qaeda, citing newly declassified intelligence suggesting Tehran harbored the group’s No. 2, Abu Muhammad al-Masri, who was killed in August, reportedly by Israeli agents.” According to the AP, Pompeo “claimed that ties between al-Qaeda and Iran vastly improved in 2015, when the Obama administration, along with France, Germany and Britain, were finalizing the nuclear deal,” but “offered no evidence for the claim.”

The New York Times (1/12, Jakes, Schmitt, Barnes, 20.6M) reports Pompeo claimed Al Qaeda’s new base of operations is in Iran, but offered “no underlying intelligence as evidence.” The Times adds that Pompeo’s conclusions “were quickly tempered, and even contradicted, by some current and former American officials who said there was little new intelligence to suggest that Iran was any kind of active headquarters, much less a hub where Al Qaeda’s leaders can direct operations with the support of the government in Tehran.”

Bloomberg (1/12, Wadhams, 3.57M) reports that al-Masri “was on the FBI’s Most Wanted Terrorist list and had been indicted over U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.” Pompeo said, “Al-Qaeda has a new home base: It is the Islamic Republic of Iran. ... We ignore this Iran-al Qaeda nexus at our own peril.”

Reuters (1/12, Pamuk, Spetnagick) reports, “Pompeo also asserted that the Iranian
government had provided safe havens as well as logistical support such as ID cards and passports to enable al Qaeda activity and said the group had "centralized its leadership" inside Iran. However, "Terrorism experts voiced skepticism about Pompeo's claims, saying it long has been known that senior al Qaeda operatives were given refuge in Iran but that Pompeo was exaggerating that the group has made Iran its new home base."

Also reporting is NBC News (1/12, Luce, Williams, 4.91M) and USA Today (1/12, Shesgreen, Hjelmgard, 12.7M).

Cubans Angered Over Terrorism Designation, Ready To Move On To Biden.

The New York Times (1/12, Augustin, Semple, 20.6M) says Cuba's reaction to the US designating it a state sponsor of terrorism "was swift and vociferous." Cuba's government "accused Washington of hypocrisy, and called the label an act of 'political opportunism' by President Trump to obstruct relations between Cuba and the incoming administration of President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr." However, the Times says that "beyond indignation," Cubans "are ready to move on." The Times adds that "many in Cuba are hoping that Mr. Biden will shift American policy in ways that might ease the economic duress. The president-elect has said little publicly about his policy goals for Cuba, though during the campaign he attacked Mr. Trump's approach to Havana. ... And Mr. Biden's advisers have allowed that a normalization of relations with Cuba – essentially a return to the Obama-era détente – was the best strategy for effecting positive change." Also reporting is the AP (1/12, Rodriguez).

WSJ Praises State Department For Returning Cuba To List Of Terrorism Sponsors. A Wall Street Journal (1/12, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial lauds the State Department's decision this week to return Cuba to its list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Opinion: There Is "No Justice In Guantanamo Bay."

Brian Bouffard, a civilian defense counsel, and Aaron Shepard, a lieutenant commander in the US Navy JAG Corps, write in an op-ed in the Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) that "it should be abundantly clear that justice will never come at – or to – Guantánamo." For instance, there are "five men accused of plotting the 9/11 attacks, who were first charged in 2008 but whose trial still has not begun." Another problem is the imprisonment "without trial, a violation of every norm and custom under our constitutional system." The authors conclude that "unless there's a fundamental shift in our failed approach to justice at Guantánamo, all of our profitless moral compromising will amount to nothing but the loss of our national soul."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Acting US Attorney Christine Says "There's Just Nothing To" Trump's Claims Of Voter Fraud In Georgia.

The Washington Post (1/12, Zapotosky, 10.52M) reports acting US Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Bobby Christine, "whose predecessor abruptly resigned one week ago after President Trump complained officials were not doing enough to find election fraud in the state," on Monday "declared on a call with his staff...that 'there's just nothing to' the few claims of fraud the office was examining, according to an audio recording obtained by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution." The Post adds Christine "suggested that he was surprised to learn the office had not found significant election fraud issues."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (1/12, Joyner, 1.46M) reports Christine had "apparently convened the conference call to reassure federal lawyers in the Northern District office – most of whom are working remotely – that he was not pushing what Justice Department officials have called baseless claims of election fraud in...Joe Biden's victory in Georgia. Yet the questions from staff attorneys revealed deep suspicions and fears of political interference." According to the Journal-Constitution, "Attorneys asked and re-asked why First Assistant U.S. Attorney Erskine had not been appointed as Pak's replacement during the transition."

NYTimes Analysis: Trump's Election Challenges To "Haunt" Georgia Republicans.
A New York Times (1/12, Fausset, Hakim, 20.6M) analysis titled “In Georgia, Trump’s Attacks On Election Still Haunt Republicans” says that while the House impeachment charge against the President “stems from his role in inciting a mob to attack the U.S. Capitol last week,” the resolution includes “another element of Mr. Trump’s behavior that is also drawing condemnation as an abuse of presidential power: His pressure campaign to persuade Georgia officials to overturn his electoral loss in the state.” The Times adds that even if the impeachment bid “fails or fades, Mr. Trump’s efforts to subvert the will of Georgia’s voters will continue to resonate, both for the president and for politicians in Georgia.”

**Election Security Legislation Likely To Gain Traction In Democrat-controlled Congress.**

The Hill (1/12, Miller, 5.69M) reports, “Efforts to boost election security are likely to gain traction in the new Congress” with Democrats in control of both chambers and the White House.” Though the “aftermath of a contentious presidential race could also bolster Republican support for new measures to secure U.S. elections” the “divisions still exist on how far each party is willing to go.” Sen. Mark Warner, incoming Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman, said, “Free and fair elections are central to our Democracy and our identity as Americans, which is why I’m going to continue working to ensure that our elections remain safe, transparent, and free from foreign influence.” Warner plans to work to pass the Honest Ads Act, which he “introduced in 2019 alongside Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Lindsay Graham (R-S.C.) that aimed to fight foreign interference through increasing the transparency of election advertisements on social media platforms.”

**ODNI’s John Beieier Discusses Digital Transformation Of Federal Agencies, IC.**

Federal News Network (1/12, Brust, 220) interviewed John Beieier, the director of Science and Technology for ODNI, about digital transformation in the federal government for Federal Monthly Insights - Digital Transformation. In the IC, “agencies want to stay on top of artificial intelligence, machine learning and biometrics development.” Beieier discussed “technological areas like artificial intelligence, machine learning, but also tons of other areas.” He said, “We need to consider that each specific agency might not think about when executing their own mission.” Beieier told Tom Temin on Federal Drive, “The goal is to apply these technologies and techniques to the large amount of information which can be surfaced to our analysts, and then draw conclusions that policymakers need for informed decision-making.”

**CIA Declassifies Trove Of Documents Pertaining To UFOs.**

The Daily Mail (UK) (1/12, Sheets, 4.11M) reports, “The CIA has declassified a trove of more than 700 documents about UFO sightings and research dating back to the 1970s.” The agency released “every single one of its files on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs)” on The Black Vault website on Thursday. The files were “released ahead of a June deadline for US intelligence agencies to reveal everything they know about UFOs to Congress under a clause slipped into the $2.3 trillion coronavirus relief bill signed into law by President Donald Trump in December.”

Newsweek (1/12, Murdock, 2.67M) reports that John Grenewald Jr., who runs The Black Vault, “said in a blog post announcing the drop that the CIA had housed the large collection of UFO-related files on a CD which his website was finally able to purchase in 2020 after years of formal requests.” Grenewald said that while the CIA suggested it amounted to its total collection, research will be ongoing to check if there are more documents being kept by the agency. “The Select Committee on Intelligence has “asked heads of relevant federal agencies,” including DNI, “to submit a congressional report detailing suspected UAP cases within 180 days.”

Also reporting is the New York Post (1/12, Sparks, 7.45M).

**Document: US Has Stepped Up Intelligence Operations Against China.**

The Washington Times (1/12, Gertz, 626K) reports that “The U.S. Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific” reveals that the US “has stepped up intelligence activities directed against China’s extensive spying operations in the United States and around the world.” The once-secret document “called for maintaining an intelligence advantage over China and to ‘inoculate the United States, its
allies and partners against Chinese intelligence activities." The 10-page document, approved by President Trump in 2018, "said the United States also should equip allies 'in operating against China and countering China's clandestine activities in their countries." It "calls on U.S. intelligence agencies to 'strengthen defensive and offensive counterintelligence functions across the public and private sectors to neutralize China's growing intelligence advantages; expand intelligence diplomacy and law enforcement cooperation with other governments to bolster understanding of Chinese intentions and capabilities.'"

DIA Strategy Aims To Understand Customers' Needs Better.

CalISR & Networks (1/12, Eversden) reports that the DIA CIO's "four-year strategy aims to improve the relationship with its intelligence customers after stakeholders provided feedback that said the office didn't understand their needs or what skills the office's workforce should have." The strategy, released in December, includes four goals: "Keep customers' needs at the core of the operation"; "Make data accessible and valuable for partners"; "Optimize core services, providing needed access to networks and IT tools for customers to meet mission needs"; "Strengthen the skillsets of the office's workforce to prepare for new technologies." DIA CIO Jack Gumtow wrote, "We will accomplish this by institutionalizing the tenets of modernization, including operating as a digital organization, continuous strategic evaluation, and ensuring customer-centricity in all we do while continuing to strengthen our core infrastructure and enhance data access and availability."

Official: EU To Aggressively Pursue Space Strategy To Counter US, Chinese Technology.

Reuters (1/12) reports that the EU "will pursue a more aggressive European space strategy to prevent being muscled out by U.S. and Chinese launcher technology, setting up an European alliance with industry this year," according to European Commissioner Thierry Breton. Breton asked if the EU's "current approach successfully get us to 2050, considering the disruptions in the sector that we all observe." The official said he will "gather in the next months all the actors to initiate a European Launcher alliance to be able to jointly define...a common roadmap for the next generation of launchers and technologies relevant to ensure an autonomous access to space."

Sources: Administration Told European Companies Connected To Russian Pipeline They Face Sanctions.

Reuters (1/12, Gardner, Psaledakis) reports that the State Department "this month told European companies which it suspects are helping to build Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline that they face the risk of sanctions." The Trump Administration is preparing "a final round of punitive measures against the project, two sources said on Tuesday." The agency is "expected to issue a report by Thursday or Friday on companies it believes are helping the Russia-to-Germany pipeline." Companies such as Zurich Insurance Group "could be listed in the report, the source said."

North Korea's Leader, Sister Address Party At Close Of Eighth Congress.

Reuters (1/12, Cha) reports, "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for increased military power and greater nuclear war deterrence, state news agency KCNA reported on Wednesday, during the close of the Eighth Party Congress. The party congress took place "amid a prolonged gridlock in talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear and missile programmes in return for U.S. sanctions relief." Kim said, "We must do everything we can to increase nuclear war deterrence even further as we build the strongest military capability." Kim's remarks "come after South Korean President Moon Jae-in pledged to help engineer a breakthrough in stalled denuclearisation talks."

Bloomberg (1/12, Lee, 3.57M) reports, meanwhile, that Kim Yo Jong "opened a new rhetorical attack on their neighbor, slamming South Korea for spying on its actions during a rare party congress that included a military parade in Pyongyang." The sister of leader Kim Jong Un "condemned South Korea for taking a 'hostile approach toward fellow countrymen in the North,' and called the country's intelligence officials 'idiots,' for paying so much attention to what Pyongyang was doing during the gathering." Kim Yo Jong said, "The southerners are a truly weird group that's hard to understand."
FBI Agent Infiltrated Group Allegedly Plotting To Kidnap Michigan Governor.

WXYZ-TV Grand Rapids, MI (1/12, Martin, 105K) reports, “Court transcripts released in the alleged Governor Whitmer kidnapping conspiracy say that an FBI agent infiltrated the group claiming to be an explosives expert. The FBI agent “was only able to get into the group after one of the members got cold feet about the plan and went to a local police department with his concerns.” The defendants in the case face “federal charges of conspiracy to commit kidnapping.” The transcripts unsealed Tuesday reveal that the group participated in an additional, highly intricate dry run of the kidnapping, all under the cover of night in mid-September. The FBI agent “was along for the trip,” and “told the group that they would need about $4,000 worth of explosives to knock the bridge out.”

FBI Raids California Home In Case Involving Threats Made At Lawmaker.

The Salinas Californian (1/12, Szydlowski, 24K) reports, “FBI agents raided a Seaside home Tuesday in a case involving possible threats at an out of state lawmaker, police say.” Seaside police were alerted before FBI “searched a house in the 1500 block of Luxton Street, said police Deputy Chief Nick Borges.” The FBI “did not arrest anyone, he said.”

Pennsylvania Woman Sentenced To 35 Years In Prison For "Catfishing" Boy.

The New York Post (1/12, Rhett Miller, 7.45M) reports that a Pennsylvania woman “who catfished a Florida boy using racy photos of her own daughter has been sentenced to 35 years in federal prison.” The woman “pleaded guilty in October 2019 to manufacturing child pornography and online enticement of a minor for using social media to trick the Florida teen into believing he was actually messaging a 16-year-old girl,” according to the US Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She “sent the boy images of her own daughter to make him believe an attractive 16-year-old girl was romantically interested in him.” The FBI’s special agent in charge at its Philadelphia division, Michael Driscoll, said, “Today’s sentence ensures she is held accountable for the considerable damage done, and keeps her from victimizing anyone else’s child.”

FBI Agents Raid Pennsylvania Home.

KYW-TV Philadelphia (1/12) reports from Chester County, Pennsylvania, “FBI agents swarmed a house in Chester County on Tuesday. They carried out boxes and boxes of items. It all unfolded on the 100 block of Applegate Drive in West Goshen Township.” KYW-TV adds, “At this hour, there are still more questions than answers as to why FBI agents raided this home Tuesday morning and what they were looking to find. Neighbors in this normally quiet community in West Goshen Township were jarred by the sight of numerous FBI agents raiding a home on the 100 block of Applegate drive on Tuesday morning. The FBI has not specified exactly what sparked this activity. Officials confirm it's in relation to an ongoing matter, without any further comment.”

Police, FBI Investigating Interruption Of Virtual Event Held For Deceased Civil Right Icon.

The AP (1/13) reports, “The Phoenix Police Department is investigating after a virtual funeral for civil rights icon and city leader Calvin Coolidge Goode was interrupted” on Tuesday by a hacker who yelled “racist slurs.” An email sent by Maggie Cox, a Phoenix Police Department spokesperson, said the decision to make the department the lead investigative organization was made “after speaking with the FBI.” The email added, “This type of language and disruption is unacceptable and only divides our community. We are committed to working with our community in identifying the person(s) responsible for this act.” The KZZ-FM Phoenix (1/12, Estes, 10K) website publishes a similar story. An online KSAZ-TV Phoenix (1/12, 325K) article says the Phoenix Police Department “and the FBI are investigating” the interruption of Tuesday’s virtual event. Online KOLD-TV Tucson, AZ (1/12) coverage of this story is entitled “Police, FBI Investigating After Calvin Goode Memorial Hacked With Racist Comments.” An online KTAR-FM Glendale, AZ (1/12,
37K says Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego was speaking during Tuesday’s virtual when “was hijacked” by an individual who began “repeatedly spewing racist slurs.” Gallego “said on Twitter that the Phoenix Police Department and FBI were investigating” this matter.

Utah Sex Offender Charged Faces New Human Trafficking Charges.

*Deseret News (UT)* (1/12, Reavy, 114K) reports that a Utah man “was charged Tuesday in 3rd District Court with enticing a minor, a second-degree felony.” He faces “a charge of child human trafficking now faces criminal charges.” A local police officer “working with the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force was posing as a 13-year-old girl online when [Craig Thomas] Defa contacted him, according to charging documents, and offered the "girl" $100 to perform a sex act.” After the man agreed to meet the girl, a “team of FBI agents were in the area in unmarked cars, according to a police affidavit, and took him into custody after he arrived.”

DEA, FBI Involved With Raid Operation In California.

In website coverage, *KXTV-TV* Sacramento, CA (1/12, Bingley) reports the DEA and the FBI were involved with a Tuesday raid operation that was conducted in Sacramento County, California. Unidentified officials “said it was a part of a federal wiretap investigation and that it is drug-related.” An online *KOVR-TV* Sacramento, CA (1/12, 46K) article that features similar coverage says unidentified “officials did not disclose how many people were arrested” during Tuesday’s raid operation, which targeted 14 locations. The *KTXL-TV* Sacramento, CA (1/12, Johnson, 79K) website also covers this story.

FBI Offering $30K Reward For Information On 1991 Murders In Massachusetts.

The *AP* (1/12) reports that the Boston FBI Field Office is “offering a reward of up to $30,000 for information leading to the arrest of” Hung Tien Pham, who is “accused in the execution-style killings of five men at a social club in Boston’s Chinatown neighborhood 30 years ago.” Pham’s accomplices “are serving life sentences after being arrested in China and returned to the U.S., but Pham has never been found.”

The *Boston Herald* (1/12, 327K) reports FBI Boston Division SAC Joseph Bonavolonta said in a statement, “It is with heavy hearts that we mark today’s anniversary of one of the bloodiest massacres in Boston’s history.” He added, “Today, we are renewing our call for the public’s assistance in locating longtime fugitive Hung Tien Pham, who is wanted for his alleged role in the ruthless execution-style murders of five men at a Chinatown social club.”

*Dorchester (MA) Reporter* (1/12, 54K) reports Pham “is now 60 years old, and his aliases include Hung Suk, Hung Pham, Pham Hung, Hung-Tien Pham, Chung Hung Fan, Hung Tien Fan, Ah Hung, Fan Chung-Hung, Tien Pham Hung, and Hung T. Pham.” *WCVB-TV* Boston (1/12, 361K) reports FBI officials “said Pham was born in North Vietnam and is fluent in Vietnamese, Chinese, and English.” They added that Pham “was an associate of the Ping On crime syndicate during the 1980s and early 1990s.”

*WPRI-TV* Providence, RI (1/12, 316K) reports Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins said in a statement, “For those of us who were in the Boston area 30 years ago, the massacre is something that cannot be forgotten.” She added, “Boston remembers these lives that were brutally taken.”

Also reporting are *WPX-TV* Boston (1/12), *Springfield (MA) Republican* (1/12, 592K), and *WHDH-TV* Boston (MA) (1/12, 101K).

California Man Sentenced Over Child Pornography.

*KLAS-TV* Las Vegas (1/12) reports John David Yoder “was sentenced Monday on one count of child exploitation enterprise and one count of conspiracy to distribute child pornography.” Yofer “rented a house in Desert Hot Springs for the production of child pornography,” and he “produced more than 20,000 images and videos depicting children.” He was arrested following an investigation into a “conspiracy with ties to Las Vegas and Desert Hot Springs,” California.

*KVNU-TV* Las Vegas (1/12, 132K) reports Yoder “met co-defendants William Clyde Thompson, Eric Monsivais and Noland Harper on a website ‘dedicated to pedophilia,’” and they “conspired to...
contact at least six children at a skate park in Desert Hot Springs, for the purpose of sexually exploiting them. The case “was investigated by the FBI and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.”

**Continuing Coverage: FBI Investigating Tennessee State Legislators.**

The Chattanooga Times Free Press (1/12, 168K) reports Tennessee Republican Rep. Robin Smith “said Tuesday she has no explanations for Friday’s raid by FBI agents on her home and legislative offices but is fully cooperating with the investigation that involves two other lawmakers and legislative aides.”

**Florida Sheriff Announces Results Of Human Trafficking Operations In 2020.**

WOKV-AM Jacksonville, FL (1/12) reports Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams held Tuesday a press conference, where he “announced that Jacksonville Police, along with other community partners, were involved in rescuing or identifying 35 victims of human trafficking locally in 2020.” He said in his remarks, “Human trafficking is modern day slavery. It is a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in a commercial sex act.”

WTLV-TV Jacksonville, FL (1/12, 157K) also reports.

**FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS**

**San Francisco City Administrator Resigns Amid Corruption Probe.**

The San Francisco Examiner (1/12, 408K) reports that San Francisco City Administrator Naomi Kelly “tendered her resignation Tuesday after federal authorities charged her husband with fraud for allegedly accepting bribes including a paid family vacation to China.” Kelly “is resigning after taking a six-week leave of absence Dec. 2 in light of the allegations against her husband, former San Francisco Public Utilities Commission General Manager Harlan Kelly.” Naomi Kelly “denied the allegations in her resignation letter Tuesday to Mayor London Breed and said the case was ‘based on the false statements of an admitted liar.’ She was casting doubt on the credibility of Walter Wong, the permit expediter who cooperated with the FBI against her husband in exchange for leniency in his own federal case.”

**Connecticut Judge Dismisses Defamation Lawsuit Filed By Former Lottery Chair.**

The AP (1/12) reports that Judge Kenneth Povodator “has dismissed a defamation lawsuit filed by the former state lottery chair against fellow lottery officials over what he called lies they told others about his conduct, including claims he took bribes.” The Connecticut judge “threw out the case Monday, saying Frank Farricker did not show probable cause he would prevail if the case went to trial.” Farricker sued former Connecticut Lottery President Anne Noble and other officials, “saying they made false statements that damaged his reputation and caused him ‘severe’ emotional distress.” Former Vice President Chelsea Turner “contacted the FBI in 2014 about her concerns about Farricker,” and an “FBI investigation ended with no charges.” Turner left the lottery after officials “discovered she had gone to the FBI.”

**CYBER DIVISION**

**SolarWinds Says Hackers Were Accessing Its Systems In September 2019.**

The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Sebastian, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports SolarWinds Corp. said Tuesday that the computer breach linked to the Russian hack began at least a month earlier than it first disclosed. According to the company, hackers were accessing its systems in early September 2019, but cybersecurity experts suspect preparations for the attack go back even further.

The Austin (TX) American Statesman (1/12, Carlson, Subscription Publication, 261K) reports that SolarWinds’ investigation “has shown the breach likely has affected nearly every level of government, as well as potentially hundreds of private companies.” High-profile targets reportedly
include DOJ, the Treasury Department, DHS, and DOE, “along with private companies including Microsoft.” In an SEC filing, SolarWinds “said a ‘highly sophisticated and novel code’ was designed to inject malicious code into the system without arousing the suspicion of the software development and build teams.” On Tuesday, CrowdStrike, “said it has also identified a third malware strain, called Sunspot, tied to the attack.”

City Info Security (1/12, Schwartz) reports that “experts have said that the SolarWinds supply chain attack has all of the hallmarks of an espionage operation.” The outlet adds that confirmed victims “of second-stage attacks” also include branches of the Pentagon and the Departments of Commerce and State. The company “says digital forensic investigators have determined that the attackers appear to have first penetrated its network by September 2019,” and by the “following month, they altered Orion code builds to test their ability to inject malicious code into the software builds, the company says.”

NextGov (1/12, Kulpell, Boyd) reports that the “federal government’s response group – the Cyber Unified Coordination Group – previously said Russia was ‘likely’ behind what it believes is a widespread intelligence-gathering campaign.” SolarWinds “acknowledges” the group’s statement, but “said its team has yet to independently verify who the attackers are.” CrowdStrike “also does not attribute the Sunspot, Sunburst or the post-exploitation tool called Teardrop to known adversaries and is tracking the activity as ‘StellarParticle.’”

Also reporting is the Wall Street Journal (1/12, McMillan, Subscription Publication, 8.41M).

Damage Persists After Jersey City Cyber Attack Threatened “Public Health Crisis.”

The Hudson County (NJ) Jersey Journal (1/12, D’Auria, 1.55M) reports, “The recent cyberattack at the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority inflicted damage that lasted months and threatened to cause a ‘public health crisis,’” it said. Officials “have said little about the Sept. 30 ransomware attack, which MUA documents said blocked access to ‘vital’ water and sewer information.” At a December meeting, the “MUA Board of Commissioners voted to approve a new $391,000 emergency contract with cybersecurity firm Digital Team Six” that they called “necessary to avert a public health crisis.” However, the “extent of the potential public health crisis is unclear.” Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop wrote in an op-ed last September that “they’re the only municipal police department on the eastern seaboard with police officers assigned to the FBI Cyber Security Task Force.”

Disrupting Bitcoin May Enable Cybersecurity Companies To Thwart Ransomware Attacks.

Law360 (1/12, Subscription Publication, 9K) reports, “Bitcoin has found its killer app in ransomware, a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system or computer files until an extortion demand is paid.” The outlet calls ransomware attacks the “other plague of 2020, except with ransomware, there will never be a vaccine.” Companies cannot “ever enjoy immunity from a cyberattack. Cybersecurity remains an oxymoron.” Still, crucial “to any successful ransomware scheme is collecting the ransom in pseudo-anonymous cryptocurrency, typically bitcoin.” Administrators must disrupt the flow of bitcoin, the analysis advises.

Alleged DarkMarket Operator Arrested.

AFP (1/12) (1/12) reports the DEA and the FBI were involved with an investigation that led to the recent arrest of an unnamed Australian national. The arrested individual is the alleged operator of DarkMarket, which is suspected of being the “world’s largest illegal marketplace on the darknet.” Deutsche Welle (DEU) (1/12, 76K) (1/12) publishes a similar article.

The Washington Times (1/12, Blake, 526K) reports that on Tuesday, international authorities “touted the takedown of DarkMarket, a darknet marketplace that law enforcement” organizations “described as being the largest of its kind in the world.” The DEA and the FBI were involved with the investigation that led to the takedown, according to the Times article and a similar Bloomberg (1/12, Nicola, 3.57M) story. Similar coverage that is run by the Daily Mail (UK) (1/12, Lackey, 4.11M) and The Times (UK) (1/13, Subscription Publication, 141K) mentions the FBI but not the DEA.
National Security Community Reports Warned Of Supply Chain Hacks.

C4ISR & Networks (1/12, Eversden) reports, “Twice in the last four years, the national security community warned that hacks through IT suppliers posed grave threats to defense and intelligence agencies.” Two recent reports “alerted the community that hackers could disrupt weapons systems by attacking through the supply chain.” They “suggested the Pentagon must quickly develop methods to reduce risk from its suppliers.” However, the “steps the department took to strengthen contractor cybersecurity, including its Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification risk audits, did not come in time to prevent breaches of some DoD offices that media reports have disclosed.”

DOD “says its investigation, expected to take significant time, has not turned up signs so far that hackers entered through SolarWinds software that was compromised at various federal offices and large companies.”

Email Security Provider Mimecast Says Hackers Targeted Its Products To Spy On Customers.

Reuters (1/12) reports, “Email security provider Mimecast said on Tuesday that hackers had hijacked its products in order to spy on its customers.” Mimecast “said it had been alerted to the attack by investigators at Microsoft and that “a sophisticated threat actor” had compromised the certificate used to guard connections between its products and Microsoft’s cloud services.” Mimecast “said around 10% of its more than 36,000 customers had been affected, but it believed a low single digit number of users had been specifically targeted.” Three anonymous cybersecurity investigators “suspected the hackers who compromised Mimecast were the same group that broke into U.S. software maker SolarWinds and a host of sensitive U.S. government agencies.”

Experts: Some Capitol Rioters In Legal Jeopardy With Trove Of Archived Parler Data.

The Washington Post (1/12, Riley, 10.52M) reports, “Researchers and analysts say a trove of data archived from Parler “poses a real risk for those who used the platform to share their involvement in a pro-Trump mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol.” New America senior fellow Peter Singer said the “potential effects go well beyond tagging who participated in the takeover of the Capitol.” The hacker whose Twitter handle is donk_enby archived “up to 99.9 percent of the data from Parler before Amazon’s cloud services took it offline Monday, Gizmodo’s Deli Cameron first reported.” Kiel Brennan-Marquez, a University of Connecticut law professor, said, “All the data would be fair game for law enforcement.” Security researcher Troy Hunt “pointed out that both Facebook and Twitter have controls in place to prevent the same kind of scraping.”

BlackBerry Sells 90 Patents To Huawei In Push To Unload Intellectual Property.

The Globe and Mail (CAN) (1/12, Silcoff, 1.09M) reports that BlackBerry has sold 90 patents to Huawei, “part of a broader effort” by BlackBerry “to unload most of its intellectual property.” US Patent and Trademark Office records “show that BlackBerry assigned ownership of the patents to Huawei on Dec. 23,” though the company owns roughly 38,000 patents. The sale “raises questions about the Canadian government’s innovation strategy and its commitment to protect key assets from falling into the hands of foreign companies, particularly those whose motives have raised alarms among Canada’s national security allies.” Critic James Cumming said, “I think it’s clear our partners [in the Five Eyes national security alliance] are clear about not doing “business with Huawei in 5G,” adding there is a “concern regarding security risk with dealing with Huawei.”

Experts Warn British Columbia’s Vaccine Supply Vulnerable To Cyber Attacks.

The Vancouver Sun (CAN) (1/13, Robinson, 519K) reports that Pure Storage executive Shawn Rosemarin “says a successful attack” on British Columbia’s vaccination program “could bring the province’s immunization drive to a standstill, delaying vaccinations, and putting people at risk.” BC health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry “underscored the cyber security risk, telling reporters B.C. was aware of national and international information that there has been a concerted effort to try and disrupt the cold chain, for example, and to sabotage immunization programs.” According to
Rosemarin, the "impact of a successful cyberattack on the vaccination program would be huge, and the monetary value of such an attack would be very high." Nationwide, the "Canadian Centre for Cyber Security released a bulletin on the continued impact of COVID-19 on cyber threat activity" last month.

Continuing Coverage: NSA Cyber Directorate Releases 2020 Year In Review.

NextGov (1/12, Jasper) reports that NSA’s Cyber Directorate “touted its role in securing the 2020 presidential election and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in supporting vaccine protection” and DOD’s “pivot to telework in a new report.” The Cyber Directorate “released its 2020 NSA Cybersecurity Year in Review highlighting the directorate’s accomplishments in its first full year of operation Friday.” It comes “as NSA and other federal agencies continue to deal with the fallout of a major hack that likely originated in Russia affecting multiple federal agencies.” ExecutiveGov (1/12, Rivers) quotes the Cybersecurity Directorate’s director, Anne Neuberger, saying “As we began our first year, we took a deliberate approach to building trust by sharing unclassified threat and cybersecurity advice. … We forged deeper relationships with our U.S. government and industry partners to deliver better outcomes than any of us could achieve alone.”

Stefanik: Says DoD will become leader in AI with NDAA.

Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) writes in Defense News (1/12, 73K) that Congress, in the fiscal 2021 NDAA, adopted 17 recommendations from the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI), which will help make DoD a leader in AI. The technology will help the military “more effectively identify and engage targets, streamline our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) systems, and assist in everyday human operations.” DOD must also “find ways to enable the construction of robust data sets – the backbone of machine learning and AI – to be shared by government and private industry partners for AI development.”

Other Washington News

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Three Federal Executions Scheduled For Before Trump Leaves Office Delayed.

The AP (1/12, Tarm, Hollingsworth) reports the Administration’s plans to conduct the first federal execution “of a female inmate in nearly seven decades were on hold Tuesday after a judge ordered a competency hearing, and two other executions set for later this week also were halted because the inmates tested positive for COVID-19.” The AP adds the executions “were to be the last before… Joe Biden, an opponent of the federal death penalty, is sworn-in next week,” and “now it’s unclear whether there will be any additional executions under President Donald Trump, who resumed federal executions in July after 17-year pause.” The AP says “ten federal inmates have since been put to death.”

The Washington Post (1/12, Marimow, 10.52M) reports that on Tuesday, the Justice Department “asked the Supreme Court… to clear the way for the execution of Lisa Montgomery,” who was scheduled to die Tuesday by lethal injection. Reuters (1/12, Acharya, Singh) reports the Supreme Court’s conservative majority “previously allowed all of the 10 previous executions last year under death penalty opponent Trump, a Republican, to proceed.” Meanwhile, the Indianapolis Star (1/12, DePompeo, Magdaleno, Mack, 662K) reports that as was the case during the executions last year, “anti-death penalty protesters made their presence known outside the Terre Haute, Ind., penitentiary that houses federal death row.”

Media Analyses: Impeachment Looms As Trump Defends “Totally Appropriate” Speech.

President Trump traveled to the border town of Alamo, Texas, on Tuesday to highlight progress made on the US-Mexico border wall during his term, but a near-certain second impeachment and the aftermath of last week’s Capitol riot by Trump supporters overshadows the trip in media coverage. Reports highlight Trump’s rejection of culpability for the fatal violence, noting that
Trump said his words at a rally immediately prior to the melee were "totally appropriate." Late Tuesday, for the first time several House Republicans said they will vote in favor of the article of impeachment Wednesday.

The Houston Chronicle (1/12, Wallace, Wermund, 982K) reports the President "returned to Texas Tuesday to make his first public appearance since his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol last week as he visited the border wall that he made central to his campaign for president in 2016." Trump "touted his immigration crackdown," which he "deemed an incredible success story," as he signed a 'Donald Trump' plaque mounted at the bottom of a segment of the wall in the town of Alamo in Hidalgo County." Trump said, "It's been tremendously successful, far beyond what anyone thought. ... We can't let the next Administration even think about taking it down."

The Dallas Morning News (1/12, Corchado, Gillman, 772K) reports Trump "boasted that his signature project has saved countless lives and billions of tax dollars," and "also insisted that he bears no blame for last week’s riot at the Capitol and shrugged aside Democrats’ demand to hold him accountable and oust him with just days left on his term." The Corpus Christi (TX) Caller-Times (1/12, Moritz, 152K) reports Trump, "in a tone far more measured and reserved than the often raucous one he often used at rallies to cement support for his immigration policies, also tacitly acknowledged the unrest and violence last week." Trump said, "This was a difficult year and a very difficult election. Now is the time for our nation to heal. And it's time for peace and for calm, respect for law enforcement and the great people within law enforcement."

The AP (1/12, Colvin, Miller) reports Trump "took no responsibility for his part in fomenting a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol last week, despite his comments encouraging supporters to march on the Capitol and praise for them while they were still carrying out the assault." Trump said, "People thought that what I said was totally appropriate." The McAllen (TX) Monitor (1/12, 101K) reports Trump "also pushed back at discussions that have been floating around" since last week about removing him via the 25th Amendment. KTRK-TV Houston (1/12, 97K) reported that "the White House hailed this as a commemoration of President Trump's the 450 miles of border wall," but Trump "could not escape the politics of the moment." Trump: "The 25th Amendment is of zero risk to me, but will come back to haunt Joe Biden and the Biden Administration."

KDFW-TV Dallas (1/12, 108K) reported Trump "addressed last week's siege that killed five people, including a police officer though he did not take blame for it, and he defended the speech he gave prior to the assault, calling it totally appropriate." Trump "also alluded to the tearing down of monuments across the country this summer during protests following the death of George Floyd." Trump: "As I have consistently said throughout my administration, we believe in respecting America's history and traditions, not tearing them down. We believe in the rule of law, not in violence or rioting."

KAMP-TV Amarillo, TX (1/12, 5K) reported Trump "did address the recent events in our national capital...but the majority of his speech here in Alamo revolved around the border wall." Trump: "Unlike those who came before me, I kept my promises. And today we celebrate an extraordinary milestone, the completion of the promised 450 miles of border wall." Acting Deputy DHS Secretary Ken Cuccinelli said on WMAL-AM Washington (1/12), "This is the first president to actually execute on the wall."

Ben Tracy said on the CBS Evening News (1/12, story 3, 2:15, O'Donnell, 4.39M), "Trump now claims there was nothing wrong with what he said last week that incited the assault on the Capitol." Trump: "It's been analyzed and people thought what I said was totally appropriate." Tracy: "That is obviously not true, given Democrats are set to impeach the President, and many members of his own party say he is at least partially responsible for what his supporters did after he told them this." Trump: "We fight like hell, and if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore."

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports Trump "warned Democrats not to press for the invocation of the 25th Amendment, declaring that such a move would 'come back to haunt' Biden. Trump also "continued to pressure Democrats not to impeach him for a second time, claiming that such a move would further divide the country." The Los Angeles Times (1/12, 3:37M) reports Trump said, "The impeachment hoax is a continuation of the greatest and most vicious witch hunt in the history of our country. It's causing tremendous anger, division and pain, far greater than..."
most people will ever understand, which is very dangerous for the USA, especially at this very tender time."

The New York Times (1/12, Dobbins, Romero, 20.6M) says Trump’s "choice of Texas for his first public appearance since the Capitol mob attack was not accidental: The state not only showcases the border wall, which Mr. Trump is celebrating in his presidency’s chaotic last days, but the Republican Party’s success in limiting the game-changing Democratic gains that flipped states such as Arizona and Georgia.” Fox News (1/12, Shaw, 23.99M) reports on its website that the visited offered Trump "an opportunity to draw attention away from the growing controversy related to the riots last week at the Capitol building."

The New York Daily News (1/12, Sommerfeldt, 2.51M) reports Trump "insisted Tuesday that his riot-inciting speech last week was ‘totally appropriate’ – even though it prompted his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol in a blood-curdling attack on democracy that left a police officer and at least four other people dead.” CNN (1/12, 89.21M) reports on its website that Trump "likened attempts to impeach him for a second time to a ‘witch hunt’ and baselessly warned that his successor...might be removed from office himself."

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports that Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) “joined Trump aboard Air Force One on Tuesday...less than one week after declaring on the Senate floor that he and the president had had ‘a hell of a journey’ but that it was time to count Trump’s efforts to overturn the results of the November election.” The Hill (1/12, Samuels, 5.69M) reports officials in the city of Alamo saying there was “little advance notice from the White House and no details provided about the president’s visit. City manager Robert Salinas said in a letter Monday that officials there had not been contacted about the visit and had no details about his schedule while in town.” Reuters (1/12, Shalal), Bloomberg (1/12, Wingrove, 3.57M), the New York Post (1/12, Nelson, 7.45M), and Politico (1/12, Forgey, 6.73M) are among the other sources covering the visit.

Cheney, Several Other House Republicans Say They Will Vote To Impeach. All three broadcast networks opened their Tuesday evening newscasts with the growing momentum toward impeachment on Capitol Hill. David Muir said on ABC’s World News Tonight (1/12, lead story, 7:15, 7.37M), “House Democrats are moving forward, [with] a vote set for tomorrow to impeach the President for incitement of insurrection. That would make him the first President in history to be impeached twice.” Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), “the daughter of the former Vice President and the number three Republican in the House,” said Tuesday that she will back impeachment. ABC’s Jonathan Karl: “This is a big deal. Liz Cheney is a conservative Republican who commands respect, and her words about the President couldn’t be more damning. She says, ‘The President of the United States summoned this mob, assembled the mob and lit the flame of this attack. None of this,’ she says, ‘would have happened without the President.’”

Norah O’Donnell said in opening the CBS Evening News (1/12, lead story, 4:20, 4.39M) that in “bombshell” news, “the third-highest ranking Republican in the US House...is breaking with her party, saying she will vote to impeach President Trump tomorrow, because, she says, there has ‘never been a greater betrayal by a president of his office and oath.’ Now, Cheney’s decision will no doubt open the floodgates for Republicans, all but assuring Mr. Trump will become the only President to be impeached twice.” CBS’ Nancy Cordes: “Cheney is a member of Republican leadership, and, so her support for impeachment is sure to influence others, as will this news from the Senate’s Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who has reportedly told associates that impeachment could help his party get past President Trump.”

Lester Holt said on NBC’s Nightly News (1/12, lead story, 3:50, 5.85M), “We heard from the President today, who offered no regrets or contrition for his role in egging on the attack on the Capitol. And so, with eight days left in his term, Democrats are focused on ending the Trump presidency the hard way – impeachment.” NBC’s Peter Alexander: “President Trump, in his first public appearance since the Capitol riots he’s accused of inciting, expressed no regrets and taking no responsibility.... That defiance as he faces becoming the first President ever to be impeached twice.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer: “He blames the violence that he helped cause on others. He blamed the divisiveness that he regularly caused on others. Donald Trump should not hold office one day longer.”
Miller, Jelonick remarks, “Already scheduled to leave office next week, Trump is on the verge of becoming the only president in history to be twice impeached. His incendiary rhetoric at a rally ahead of the Capitol uprising is now in the impeachment charge against him, even as the falsehoods he spread about election fraud are still being championed by some Republicans.” Reuters (1/12, Cornwell) reports, “At least four Republicans said on Tuesday they would join Democrats in voting to impeach.” The New York Times (1/12, Pandos, 20.6M) reports Cheney “dismissed fellow Republicans arguing that the impeachment was rushed, premature or unwarranted. Her words were unequivocal and likely to give cover to two dozen or so other House Republicans looking to break ranks.” CNN (1/12, Mahtani, 89.21M) reports on its website, “A White House official says they expect as many as 20 or more Republicans to vote for impeachment…on Wednesday, though they don’t have a firm figure.”

USA Today (1/12, Hayes, 12.7M) reports Cheney “noted that the attack, which resulted in five deaths including a Capitol Police officer, aimed to obstruct America’s democratic processes and caused ‘injury, death and destruction in the most sacred space in our Republic.’ For that, Cheney said the president – and the president alone – was to blame.” The Washington Post (1/12, Kranish, 10.52M) says her “historic decision…had its roots in a dramatic phone call from her father, former vice president Richard B. Cheney, who was watching events unfold on television last week and warned that she was being verbally attacked by the president.” The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (1/12, 94K) reports, “Cheney has sided with Trump in the vast majority of her votes during his presidency. Still, she has publicly broken with Trump in numerous instances in the past – never more prominently than last week.” Axios (1/12, Rummler, 1.26M), Politico (1/12, Ferris, Caygle, 6.73M), and The Hill (1/12, Bufeke, 5.69M) also cover Cheney’s announcement.

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports Reps. John Katko (R-NY), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), and Fred Upton (R-MI) all said Tuesday that they will back impeachment. The Chicago Tribune (1/12, Ruthhart, 2.03M) reports Kinzinger said in a statement, “There is no doubt in my mind that the President of the United States broke his oath of office and incited this insurrection.” The Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard (1/12, 467K) reports Katko, who was “the first House Republican” to publicly come out for impeachment, “said he felt compelled to uphold his oath of office and defend the Constitution by impeaching Trump.”

Politico (1/12, Niedziadek, 6.73M) reports that “a Republican group has pledged to amass a $50 million war chest to help GOP lawmakers who vote to impeach…Trump ward off potential primary challenges.” The New York Times (1/12, Karni, 20.6M) reports, “The financial commitment by the group, the Republican Accountability Project, is designed to incentivize Republicans who have appeared open to voting in favor of the new article of impeachment that is expected to be considered by the House on Wednesday.”

McConnell Reportedly Believes Trump Has Committed Impeachable Offenses. The New York Times (1/12, Haberman, 20.6M) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “has told associates that he believes [Trump] committed impeachable offenses and that he is pleased that Democrats are moving to impeach him, believing that it will make it easier to purge him from the party.” The Times adds that House Minority Leader McCarthy “has asked other Republicans whether he should call on Mr. Trump to resign in the aftermath of the riot at the Capitol last week.”

CNN (1/12, 89.21M) reports on its website that according to a “person with direct knowledge,” McConnell is “furious about last week’s attack on the US Capitol by the President’s supporters, even more so that Trump has shown no contrition. His silence has been deliberate as he leaves open the option of supporting impeachment.” Fox News (1/12, Singman, 23.99M) reports on its website, “Part of McConnell’s anger, according to sources, is that the Senate Majority was lost to the Democrats just last Tuesday in the Georgia Senate runoffs, but sources said that McConnell is extremely upset about the president’s actions Wednesday leading up to the riot at the Capitol.”

Pence Tells Pelosi He Will Not Invoke 25th Amendment. The House voted 233-205 Tuesday evening in favor of a resolution calling on Vice President Pence and the Cabinet to remove Trump through the 25th Amendment, with Kinzinger the only Republican in support. The vote came several hours after Pence said in a letter to House Speaker Pelosi. Pence wrote in part, “I do
not believe that such a course of action is in the best interest of our Nation or consistent with our Constitution." Reuters (1/12, Bech, Shalal) reports Pence “told Pelosi the administration’s energy was focused on ensuring an orderly transition, and appealed to her and other members of Congress to avoid actions that ‘would further divide and inflame the passions of the moment.’” The New York Times (1/12, Cameron, 20.6M) reports Pence "privately indicated last week that he did not support invoking the 25th Amendment, and his public rejection of the resolution all but ensured that the House would vote to impeach” Trump on Wednesday. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Peterson, Andrews, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says the House has voted to move on impeachment if Pence does not invoke the 25th Amendment.

USA Today (1/12, King, Jansen, 12.7M) reports Democrats have “called for [Trump’s] resignation, and urged the Cabinet to remove him under the 25th Amendment and, with those two options looking extremely unlikely, are preparing to impeach the president for a second time.” The Charlotte (NC) Observer (1/12, 443K) reports Rep. David Price (D-NC) ”said the best course of action is for senior Republican officials to convince Trump to resign. The second best option, he said, was for [Pence] and embers of the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment.”

The New York Times (1/12, Baker, Haberman, Karni, 20.6M) examines the deterioration in relations between Pence and Trump, who “was enraged that Mr. Pence was refusing to try to overturn the election. In a series of meetings, the president had pressed relentlessly, alternately cajoling and browbeating him.” Last Wednesday, “just before Mr. Pence headed to the Capitol to oversee the electoral vote count,” Trump called the Pence at his residence and said, “you can either go down in history as a patriot, or you can go down in history as a p---y.” The Times says “the blowup between the nation’s two highest elected officials then played out in dramatic fashion as the president publicly excoriated the vice president at an incendiary rally and sent agitated supporters to the Capitol where they stormed the building – some of them chanting ‘Hang Mike Pence.’”

Politico (1/12, Orr, 6.73M) writes, "After four-and-a-half years of unbending loyalty, [Pence] is ready to move on from Donald Trump. All it took was the president inciting a riot that, quite literally, put Pence’s life in danger.” Pence “has spent the past few days navigating between two political forces. There is bipartisan praise for his refusal to indulge the president’s unconstitutional ploy for a second term. But the MAGA base he cultivated alongside Trump is now threatening him with political retribution and even death for that same refusal.”

Leahy Urges Cruz And Hawley To Step Down From Judiciary Committee.
The Hill (1/12, Bolton, 5.69M) reports Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) called for Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) to step down from the Senate Judiciary Committee, echoing the call from Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) for the pair to be removed from the panel.

Boebert Dismisses Criticism She Endangered Pelosi By Tweeting Her Location During Capitol Violence.
The Denver Post (1/12, 660K) reports Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) "said Democrats are falsely attacking her" for tweeting House Speaker Pelosi’s location during the violence at the Capitol. Despite calls for her to resign, Boebert “said she wasn’t doing anything wrong by tweeting about Pelosi.” Boebert "for months has falsely claimed the 2020 presidential election was rigged” and "previously claimed that the rioters were not conservatives.” In her statement, she criticized Democrats has acting “as though a reference to the founding of our country and the bravery of upholding our Constitutional oath is criminal.”

The Boston Globe (1/12, Larson, 1.04M) reports Boebert “dismissed the seriousness of the charges that she had endangered the life of Pelosi” by tweeting her location. Boebert’s “statement was replete with baseless claims” about Joe Biden, Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA), Pelosi, “and the far-left.” She equated the mostly-peaceful Black Lives Matter protests with “the dangerous insurrection.”

Cawthorn Faces Backlash For Speaking To Rally Preceding Capitol Violence.
The Charlotte (NC) Observer (1/12, Murphy, 443K) reports that newly elected Rep. Madison
Cawthorn (R-NC) is facing backlash after speaking at the rally that preceded last week’s violence at the Capitol. He’s “lost the support of a key Republican endorser in Western North Carolina,” George Erwin, who won three terms as Henderson County sheriff and served a decade as the executive director of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police. Erwin “regrets his actions to help” elect Cawthorn. Meanwhile, NC11 Democratic Party officials wrote to House Speaker Pelosi requesting “an ethics investigation into whether Cawthorn’s statements constitute ‘acts of sedition’ and calling for his expulsion or censure.” As for Cawthorn, he said, “I don’t feel I had any responsibility for them attacking the Capitol.”

**US Chamber, More Businesses Halt Donations To Legislators Who Opposed Certifying Biden Victory.**

The **AP (1/12, Krisher, Boak)** reports that in the wake of last week’s insurrection at the Capitol, the US Chamber of Commerce, “echo[ing] much of corporate America, which has started to reject the violence and false claims of election fraud put forth by Trump and his allies,” threatened to withhold campaign funds from legislators who offered unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud as they sought to stop the vote from being certified. However, the Chamber wouldn’t identify which legislators would be affected. Chamber CEO Thomas Donohue said that President Trump “has undermined our democratic institutions and our ideals” but neither characterized the violence as a “full coup” attempt nor called for Trump’s ouster. Donohue also “rejected the notion that the U.S. business community turned a blind eye to the divisions sowed by Trump that led to the violence so that it could get lower taxes and reduced government regulations.”

The **New York Times (1/12, Rappeport, 20.6M)** casts the Chamber’s statement as “the latest backlash against Mr. Trump and Republicans from the business community, which has been united in its opposition to an assault on the democratic process.” The Times calls the group’s move “a major rift in the traditional alliance between industry and the Republican Party.”

The **Washington Post (1/12, Gregg, 10.52M)** reports that “defense-industrial giant Northrop Grumman says it has halted all campaign donations from its political action committee, the first defense manufacturer to join a growing corporate backlash,” and “several other large government contractors later followed suit.” According to the Post, in 2020, “Northrop Grumman’s PAC contributed roughly equally to Democrats and Republicans.” The Post goes on to report that “some of Northrop’s peers at the top of the U.S. defense industry – Lockheed Martin, Boeing General Dynamics – had not halted donations or issued statements as of Tuesday afternoon. But three other large government contractors later confirmed Tuesday that they would halt donations,” Raytheon Technologies, “a massive Massachusetts-based defense-tech company that formed through a merger of Raytheon and United Technologies,” Leidos, “a Reston-based company that specializes in government IT and other technology services,” and BAE Systems, the US subsidiary of a British defense manufacturer.

**Readers (1/12, DiNapoli, Shepardson)** reports Walmart joined other major companies in indefinitely suspending donations to legislators who voted against the certification of state electoral college votes. A spokesman said the issue will be under review for the next few months. General Motors also announced a pause in all political contributions.

**Businesses Cut Ties With Trump, Pressuring His Company.** Bloomberg (1/12, Nasirpour, 3.57M) reports, after the violence at the Capitol, President Trump’s “top creditor, his hometown bank and even his mortgage lender spurned him.” A person with knowledge of the situation said that Deutsche Bank AG, which holds about $300 million in Trump debt, will not conduct more business with Trump or his family company. Signature Bank is closing Trump accounts, and Professional Bank – which gave Trump an $11 million mortgage – said it “will be winding down the relationship effective immediately.” Bloomberg adds, “the question is whether his other banks and financial backers” will retain his as a client.

The **Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M)** reports that Trump’s refusal “to acknowledge that he would be returning to private life” seems to have “sabotaged what could have been his best chance at success in that realm – a rebound of the battered Trump brand.” His encouraging the rioters who ransacked the Capitol “made his company a pariah and driven away allies who could have brought it revenue and post-politics credibility.” that over a week, the Trump Organization lost a
bank, an e-commerce platform and the privilege of hosting a world-famous golf tournament, and its hopes of hosting another have been dashed.” Additionally, real estate giant Cushman & Wakefield, which “has handled an array of business for Trump for many years, told The Washington Post it would no longer work with him. The decision “means that Trump’s company will quickly have to find someone else to handle lease negotiations at some of his most prominent properties.”

The New York Times (1/12, Lipton, Protess, Eder, 20.6M) reports that the Trump Organization is facing its “most substantial challenge” to date. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Spegele, Karmin, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the banks’ response to the violence at the Capitol will increase pressure on President Trump’s business, which already was under pressure from the coronavirus pandemic and approaching debt payments. Additionally, people familiar with the matter say that the violence has Vornado Realty Trust pausing plans to refinance two buildings owned with the Trump Organization. The business also may see customers avoid its hotels and golf courses, and the pandemic has depressed property values, frustrating efforts to raise money by selling real estate.

Eric Trump Dismisses Effects Of Business Backlash, Casts It As “Cancel Culture.” The AP (1/12) reports Eric Trump cast businesses reacting to last week’s violence at the Capitol by pulling back from President Trump’s business as part of a liberal “cancel culture” exerted against those who “disagree with them.” In an interview, “Eric Trump seemed unruffled but combative,” arguing that his father has, in the AP’s words, “a powerful brand backed by millions of voters who will follow him ‘to the ends of the Earth.”’ He also “dismissed the hits as no big threat” to the Trump business, although “the limited data available for his private company suggest the Trump Organization’s golf properties, as well as other parts of his businesses, may be struggling.”

MyPillow CEO Continues To Back Trump. The New York Times (1/12, Hsu, 20.6M) reports that even as many American companies have “tried to distance themselves from the political violence by announcing that they would stop giving money to the 147 Republican members of Congress who objected to certifying the election results,” MyPillow is offering the discount code “FightForTrump.” CEO Mike Lindell, a fervent supporter of President Trump, continued to back the protesters in the hours after Mr. Trump’s violent supporters broke into the Capitol.” Following the violence, “Lindell promoted debunked conspiracy theories on social media” and “repeated the false claim that “antifa” was behind the violence.”

Harvard Removes Stefanik From Advisory Committee Over Electoral Fraud Accusations.
The New York Post (1/12, Nelson, 7.45M) reports Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) reacted to Harvard University’s Institute of Politics dropping her from an advisory committee over her public accusations of fraud in the 2020 election by accusing it of choosing “to cower and cave to the woke Left.” She disdained the move as part of a “march toward a monoculture of like-minded, intolerant liberal views.” Harvard Kennedy School of Government Dean Douglas Elmendorf said his request that Stefanik resign “was not about political parties, political ideology, or her choice of candidate for president,” but instead due to her “public assertions about voter fraud in November’s presidential election that have no basis in evidence.”

Top GOP Aide Resigns, Slamming Legislators Who Backed Trump’s Challenge To Biden Win.
The Political (1/12, Desiderio, 6.73M) reports that in the wake of last week’s violence at the Capitol, top Republican congressional aide Jason Schmid, a longtime senior House Armed Services Committee staffer, “is resigning over his party’s support for President Donald Trump’s bid to overturn the 2020 election.” In his “scathing resignation letter,” Schmid slammed the GOP members of the panel who objected to... Joe Biden’s Electoral College win,” saying they “should have been galvanized to rebuke these insurrectionists in the strongest terms,” but instead “chose to put political theater ahead of the defense of the Constitution and the republic.” Schmid also said the GOP lawmakers “harmed the ability of every service member, intelligence officer, and diplomat to defend the nation and advance American interests.”
Thirty US States Continue To See Surge In COVID Cases.

ABC World News Tonight (1/12, story 4, 2:15, Muir, 7.37M) reported, “We’re seeing the worst surge yet, still not at its peak,” as “more than 22 million Americans have now tested positive” at an average of “246,000 cases a day” and over 379,000 have died. ABC’s Kaylee Hartung added, “Tonight, doctors bracing for what they’re calling a perfect storm. Hospitals already pushed to the limit as the post-holiday surge worsens.” In California, Hartung said, “Hospitals forced to turn ambulances away,” a scene “repeated across the country, and in record numbers,” with “close to 130,000 people now hospitalized with the virus.”

On NBC Nightly News (1/12, story 7, 1,50, Holt, 5.85M), Miguel Almaguer reported, “Facing what doctors call a viral tsunami, tonight hospitals across the country are under siege,” with “the most dangerous and perhaps the deadliest days” still ahead. Almaguer said that with “the peak of the holiday surge expected to hit critical mass in seven to ten days” and “the CDC soon requiring international travelers to test negative before departing for the US...30 states are reporting a rise in cases.” Almaguer added that Rhode Island, Arizona, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and California are seeing “the most serious outbreaks,” as Los Angeles County reports a death “every eight minutes” and ten new infections “every 60 seconds.” New hospitalizations in the state “have plateaued,” but “deaths are up 912% since November.”

Asked on ABC News (1/12, 8K) about the reasons behind the surge in cases, NIAID Director Fauci said, “We believe it’s due to the fact that as we got into the colder months of the late fall and the early winter, that people do things more indoors versus outdoors. We had the travel and the socializing over the Christmas and New Year’s holiday, and that’s the reason why we feel as we get deeper into January, things are going to get worse before they get better.”

Los Angeles County Nears 1M COVID Cases. The Los Angeles Times (1/12, Money, Lin, 3.37M) reports, “Los Angeles County is fast approaching 1 million confirmed coronavirus cases, a massive milestone that means one out of every 10 Angelenos has been infected at some point during the pandemic.” After taking “nearly 11 months to top 500,000” cases, the county is predicted to “crest the 1-million mark by the end of this week, doubling its colossal case count in a month,” if it maintains the current rate of infections. Officials “say it’s more important than ever for residents to rededicate themselves to infection-prevention protocols.” The continued “high number of cases is distressing in the near term...and portends disaster in the weeks ahead as hundreds of additional Angelenos fall ill enough to require hospitalization.”

The AP (1/12, Thompson) reports that California is “transforming baseball stadiums, fairgrounds and even a Disneyland Resort parking lot into mass vaccination sites as the coronavirus surge overwhelms hospitals and sets a deadly new record in the state.” The AP adds, “Orange County, south of L.A. County, announced Monday that its first mass vaccination site will be at a Disneyland Resort parking lot in Anaheim. It’s one of five sites to be set up to vaccinate thousands of people daily.”

Administration Releasing All Vaccine Doses; States Urged To Vaccinate Those Over 65.

On ABC World News Tonight (1/12, story 3, 2:35, Muir, 7.37M), Eva Pilgrim reported, “Facing criticism for a sluggish vaccine rollout, the Trump Administration is now urging states to expand vaccination to include Americans over 65 and adults with pre-existing conditions.” HHS Secretary Azar said, “Every vaccine dose that is sitting in a warehouse rather than going into an arm could mean one more life lost, or one more hospital bed occupied.” Pilgrim added, “The government will now release all vaccine doses instead of holding second doses back. Just one-third of 27 million doses distributed have gone into arms.”

The CBS Evening News (1/12, story 5, 2:05, O’Donnell, 4.39M) reported, “Tonight, the Trump Administration is asking states to speed up delivery of COVID shots. So far, more than nine million Americans have had a COVID shot, while about twice that many doses are still sitting in freezers.” Azar said, “We are releasing the entire supply we have for order by states, rather than holding second doses in physical reserve.” CBS’ Jonathan Vigliotti added, “The new focus will be on those age 65 and older, and those with preexisting conditions,” but Azar “says distribution isn’t the only issue.” Azar said, “We have too much vaccine sitting in freezers at hospitals with hospitals not
On NBC Nightly News (1/12, story 6, 2:10, Holt, 5.85M), Stephanie Gosk reported, "Operation Warp Speed with a message for the states: move faster. Today, federal officials announced that vaccines being safeguarded for second doses will be released to the public." Gosk said the new guidance comes as officials say "vaccine supply...is becoming less of a concern," with Pfizer "on track to make 2 billion doses this year." Gosk added that "opening up eligibility and increasing supply may not make things easier," with many states "already overwhelmed."

The AP (1/12, Miller, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports, "Barely a month into a mass vaccination campaign to stop the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration unexpectedly shifted gears Tuesday to speed the delivery of shots." Azar "announced a series of major changes to increase supply of vaccines and expand the age groups eligible as well as locations where people can get shots." According to the AP, "The move came after widespread concern over a slow start even as coronavirus cases and deaths reach new highs."

 Reuters (1/12, O'Donnell, Spalding, Chandler, Ponnetzhath) reports that the Administration is releasing millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses it had been holding back for second shots and urged states to offer them to all Americans over age 65 or with chronic health conditions. Reuters reports that Azar said during a news briefing that the U.S. pace of inoculations has risen to 700,000 shots per day and is expected to rise to 1 million per day within a week to 10 days. Releasing doses that have been held back should bring the total number of doses that have been made available for use in the United States to roughly 38 million, Azar said. Reuters points out that last week, Joe Biden’s transition team announced that he “would accelerate distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to jump-start lagging inoculations by releasing more doses.”

 Reuters (1/12, Szekely, Whitcomb) reports that state and federal health officials “have scrambled in recent days to set up vaccination programs that had given shots to only 0.3 million Americans,” with many states adhering to “strict rules...giving shots to healthcare workers and nursing home residents first.” Azar told ABC earlier, “We’ve already distributed more vaccine than we have healthcare workers and people in nursing homes. We’ve got to get to more channels of administration.” Azar said the administration…was now confident in the supply chain to release its stockpile of reserve doses.

 Politico (1/12, Roubien, 6.73M) reports that Operation Warp Speed, “the government’s vaccine accelerator, is also changing how it allocates scarce doses of Covid-19 vaccines. Rather than provide doses to states based on their adult population, federal officials will soon send weekly shipments based on the size of a state’s 65-and-over population and how quickly they are administering shots.” Azar is quoted as saying, “Every vaccine dose that is sitting in a warehouse rather than going into an arm could mean one more life lost or one more hospital bed occupied.” Politico says “the dramatic shift in strategy...appeared to surprise state health officials.”

 The CNBC (1/12, Lovelace, 7.34M) website quotes Azar as saying, “States should not be waiting to complete phase 1a prioritization before proceeding to broader categories of eligibility. Think of it like boarding an airplane. You might have a sequential order in which you board people. But you don’t wait til literally every person from a group is boarded before moving on to the next.” The New York Times (1/12, Pennington, 20.6M) reports that “just days ago, Mr. Azar and officials from Operation Warp Speed...criticized aides to Mr. Biden for announcing a similar plan.” According to the Times, Azar “said at the time that releasing nearly all of the doses, as the Biden team proposed, would jeopardize the ‘system that manages the flow, to maximize the number of first doses, but knowing there will be a second dose available.” The Times says Azar “called any proposed changes an ‘untenable position.”

 The New York Times (1/12, A1, Stolberg, Goodnough, 20.6M) reports, “The federal government will release all available doses of the vaccine instead of holding about half in reserve for second doses, [Azar] said, adding that states should start allowing pharmacies and community health centers, which serve largely poor populations, to administer the shots.” However, The Times says the announcement “came with a cudgel: States will lose their allocations, Mr. Azar said, if they do not use up doses quickly.” The operation will also begin basing state allocations “on the size of a state’s population of people 65 and older, not on its general adult population” in two weeks. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, A1, Armour, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) has more on using it."
the release and Azar's comments.

According to the Washington Post (1/12, A1, Sun, McGinley, Stanley-Becker, Goldstein, 10.52M), "The expectation is that people will still get their second doses as planned. The concerns about possible hiccups in manufacturing have been allayed by the steady ramp-up so far, while the risks of delay have increased as the pandemic has claimed thousands of lives daily." The Post says "the decisions to overhaul the vaccine distribution program were made in two meetings held by leadership of Operation Warp Speed...over the weekend as officials searched for ways to speed up a sluggish rollout."

The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports, "Advisers to...Biden are balking at a decision by the Trump administration to dramatically increase the number of people eligible for the coronavirus vaccine, believing the changes could overwhelm states and create unrealistic expectations for millions of Americans waiting for shots." A senior Trump Administration official said, "It's clear in many states that an overly prescriptive focus on the highest priority group was creating a bottleneck and slowing vaccination uptake." CNBC (1/12, 7.34M) reports on its website that "some 53 million Americans who are 65 and older and 110 million people between 16 and 64 with comorbid conditions will now be eligible to receive the vaccine if every state adopts the guidelines," according to the CDC.

Bloomberg (1/12, LaVito, 3.57M) reports that CDC Director Redfield said in a briefing on Tuesday, "It's going to be a difficult January and probably February, but with a vaccine and the new therapeutics we have, there's really strong light at the end of that tunnel as we enter March. We really need to commit right now to get as many Americans vaccinated as we can that are particularly the most vulnerable and at risk for hospitalization."

Bloomberg (1/12, Jacobs, 3.57M) reports that Surgeon General Adams indicated on Tuesday morning that the Administration "will push states to expand the shots' availability to anyone 65 and older, regardless of underlying conditions that might put them at greater risk of severe disease, and anyone 65 or younger with such a condition," and "also will no longer hold back second doses of the vaccine in order to make more shots available immediately." Adams is quoted as saying, "We have enough in reserve that we can just start pushing those doses out there."

CNBC (1/12, Stankiewicz, 7.34M) reports on its website that Pfizer Chairman/CEO Albert Bourla "cheered reports on Tuesday that the U.S. government was pushing to expand eligibility for Covid-19 vaccines, telling CNBC the U.S. drug giant has adequate supply to support such a decision. 'If this is true what we're hearing, it is very positive,' he said." Bourla added, "I think this is exactly what needs to be done."

Fauci: Vaccinations Will Stop Emergence Of New Variants. Asked on RFQ-TV (1/12, 8K) about halting the spread of the new variants, NIAID Director Fauci said, "We want to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as we possibly can. because once you blunt the replication, you will by definition blunt the ease with which a particular virus mutates."

Health Officials Create COVID Vaccine Booking Systems. The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Delighton, Alcántara, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that health officials across the country are working to create accessible systems for booking COVID vaccination appointments in order to help ramp up the distribution process. Several jurisdictions are relying on apps, platforms like Google Maps, and phone hotlines to develop registration systems that provide equal access to residents with disabilities or those who lack access to the Internet.

States Resist Imposing Restrictions Amid Surge.
The AP (1/12, Watson) reports that "as the U.S. goes through the most lethal phase of the coronavirus outbreak yet, governors and local officials in hard-hit parts of the country are showing little willingness to impose any new restrictions on businesses to stop the spread." However, "unlike in 2020, when the debate over lockdowns often split along party lines, both Democratic and Republican leaders are signaling their opposition to forced closings and other measures," expressing concerns over "compounding the heavy economic damage inflicted by the outbreak" and fatigue among constituents. The AP says that some are "focused more on the rollout of the vaccines that could eventually vanquish the threat."

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Baraga County, Michigan, Rejects Whitmer Restrictions. The Detroit Free Press
(1/12, Terranella, 2.16M) reports that “nine local officials from Baraga County, located in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, signed a ‘manifesto’ on Monday, saying the county will no longer enforce COVID-19 restriction orders” from the office of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D). The manifesto compares the restrictions to those seen in “the days of King George III and the American Revolution” and “describe[s] Lansing’s failure to control the virus through arbitrarily picking ‘economic winners and losers.’” County Sheriff Joe Brogan “said local officials created the declaration after receiving tens of emails, calls, and petitions from community members,” and “said it’s ultimately an individual’s decision to conduct their business in a manner they see fit.”

New York GOP Candidate Apologizes For Hitler Reference In Opposing Restrictions. The Hill (1/12, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports that Leticia Remauro, “a GOP candidate for Staten Island, N.Y., borough president,” apologized on Monday “for reportedly shouting ‘Heil Hitler’ in a Facebook video while calling on people to push back against local coronavirus safety restrictions.” Remauro can be seen “in a video from a Dec. 2 protest on Staten Island over the closure of the restaurant Mac’s Public House” making the remarks, and this week told “the New York Daily News that she apologizes ‘profusely that the words I used in trying to create an analogy were offensive.’” Remauro clarified that she “actually meant to say ‘mein Führer,’” in reference to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D).

The New York Times (1/12, Zaveri, 20.6M) reports that the self-recorded “video drew attention after it was sent to a reporter with NY1, who shared it on Twitter on Monday night.” In the video, Remauro “pans to a line of officers outside the tavern” and says to “stand up for our right, the right to pay taxes so that we can pay the salaries of these good men and women, who yes are only doing their job, but not for nothing, sometimes you’ve got to say ‘Heil Hitler,’ not a good idea to send me here, we’re not going to do it.” The video “drew widespread outrage on social media from politicians and the public, with many people calling for Ms. Remauro to renounce her candidacy for borough president.”

Two More House Democrats Test Positive After Capitol Lockdown.

The AP (1/12, Freking) reports that two additional House Democrats have now tested positive for COVID after Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) made her announcement Monday, “prompting concern that last week’s insurrection at the Capitol has also turned into a super-spreader event.” Watson Coleman and her colleagues Reps. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Brad Schneider (D-IL) “were among dozens of lawmakers who were whisked to a secure location,” where some “huddled for hours.” The three have “directed their anger toward some House Republicans who were also in the secure room and declined opportunities to wear masks, despite their role in blocking the spread of COVID-19.” Jayapal “called on the House sergeant at arms to remove any lawmaker from the House floor who declines to wear a mask.”

The New York Times (1/12, Tully, Wu, Mandavilli, Cochrane, 20.6M) reports that Schneider “said he received a positive test result Tuesday morning after driving home to Illinois, and that he did not have symptoms.” All three have “directly blamed a group of House Republicans who refused to wear masks while sheltering in a secure location during the riot,” and Schneider called for those without masks to be “immediately removed from the House floor by the sergeant-at-arms for their reckless endangerment of their colleagues.” Jayapal “also said that any member of Congress who did not wear a mask should be removed from the floor by the sergeant-at-arms and fined.”

The Chicago Tribune (1/12, Ruthhart, 2.03M) reports that Schneider said in a video news conference on Tuesday that “after narrowly escaping a violent mob incited by the president of the United States” and being “forced to spend several hours” with Republican colleagues who “adamantly refused to wear a mask,” he is “now in strict isolation worried that I have risked my wife’s health and angry at the selfishness and arrogance of the anti-maskers who put their own contempt and disregard for decency ahead of the health and safety of their colleagues and our staff.” Schneider “acknowledged he could not say for certain if he contracted the virus from one of the Republican members in the safe room,” but said, “My exposure in that room was greater than at any other time for this entire pandemic.”

The Hill (1/12, Guzman, 5.69M) reports that NIATD Director Fauci “said the incident will likely
lead to more cases among lawmakers" in an interview with the Daily Beast on Tuesday. Fauci is quoted as saying, "Of course, when you have people in close indoor settings without social distancing or masks there are likely going to be some infections." Fauci said that "any deviation" from public health measures "is creating a risk for acquisition and or spread of infection. Doesn’t matter who you are."

**House Democrats Propose Fines For Maskless Lawmakers.** USA Today (1/12, Brown, 12.7M) reports, "House Democrats are likely to implement a rule... fining lawmakers $500 for not wearing face masks on the House floor during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a senior Democratic aide not authorized to speak publicly." According to the aide, members would be subject to a $500 pay deduction for a first offense and $2,500 for a second offense under the rule, which was set to "be included in a procedural vote Tuesday evening." The vote comes after Reps. Anthony Brown (D-MD) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI) "proposed legislation Tuesday that would fine any member of Congress who refuses to wear a mask on Capitol grounds $1,000 for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic."

The New York Post (1/12, Nelson, 7.45M) reports that "a senior House Democratic aide confirmed" that the Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) resolution was set to "include language implementing a fine system (similar to what Republicans implemented in 2017 for filming on the floor) for non-compliance with the Speaker's mask requirement on the House Floor." The aide said, "Separately, the House Office Building Commission will be immediately considering the implementation of a similar fine system for non-compliance in the House Office Buildings and house side of the U.S. Capitol Building." The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) provides further coverage.

Watson Coleman: It Is Time For A Congressional Mask Requirement. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M), Watson Coleman writes of her positive test, "I am angry that several of our nation's leaders were unwilling to deal with the small annoyance of a mask for a few hours. I am angry that the attack on the Capitol and my subsequent illness have the same cause: my Republican colleagues' inability to accept facts." She argues that during the attack, "while we might have been protected from the insurrectionists, we were not safe from the callousness of members of Congress who, having encouraged the sentiments that inspired the riot, now ignored requests to wear masks." She concludes, "It's clearly time for a congressional campuswide mask requirement, enforced by the House and Senate sergeants at arms."

**Study Predicts COVID Will Become Endemic After Vaccines.**

The New York Times (1/12, Mandavilli, 20.6M) reports that "the coronavirus is here to stay, but once most adults are immune - following natural infection or vaccination - the virus will be no more of a threat than the common cold, according to a study published in the journal Science on Tuesday." The study predicts that "once everyone has been exposed to either the virus or vaccine," COVID "will be of concern only in children younger than 5," who will exhibit "mere sniffles - or no symptoms at all." Emory University's Jennie Lavine, who led the study, said the timing "depends on how quickly the disease is spreading, and how quickly vaccination is rolled out."

**COVID Deaths Creating “Cultural Crisis” For Native Americans.**

The New York Times (1/12, Healy, Blue, 20.6M) reports, "The loss of tribal elders has swelled into a cultural crisis as the pandemic has killed American Indians and Alaska Natives at nearly twice the rate of white people, deepening what critics call the deadly toll of a tattered health system and generations of harm and broken promises by the U.S. government." Across the US, "tribal nations and volunteer groups are now trying to protect their elders as a mission of cultural survival," placing "elders and fluent Indigenous language speakers at the head of the line for vaccinations." However, "the effort faces huge obstacles," ranging from lack of access to healthcare facilities to "deep mistrust of the government."

**Supreme Court Signals Willingness To Allow Nominal Damages Suits.**

The New York Times (1/12, Liptak, 20.6M) reports that "about 70 minutes into what had been a
meandering and technical Supreme Court argument on Tuesday about whether two Georgia students could sue their college for nominal damages," Justice Elena Kagan asked "a series of questions about Taylor Swift [that] brought the issue into focus." The Times adds Justice Amy Coney Barrett "followed up with her own thoughts about Ms. Swift's case," while Justice Neil M. Gorsuch "said the court should be wary of penalizing plaintiffs who act on principle, including 'those like Ms. Swift who have some scruple or reason not to seek more, who could.'" To the Times, "it seemed that the singer's stance would help that of the students in the case before the justices, Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski, No. 19-568."

The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the case centers around whether Georgia Gwinnett College violated a student's First Amendment rights by stopping him from handing out religious literature on campus in 2016. The AP (1/12, Gresko) reports the student is "seeking just $1 and says he wants the Lawrenceville, Georgia, school to be held accountable for its past policies."

White House Science Office Reassigns Two Officials For Posting "Debunked Papers."
The New York Times (1/12, Friedman, Flavelle, 20.6M) reports the White House science office on Tuesday reassigned David Legates, the head of the US Global Change Research Program, and Ryan Maue, a senior official at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, after they posted "debunked scientific reports denying the existence and significance of man-made climate change, purportedly on behalf of the United States government," on a "climate denial website without the knowledge of the director of the White House science office, Kelvin Droegemeier, two administration officials confirmed." The Washington Post (1/12, Samenow, 10.52M) reports that their dismissal "means they will return to NOAA, where they were first hired," although "both Legates's and Maue's last day working for the Trump administration is this week."

VOA White House Reporter Reassigned After Asking Pompeo Questions He Ignored.
The Washington Post (1/12, Farhi, 10.52M) reports Voice of America Director Robert Reilly "ordered the reassignment of a reporter for the international news organization after she sought to ask questions of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during a VOA-sponsored appearance on Monday." Patsy Widakuswara, "who covers the White House for VOA, was ordered off the beat by...Reilly after firing questions at Pompeo after his speech and a brief Q&A session conducted by Reilly." Politico (1/12, Leonard, 6.73M) reports Widakuswara "asked Pompeo if he regretted saying there will be a second Trump administration," and "also asked Pompeo what he was doing to improve the United States' reputation." According to Politico, Pompeo "did not respond to Widakuswara's questions in a video she posted."

According to the AP (1/12, Bauder), Pompeo's speech and Widakuswara's reassignment "led to an angry phone meeting between journalists and managers Tuesday that typified some of the tensions at the agency during President Donald Trump's administration." The AP adds Pompeo's address "itself was the subject of controversy among journalists there, particularly during the pandemic, and because they weren't allowed to ask questions, although some were submitted to Reilly in writing."

NPR (1/12, Folkenflik, 3.69M) reports on its website that the board of the White House Press Association "released a statement condemning the Trump administration for shifting Widakuswara off the high-profile beat." WHPA President Zeke Miller said, "VOA's reassignment of Widakuswara for doing her job, asking questions, is an affront to the very ideals [Pompeo] discussed in his speech Monday."

Census Bureau Disputes IG Warning Of IT Security Lapses.
The AP (1/12) reports the US Census Bureau's Office of Inspector General "says that proper information-technology security safeguards weren't in place leading up to the start of the 2020 census last year, but the statistical agency disputes some of the findings and says no data was compromised."

Democrats Making List Of Trump-Era Regulatory Moves They Intend To Reverse.
Reuters (1/12, Schroeder) reports that on Tuesday, Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) said Democrats were drawing up a list of recent rules established by President Donald Trump-led regulators they hoped to quickly repeal in 2021. Brown, who will chair the Senate Banking Committee once Democrats take control of the Senate this month, said lawmakers hoped to use the Congressional Review Act to begin repealing some of those rules around April, but “did not identify specific rules that would be targeted.” Reuters says that “with Democrats set to control both the House and Senate for the first time in a decade, lawmakers and liberals are quickly identifying industry-friendly rules authored by the Trump administration to be scrapped.”

Brown Lays Out Agenda For Senate Banking Committee.

The New York Times (1/12, Flitter, 20.6M) reports incoming Senate Banking Chairman Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) “proposed a sweeping agenda on Tuesday, saying he would seek to improve housing and banking services for low-income Americans, fight global warming and foster racial equality when Democrats control both chambers of Congress and the White House.” Brown “added that he wanted to investigate the relationship among stock prices, executive compensation and workers’ wages, taking on a corporate business model that ‘treats workers as expendable.’”

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (1/12, 1.22M) reports Brown “said he expects he’ll be able to work well” with Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA), who will become ranking member, “and said they’ve already had informal discussions over the committee’s priorities, and have points of agreement some housing and financial technology issues.”

Prosecutors To Charge Snyder, Other Former Michigan Officials, Over Flint Water Crisis.

Two sources told the AP (1/12, Eggert) that former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R), “his health director and other ex-officials have been told they’re being charged after a new investigation of the Flint water scandal, which devastated the majority Black city with lead-contaminated water and was blamed for a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease.” However, the AP “could not determine the nature of the charges against Snyder, former health department director Nick Lyon and others who were in his administration, including Rich Baird, a friend who was the governor’s key troubleshooter while in office.” The Flint (MI) Journal (1/12, Fonger) reports Snyder had “held power before and during the water emergency in Flint and for months downplayed to seriousness of problems with city water.”

However, the New York Times (1/12, Gray, Bosman, 20.6M) reports Snyder “said he bears no criminal responsibility for the Flint water crisis, issuing a statement on Tuesday amid reports that charges connected to the crisis were imminent.” The Washington Post (1/12, Dennis, 10.52M) reports an attorney for Lyon said in a statement Tuesday that criminal charges against his client “would be an absolute travesty of justice,” and “added that previous charges filed against Lyon in 2017 were politically motivated and meritless, and after two years of baseless claims and personal attacks they were dismissed.”

Biden Will Reportedly Name Gensler To Chair SEC.

Citing “two sources familiar with the matter,” Reuters (1/12, Herbst-Bayliss, Johnson, Renshaw) reports Joe Biden will name Gary Gensler chair of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Reuters says the appointment is “likely to prompt concern among Wall Street firms of tougher regulation.” The Washington Post (1/12, Stein, 10.52M), which reports that “a final decision has not been made” about Gensler’s nomination, says he is “viewed as a Wall Street critic and would likely be opposed by the banking industry if officially chosen.”

Politico (1/12, Warmbrodt, Pager, 6.73M) says Gensler “spent his early career rising to the rank of partner at Goldman Sachs,” but “he became best known for imposing sweeping rules on banks as the chair of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission after the 2008 financial crisis. In that role, he riled the nation’s largest banks, which lobbied against his efforts and sued to stop him.”

Bloomberg (1/12, Mohsin, Schmidt, Bain, 3.57M) says if Gensler is confirmed, Democratic lawmakers would expect him “to undo actions put in place during the Trump administration, including reversing rollbacks of post-crisis rules and toughening a recently approved standard for
stock-broker conduct that progressives blasted as too weak." Bloomberg adds that under Biden, the SEC "will also face intense pressure to make corporations boost disclosures of political contributions and how climate change affects their bottom lines." The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Ackerman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

**Senate Panel Appears Set To Approve Waiver For Austin.** The Washington Post (1/12, Demirgian, 10.52M) reports while there are "serious concerns on both sides of the aisle that lawmakers risk dismantling the tradition of civilian leadership in the Pentagon," the Senate Armed Services Committee "appears poised to approve a waiver allowing retired Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III to serve as the next defense secretary." Incoming Armed Services Chairman Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) said, "We now have a clearly qualified candidate and a declaration by the President-elect that he needs Gen. Austin for the safety and security of the nation." Politico (1/12, Seligman, O'Brien, 6.73M) says House Democrats "are working to fast-track a waiver" for Austin, "with some members pushing to bypass a hearing and committee votes for the nominee, according to two congressional aides."

**Biden Aides Making Plans To Install Acting Agency Heads.** The Washington Post (1/12, 10.52M) reports Joe Biden's Administration "is in danger of not having a single Cabinet official confirmed on Inauguration Day." Biden's top advisers "are now mapping out contingency plans to install acting secretaries in most, if not all, Cabinet posts, in case Biden's nominees are unable to secure Senate backing by Jan. 20, according to those familiar with discussions." The Post says that "Senate Republican committee chairs - who will remain in control until Jan. 20 - have scheduled only one confirmation hearing for a Biden nominee: that of Lloyd J. Austin III," and "many Republicans increasingly believe it will be impossible to expedite things. The scenario would set up an unprecedented moment in which every Cabinet post would have an acting secretary, with either the top career official in a given federal agency taking the helm or some temporary official appointed by Biden." The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Siddiqui, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

**Schumer Vows To Confirm Biden Nominees Even Amid Impeachment Trial.** Politico (1/12, Levine, 6.73M) reports Senate Minority Leader Schumer "vowed Tuesday to move forward on coronavirus relief and confirming...Biden's Cabinet nominees, even as the chamber is expected to soon face an impeachment trial." Schumer wrote in a Dear Colleague letter "that the chamber will still work to confirm Biden's Cabinet nominees immediately." He wrote, "The violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th showed us we need qualified Senate-confirmed people (not in an acting capacity) in key national security positions on Day One. ... The economic challenges our nation faces also require having key economic nominees confirmed and on the job ASAP."

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**CDC To Require Negative COVID Tests For International Visitors.**

Reuters (1/12) reports that CDC Director Redfield "approved an order Tuesday expanding coronavirus testing requirements for nearly all international air travelers starting Jan. 26." According to sources, "the new rules will require all U.S.-bound passengers age 2 and over to get negative COVID-19 test results within three calendar days of travel," though "the CDC will consider temporary waivers from testing requirements for travelers from some countries with little or no testing capacity."

USA Today (1/12, Gilbertson, Deerwester, 12.7M) reports that "travelers flying into the United States from international destinations will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test before boarding their flight." CDC "said it hopes the new testing requirement will help slow the spread of the virus, currently surging in the United States, as the vaccine rollout continues." Redfield said in a statement, "Testing does not eliminate all risk, but when combined with a period of staying at home and everyday precautions like wearing masks and social distancing, it can make travel safer, healthier, and more responsible by reducing spread on planes, in airports and at destinations." The new policy requires a negative test "within three days before their flight," and
comes as the number of travelers to the US "has surged... despite the continuing pandemic."

The New York Times (1/12, Stolberg, Shear, Wu, Rose, Mazzel, 20.6M) reports, "The new policy requires all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, to get a test for current infection within the three days before their flight to the United States departs, and to provide written documentation of their test results or proof of having recovered from Covid-19." CDC spokesperson Jason McDonald said that proof of immunization will not be recognized because current data only shows that the vaccines prevent severe illness, and vaccinated individuals may still be able to get and transmit the virus.

The Washington Post (1/12, Aratani, 10.52M) reports, "Officials say they hope expanding the mandatory testing could help to thwart the virus and a faster-spreading variant that surfaced there and is now circulating in the United States." Over 100 other countries already "require visitors to show proof of a negative coronavirus test," and "airlines long have pushed for a testing requirement in hopes that it could replace quarantine measures that many nations have used to stop the spread of the virus."

The Wall Street Journal (1/12, Hackman, Restuccia, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the order follows a narrower testing requirement for visitors from the UK after the detection of a new variant there, which has since spread to the US and other countries. The restriction is expected to impact the aviation industry already struggling to navigate a number of global travel restrictions and testing requirements.

Politico (1/12, Lim, Mintz, 6.73M) reports that the move marks "a broad expansion of pre-flight testing that the airline industry hopes will replace restrictive quarantines and help reinvigorate air travel." The new rules expand "on an effort that already had been underway for flights from the U.K., and places a significant responsibility for policing on the airline industry itself," requiring airlines to confirm "negative results, and... deny boarding to passengers if they don't meet the criteria." The aviation industry "has lobbied for pre-flight testing as an alternative to quarantines or other restrictions on who can enter the country," though "it's unclear whether the government is immediately planning to do away with those other restrictions."

CDC Finds Rapid Restrictions Resulted In Lower Death Rates In Europe.

The New York Times (1/12, Kolata, 20.6M) reports, "Countries in Europe that quickly implemented stringent measures to control the spread of the new coronavirus saw lower death rates through June 2020 than those imposing such policies later, according to a new report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." The new study "is the latest volley in a continuing debate among researchers and public health officials over which containment measures are effective and when they should be put in place." The CDC's analysis over data from 37 countries found that "more than 70,000 deaths might have been averted if the most stringent measures had been implemented when the pandemic began," with most of the preventable deaths "in the United Kingdom, France and Spain."

Britain's Hospitals Overwhelmed As COVID Variant Surges.

The New York Times (1/12, Santora, 20.6M) reports that British health "officials are warning that the worst is yet to come, as a recent explosion in new infections translates into more hospitalizations and more deaths." As the "new, more contagious variant of the coronavirus continues to tear through Britain... hospitals are on the verge of being overwhelmed, even as authorities struggle to convince the public of the urgency of the moment." Prime Minister Boris Johnson "met with his cabinet on Tuesday to discuss ways to tighten what are already some of Europe's most sweeping restrictions," with over 81,000 deaths this week, 35,000 patients currently hospitalized, and a potential "shortage of 2,000 beds by Jan. 19, according to a briefing by doctors in London to the National Health Service."

NYTimes Analysis: Italy's Anti-Vaccine Government Faces Challenge In Immunization Campaign.

The New York Times (1/12, 20.6M) reports that Italy's Five Star Movement party's "long history of sowing doubt about vaccines may have made its job that much harder as it seeks to convince..."
Italians that a mass inoculation program is necessary to beat back a pandemic that has killed nearly two million people worldwide and shuttered entire economies. The Times says that while “Italy’s vaccination program is picking up speed,” with over 730,000 inoculated, “some critics wonder if things would be better if Italian populist forces had not spent nearly a decade questioning vaccines.” The party “has tried to back away from some of its worst anti-vaccine propaganda” since assuming power, but San Raffaele University virologist Roberto Burioni “said that the government had yet to forcefully clarify the issue.”

**African Union Said To Acquire Nearly 300M Vaccine Doses.**

The AP (1/12, Anna) reports that Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention senior science adviser Nicaise Ndembu disclosed on Tuesday that the African Union has purchased nearly 300 million COVID vaccine doses in its largest agreement yet. Ndembu told the AP “that the current AU chair, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, is expected to announce the news on Wednesday.” He said the order is independent from the global COVAX effort, through which the AU expects 600 million doses, and that the 300 million are expected by the end of the first quarter. Ndembu said African officials have approached at least 10 vaccine manufacturers and developers as the continent seeks to vaccinate 60% of its population of 1.3 billion people.”

**Brazilian Researchers Reveal Lower-Than-Reported Efficacy For CoronaVac.**

The *Wall Street Journal* (1/12, Pearson, Magalhaes, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Brazil’s Butantan Institute said Tuesday that its initial report that Chinese Sinovac’s CoronaVac vaccine showed an efficacy rate of 78% in late-stage trials was based only on data from volunteers with mild to severe COVID infections. The researchers said that when data from all volunteers is included, the effectiveness falls to 50.4%.

**Iran, Cuba Begin Joint Vaccine Trials.**

The *Wall Street Journal* (1/12, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Iranian and Cuban authorities announced Monday that Iran’s Pasteur Institute and Cuba’s Finlay Vaccine Institute have begun trials on Cuba’s Soberana 02 COVID vaccine, one of four candidates in development. The agreement between the two countries, both under sanctions from the US, came after Iranian leaders rejected vaccines from the US and the UK.

**Israel To Provide Vaccines To Holocaust Survivors Globally.**

The Jerusalem Post (1/12, 58K) reports, “Israel will work to provide coronavirus vaccinations for Holocaust survivors both in Israel and in the Diaspora, according to Israel Hayom.” Diaspora Affairs Minister Omer Yankelevitch has “tasked the Shalom Corps organization with coordinating bureaucratic procedures.” The Shalom Corps “has approached several large medical shipping companies about the logistics of the project, and the Diaspora Affairs Ministry is working with the Health Ministry to coordinate with Pfizer and Moderna.” The program “will be conducted through vaccination centers in a number of different countries,” with medical staff and volunteers deployed to “survivors who cannot leave their homes.”

**Pompeo Cancels Final Overseas Trip.**

The AP (1/12) reports the State Department said Tuesday that Secretary of State Pompeo “has canceled what would have been his final official trip abroad as concerns grow over potential violence at next week’s presidential inauguration.” Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus “said the decision had been made to assist in the transition to the incoming Biden administration. … Officials said the cancellation of Pompeo’s trip was intended to support the transition and was not related to fears of violence.” The *Washington Post* (1/12, Hudson, 10.52M) says Pompeo canceled the trip “citing the need to ensure a ‘smooth and orderly transition process’ over the next eight days.”

However, ABC news (1/12, Emmott, Pamuk) says Pompeo canceled the trip “at the last minute on Tuesday after Luxembourg’s foreign minister and top European Union officials declined to meet
him, European diplomats and other people familiar with the matter said. Pompeo "had sought to meet Jean Asselborn in Luxembourg... before meeting EU leaders and the bloc's top diplomat in Brussels, three people close to the planning told Reuters." The Luxembourg "leg of the trip was scrapped, one diplomatic source said, after officials there showed reluctance to grant him appointments." Bloomberg (1/12, Jacobs, Wadhams, 3.57M) also reports on the cancellation of Pompeo's trip.

NYTimes Report: State Department Diplomats, Staff Outraged At Pompeo's Behavior Following Capitol Siege. The New York Times (1/12, Sanger, Jakes, 20.6M) says Pompeo is leaving the State Department with many of its diplomats and staff expressing outrage at his behavior, accusing Mr. Pompeo of failing to acknowledge, much less protest, President Trump's role in inciting the rioters who laid siege to the Capitol last week." The Times adds, "Just before, Mr. Pompeo had suggested that Mr. Trump won an election that he lost." The Times goes on to report that "in private conversations, some of the country's top diplomats have described a wait-him-out strategy... as they tried - mostly unsuccessfully - to slow Mr. Pompeo's drive to enact major policy shifts in his final days in office."


Axios (1/12, 1.26M) reports that a report declassified by the Trump Administration "lays out its Indo-Pacific strategy, including 'accelerating India's rise,' blocking China from establishing 'liberal spheres of influence,' and maintaining 'U.S. strategic primacy' in the region." Axios says the strategy "has guided the U.S. approach to China, India, North Korea and other nations in the Indo-Pacific region for the past three years. Its release sheds light on the geopolitical and security challenges soon to be inherited by the Biden administration."

Navarro: US-China Relations Are Entering "Dangerous Time."

On Fox News' The Story (1/12), Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Navarro said, "We're entering one of the most dangerous times in US-China relations, particularly over the next six months. What China wants to do are really a couple things. One, they want to demonstrate the supremacy of dictatorship over democracy. At the same time, they want to exploit any kind of chaos and the pandemic to advance their geopolitical ends."

China Using New Law To Limit Internet Freedom In Hong Kong. The Washington Post (1/12, Mahtani, 10.52M) reports that "Hong Kong authorities are wielding new powers under the national security law, introduced last summer, far more widely than the city's leader promised." According to the Post, already this year, "authorities have blocked at least one website... raising concerns that Hong Kong is headed for broader digital surveillance and censorship akin to that in mainland China." The Post adds that police in Hong Kong "have begun sending devices seized from arrested people to mainland China, where authorities have sophisticated data-extraction technology, and are using the information gleaned from those devices to assist in investigations."

Ugandan President Says Social Media Shut Down Ahead Of Election.
The AP (1/12, Muhumuza) reports Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said Tuesday his government has shut down social media ahead of an election on Thursday. Museveni "accused Facebook and unnamed outside groups of 'arrogance' after the social network this week removed Ugandan accounts linked to his reelection campaign." Museveni said of Facebook, "That social channel you are talking about, if it is going to operate in Uganda, it should be used equitably by everybody who wants to use it. ... If you want to take sides against the (ruling party), then that group will not operate in Uganda." On Monday, Facebook "said it had removed a network of accounts and pages" that "used fake and duplicate accounts to manage pages, comment on other people's content, impersonate users, re-share posts in groups to make them appear more popular than they were."

The Washington Post (1/12, Bearak, 10.52M) says Thursday's election will bring Museveni head-to-head with the National Unity Party, and its leader Robert Kyagulanyi, who has become "the most popular challenger that... Museveni, had faced in 35 years in power." But, Museveni's
government “has unleashed a wave of intimidation and repression against the opposition party and its supporters, extinguishing any hope many had in a fair vote.”

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:
- Pence Says He Won’t Invoke 25th Amendment As Republicans Weigh Actions
- FBI Has Opened Over 160 Cases Tied To Pro-Trump Capitol Riot
- Covid-19 Pandemic Drives Municipal Borrowing To 10-Year High
- Coronavirus Vaccine Doses That Were Held Back Now Being Released
- Australia Is Awaash In Lobster

New York Times:
- McConnell Privately Backs Impeachment As House Moves To Charge Trump
- Manhattan Intensifies As Authorities Warn Some Rioters May Face Sedition Charges
- States Told To Vaccinate Everyone 65 And Over As Deaths Surge
- Sheldon Adelson, Billionaire Donor To GOP And Israel, Is Dead At 87
- McGuire, Wall Street Favorite, Raises $5 Million And Inks Mayor’s Race
- ‘I Could Just Vanish’: In Kabul, Pocket Notes To Prevent Anonymous Death

Washington Post:
- Capitol Riot: A Last Gasp, Or Start Of A Dark New Chapter?
- US Alters Vaccine Protocols In Effort To Accelerate Rollout
- Republicans Begin To Join Impeachment Push
- Sweeping Security Plan Launched For Swearing-In
- President Disavows Any Responsibility For Siege Of Capitol
- FBI Report Contradicts Official’s Claim Of No Forewarning Of Riot

Financial Times:
- Pence Rules Out Using 25th Amendment To Remove Trump
- Commerzbank Warned Rafa! About Wirecard In Early 2020
- India’s Supreme Court Suspends Controversial Farm Laws

Washington Times:
- Republicans Ify On Impeachment, Ready To Move On From Trump
- Trump’s Breakthroughs In Middle East Complicate Biden’s Pledge To Rejoin Iran Deal
- Push To Break Up Big Tech Picks Up Bipartisan Steam Amid Conservative Crackdown
- Smaller, Cheaper Drones Have Outsize Impact On The Future Of War
- ‘Canceling’ Trump: Uncertainty Rises As Banks, Businesses Flee Brand
- Trump Cautions Biden Not To Take Down ‘Completed’ Border Wall

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:
- ABC: Impeachment; Inauguration Security; Vaccines; COVID; George Floyd-Officer Chauvin Trial; Death of GOP Mega Donor; FDA-Dog Food Recall; Images From Tunnel Under Capitol.
- CBS: Impeachment; Inauguration Security; Trump-Fallout; FBI-Violence Warning; Vaccines; Harris-Impeachment; Maryland-Neighbor Fixes Kids Bikes.
- NBC: Impeachment; Inauguration Security; FBI-Terror Watch List; Siege-Criminal Charges; FBI-Violence Warning; Vaccines; COVID; COVID-Children; Death of GOP Mega Donor; Car Sales In The Pandemic; Mega Millions; Kindergarten Teacher Zooms Students From Chemo Treatments.

Network TV At A Glance:
Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: House-25th Amendment Vote; Impeachment; NYC-Capitol Rioter Arrested; COVID.
CBS: House-25th Amendment Vote; Impeachment; Impeachment Analysis; Inauguration Security; FBI-Violence Warning; COVID.
FOX: Impeachment; House-25th Amendment Vote; Inauguration Security; China-Coronavirus Outbreak.
NPR: House-25th Amendment Vote; Impeachment; GOP-Impeachment; Schumer-Biden’s National Security Team; Ontario, Canada-COVID.

WASHINGTON’S SCHEDULE

Today’s Events In Washington.

White House:
• President Trump — Will work from early in the morning until late in the evening. He will make many calls and have many meetings.
• Vice President Pence — Has no public events scheduled.

US Senate:
• Senate on recess from 7 Jan – 19 Jan

US House:
• House debates impeaching President Trump again — House of Representatives meets for legislative business, to consider articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, for ‘inciting an insurrection’, following the 6 Jan attacks on the U.S. Capitol which followed the president’s remarks at a nearby ‘Stop the Steal’ rally. President Trump, whose term ends 20 Jan, was impeached in 2019 for ‘abuse of power’ and ‘obstruction of Congress’ — although was subsequently acquitted by the Senate last year — could become the first president to be impeached twice. Chamber previously due to be on recess from 8 Jan – 18 Jan

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 9:00 AM

Cabinet Officers:
• No public schedules released.

Visitors:
• No visitors scheduled.

This Town:
• U.S. Supreme Court hearing — U.S. Supreme Court hearing, via teleconference: 'AMG Capital Management, LLC v. Federal Trade Commission' (Whether the Federal Trade Commission Act, by authorizing 'injunction(s)', also authorizes the FTC to demand monetary relief such as restitution and if so, the scope of the limits or requirements for such relief?); 10:00 AM
• Center for American Progress discussion on ‘Building a More Perfect Union’ (virtual) — ‘Building A More Perfect Union: A Policy Blueprint for Rewiring the Economy, Rebuilding the Social Safety Net, and Reconnecting America With the World’ Center for American Progress online event, with keynote from Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf. Other speakers include Los Angeles Deputy Mayor for International Affairs Nina Hachigian, CAP founder John Podesta, and Poverty to Prosperity Vice President Alexandra Cawthorne Gaines; 12:15 PM
• Axios hosts discussion on ‘Recovery and Resilience After COVID-19’ (virtual) – ‘Recovery and Resilience After COVID-19’ Axios virtual event, on the future of equitable economic recovery, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic’s impact on small business and minority communities, and efforts to create an inclusive economy that works for everyone. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, World Central Kitchen founder Jose Andres, and Mastercard Strategic Growth Vice Chairman and President Michael Froman; 12:30 PM

FBI(21cv558)-4111
• CSIS panel discussion on 'The Role of U.S. Veterans in Global Development' (virtual) - The Role of U.S. Veterans in Global Development Center for Strategic and International Studies online discussion, with Corteva Agriscience Global Agriculture Development Leader Jennifer Billings, USAID Acting Deputy Chief of Staff Robert Cohen, USAID Associate Administrator for Relief, Response, and Resilience Jenny McGee, and Texas A&M University Bush School of Government Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs Director Andrew Natsios; 1:00 PM

• State Department / ASU panel discussion on 'The importance of investing in women's economic empowerment' (virtual) - State Department and Arizona State University Thunderbird School of Global Management host virtual panel discussion on 'the importance of investing in women's economic empowerment', including remarks from Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce and U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Amb. Kelley Currie, plus a panel featuring public and private sector leaders who support the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs - a State Department program; 1:00 PM

• Federal Reserve Beige Book - Beige Book (Summary of Commentary on Current Economic Conditions by Federal Reserve District); 2:00 PM

• DHS discussion on actions against human trafficking and forced labor in imported goods (virtual) - Department of Homeland Security Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman holds webinar, during National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, to discuss how DHS combats human trafficking and forced labor in imported goods; 3:00 PM

• Dem Rep. Kathy Castor and former EPA administrator discuss climate crisis solutions (virtual) - Democratic Rep. Kathy Castor and former EPA Administrator Carol Browner join virtual conversation on 'how the 117th Congress and the incoming Biden administration can work together to find solutions to the climate crisis'; 4:00 PM

• Congressional Budget Office releases 'Final Sequestration Report for Fiscal Year 2021'

• U.S. Secret Service begins National Special Security Event operations for the Inauguration, earlier than previously planned - U.S. Secret Service begins National Special Security Event operations for the 2021 Inauguration (20 Jan), six days earlier than previously planned, 'in light of events of the past week and the evolving security landscape' - Five people died in attacks on the U.S. Capitol on 6 Jan, which followed President Donald Trump's remarks at a nearby 'Stop the Steal' rally, and supporters of the outgoing president have been seen on social media planning more violent protests.
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Completed the SharePoint Site Creation Request and am waiting on the URL.

Special Agent
Washington Field Office

On Jan 6, 2021 9:21 PM wrote:
Thanks for creating a SharePoint. SIA
I'll pass along info about the SharePoint to the email list as well.

Hi,
We have not sent any out yet... we will keep you posted.

Thanks

On Jan 6, 2021 8:51 PM wrote:
Hi
I have the would like

Special Agent
Washington Field Office

On Jan 6, 2021 10:23 PM 

Since we are all out of the office

From

FBI Washington Field Office

Subject: Investigations

SSA
WFO
I created a folder in the SharePoint. I don't think you have access to the SharePoint as I couldn't add you to the email. Here's the site where you can request access.

Here's the document that shared with you.

This link only works for the direct recipients of this message.
do we have a case designator

Excellent, thank you

I don't think you have access to the SharePoint as I couldn't add you to the email. Here's the site where you can request access.
Hey guys,

Do you want to chat sometime this evening? I'll be working most of the night, so let me know what works best for you.

Thanks,

Sent from my iPhone
From: b6 -1
Sent: 17:28:27 PM b7c -1
To: b7E -1,2,3,5,8
Ce: 
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FW

On Jan 6, 2021 7:27 PM, wrote:

i was mistaken:

SF

FBI Washington Field Office

From: b6 -1,3
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2021 7:27 PM
To: b7E -1,2,3,5,8
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - my Special Agent Washington Field Office cell

On Jan 6, 2021 7:23 PM wrote:

Yes thank you!

On Jan 6, 2021 7:12 PM, wrote:

Thanks

From: b6 -1
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2021 7:12 PM
To: b7E -1,2,3,5,8
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FW

On Jan 6, 2021 7:06 PM wrote:

I will send you ponies. I just did a bunch while Twas TOY

- Sent from Samsung device. Please pardon any typos.
Do you want to try for 6:15? We can use this line:

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2021, at 6:08 PM, wrote:

Same - available whenever. Thanks.

On Jan 6, 2021 6:04 PM, wrote:

Any time. just let me know

S/

FBI Washington Field Office

Sent from my iPhone
From: [Email Address]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 6:04 PM
To: [Email Address]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Time to talk?

Available anytime

Special Agent
Washington Field Office

On Jan 6, 2021 6:03 PM, [Email Address] wrote:

Hey guys,

Do you want to chat sometime this evening? I'll be working most of the night, so let me know what works best for you.

Thanks,

Sent from my iPhone
Hi team,

Due to events occurring in DC, etc.,

Please stay safe and call me if you need anything!

Kind regards,

b6 -1
b7c -1
b7e -3.5
I'm able to do

SOS
To:  

Subject: Re: URGENT RESPONSE REQUESTED:  

Team,

If you respond please just cc me.

Thank you,


Subject: Fw: URGENT RESPONSE REQUESTED:  

Team,

If you respond please just cc me.

Thank you,


Subject: URGENT RESPONSE REQUESTED  

SIAs-

In light of ongoing events Please push this to your squads ASAP.

Thanks for your assistance!
Send any questions.

---------- Forwarded message ----------

From: 
Date: 
Subject: Crisis Response

To: 
Cc: 

Team,

As you may know, this is coming direct out of the .

If I get more info I will send it out. Let me know if you need anything.

Best,

[Signature]

Assistant Special Agent in Charge
FBI Washington Field Office

FBI(21-cv-572)-3799
FYSA

--- Forwarded message ---

From: [Name]
Date: [Date]
Subject: Crisis Response

Here is what I am tracking for shrfts:

Assistant Special Agent in Charge
FBI Washington Field Office
{desk} (cell)

On Jan 6, 2021 15:51, [Team] wrote:

As you may know [This is coming direct out of]

If I get more info I will send it out [Let me know if you need anything]

Best,

Assistant Special Agent in Charge
FBI Washington Field Office
{desk} (cell)
Borry for the delay | That said | so we will see what we wake up to.

Thanks for your patience and prep.

Have a good night

---------- Forwarded message ----------

Team,

Update for posture tomorrow and moving forward

Please let me know if you have any questions and acknowledge this message.

Best,
FYSA. Still waiting on guidance for tomorrow I hope to have clarification this evening to send out.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Moy, Stacey R. (WF) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 6, 2021 18:33
Subject: Fw: 1800 Hours SITREP
To: "May, Jennifer L. (WE) (FBI)"

> 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) Update: As of 1700, MPD reported protestors pointing lasers at law enforcement and throwing various projectiles.

> OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

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

> (U/AFOYC) No significant updates as of 1800 hours.

> PENDING TARGETS OR SUBJECTS OF INVESTIGATIVE INTEREST:

> (U//FOUC) No significant updates as of 1800 hours.

> PLANNED EVENTS:

> (U//FOUC) 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.

> (U//FOUC) 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.

>
All,

For those of you reporting to WFO main tomorrow or Wednesday, please be prepared for significant disruptions to your commute based on road closures starting at midnight tonight. The link to the road closures is in the article below.

If you have any concerns, please talk to your STA.

--

-------- Forwarded message --------

From: AlertDC <nsvantage@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 1:05 PM
To: 
Subject: Mayor Bowser Continues Preparation for Upcoming First Amendment Demonstrations

This is an important message from the District of Columbia AlertDC system.

Mayor Bowser is continuing preparations for this week’s First Amendment activities. She had previously directed the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) to stand up the District’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) beginning Monday, January 4, to coordinate the response for the upcoming First Amendment demonstrations, permitted by the National Park Service, scheduled for January 5 and January 6. The EOC serves as the coordination hub between District agencies and regional and federal partners. On Tuesday, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) begins its full activation with all staff reporting for response on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mayor Bowser instructed District agencies to create a comprehensive public safety response to ensure residents’ safety. Additionally, HSEMA and MPD are conducting event overviews for the Council of the District of Columbia, faith leaders, and the downtown business community. Residents are encouraged to report suspicious activity by making a report through iwatchdc.org or by calling 911 for immediate threats or emergencies.

"MPD and HSEMA are coordinating among District agencies and with federal authorities to ensure our residents and businesses remain safe," said Mayor Muriel Bowser. "I am asking Washingtonians and those who live in the region to stay out of the downtown area on Tuesday and Wednesday and not to engage with demonstrators who come to our city seeking confrontation, and we will do what we must to ensure all who attend remain peaceful."

Members of the public and anyone attending the events are reminded that District law prohibits anyone from carrying a firearm within 1,000 feet of any First Amendment activity. Under federal law, it is illegal to possess firearms on the U.S. Capitol grounds and on National Park Service areas, such as Freedom Plaza, the Ellipse, and the National Mall. Additionally, members of the public are reminded that the District of Columbia does not have reciprocity with other states’ concealed pistol licenses; unless a person has been issued a concealed pistol license by the District of Columbia, they cannot conceal carry a firearm in the city. Finally, it is illegal to open carry firearms in the District.

FBI(21-cv-572)-3804
Residents and commuters are encouraged to register for important alerts from the District by signing up for AlertDC at alertdc.dc.gov.

A comprehensive list of traffic adjustments and street closures in effect Tuesday, January 5, and Wednesday, January 6 can be found at https://mpdc.dc.gov/release/traffic-advisory-first-amendment-activity-jan-5-6.

While the Metropolitan Police Department does not anticipate additional street closures on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 and Wednesday, January 6, 2021, there is the potential for intermittent closures in the downtown area. Additionally, while the Metropolitan Police Department does not anticipate street closures on Thursday, January 7, 2021, there is the potential for intermittent closures in the downtown area. Any decision to close a street will be based upon public safety. For timely traffic information, visit twitter.com/MPDCPolice

The public should expect parking restrictions along the street and should be guided by the posted emergency no parking signage. All vehicles that are parked in violation of the emergency no parking signs will be ticketed and towed.

Motorists could encounter possible delays if operating in the vicinity of downtown area and may wish to consider alternative routes. The Metropolitan Police Department and the District Department of Transportation also wishes to remind motorists in the vicinity of this event to proceed with caution as increased pedestrian traffic can be anticipated.

Click here to update your profile.

To stop receiving future email notifications from this organization, unsubscribe here.
From: b6 -1
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:05:11 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Fwd: UPDATE: SIOC NOTIFICATION: SECURITY POSTURE IN WASHINGTON D.C. METRO

Folks

--- Forwarded message ---
From: [Redacted]
Date: Jan 6, 2021 5:00 PM
Subject: UPDATE: SIOC NOTIFICATION: SECURITY POSTURE IN WASHINGTON D.C. METRO
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Not sure how wide these go out

--- Forwarded message ---
From: SIOC
Date: Jan 6, 2021 5:00 PM
Subject: UPDATE: SIOC NOTIFICATION: SECURITY POSTURE IN WASHINGTON D.C. METRO
To: SIOC, HQ-ALL-USERS, WFO FOUO, WFO_CRITICAL_INCIDENT
Cc:

--- UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO ---

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
STRATEGIC INFORMATION & OPERATIONS CENTER

SIOC NOTIFICATION

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: FBI Police, Colonel Scott Groux

Strategic Information & Operations Center | FBIHQ, Room 5712
Emergency Action Specialist | Watch Commander: SSA

This document is internal and may not be released outside the FBI without prior authorization.

If you received this in error, please...

FBI(21-cv-572)-3806
delete, do not disseminate further, and notify SIOC immediately.
UNCLASSIFIED/FOGU
Just FYI, nothing to corroborate the below information.

On Jan 6, 2021 11:31 AM, wrote:
FYSA in case you hadn’t received yet.

> ------- Forwarded message -------
> From: Frond
> Date: Jan 6, 2021 10:51 AM
> Subject: Fwd
> To: All,
> Cc: BIA, OTE
> For awareness -
> SS, FBI Washington Field
> JTF
> > ------- Forwarded message -------
> From: Supervisory Special Agent
> Date: Jan 6, 2021 10:56 AM
> Subject: Fwd
> To: All,
> Cc: FBI
> All,
> please notify FBI police of this information.
> 
> Supervisory Special Agent
> FBI Washington Field Office
> + cell
desk
I know most of you are aware of the activity downtown today and are concerned on how it may impact you. I met with the SAC earlier this week and he advised

Although circumstances could change, based on my earlier discussions with the SAC, if circumstances do change, I advise your supervisors.

Albert Murray III
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
Washington Field Office-Cyber Branch
[U/FOUO] On January 6th, 2020 SA received information from O[snip] who provided the following information regarding a lead called in to[snip].

POC's call back number is[snip]. This information was passed on by SAC Alcock.

[U/FOUO] On January 6th, 2020 SA spoke to[snip] via telephone, who provided the following information:

[snip]

[snip]

[snip]

Is open to re-contact and provided the following email address for follow up: [snip]

SA
Washington Field Office

FBI(21-cv-572)-3814
We might want to take a look at this one...

TRANSITORY RECORD

ALCON:

Please limit distribution as this is raw, un-vetted CHS reporting. Passing out of an abundance of caution given recent dynamic events in the AOR.

Will pass additional information if it's developed; SA is the handler for this CHS.
Apologies if I sent this before.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
All,

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions.
Interesting blurb things of note within the last week.

b6 -1
b7c -1
b7e -1, 2, 3, 5, 8

SS/ FBI Washington Field Office
Squad
JTF1

FBI(21-cv-572)-3835
All,

Passed b6 -3
b7C -3
b7E -1,2,8,10
For awareness of the current status of events today. Please remember to check your phones for any requests moving forward. Nothing at this time.

SSA
FBI Washington Field Office

--------- Forwarded message --------
From:
Date: Dec 12, 2020 2:08 PM
Subject: 12/12 1400 hrs SITREP

(U//FOUO) The following list of events is being maintained per request of WFO Executive Management. The items on this list are compiled by FBI partner agencies. FBI WFO does not have any information to suggest these events will involve anything other than first amendment protected activity and is being distributed for situational awareness. Their inclusion here is not intended to associate the protected activity with criminality or a threat to national security, or to infer that such protected activity itself violates federal law.

In the event no violent reaction occurs, FBI policy and federal law dictates that no further record be made of the protected activity.

The next SITREP will be disseminated at 1600 hrs and every two hours until further notice.

RELEVANT INTELLIGENCE:

ACTIVE CROWDS:

PLANNED EVENTS:
- No new updates at this time.
dictates that no further record be made of the protected activity.

The next SITREP will be disseminated at 1400 hrs and every two hours until further notice.

RELEVANT INTELLIGENCE:

ACTIVE CROWDS: 

PLANNED EVENTS:

- No new updates at this time.

From:
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:57 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: 12/12 1000 hrs SITREP

(U//FOUO) The following list of events is being maintained per request of WFO Executive Management. The items on this list are compiled by FBI partner agencies. FBI WFO does not have any information to suggest these events will involve anything other than first amendment protected activity and is being distributed for situational awareness. Their inclusion here is not intended to associate the protected activity with criminality or a threat to national security, or to infer that such protected activity itself violates federal law. In the event no violent reaction occurs, FBI policy and federal law dictates that no further record be made of the protected activity.

The next SITREP will be at 1200 and every two hours until further notice.

RELEVANT INTELLIGENCE:
Thank you. Have a great day!

V/R,

SA
FBI Washington Field Office

Cell:

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: [Redacted]
Date: Jan 5, 2021 2:44 PM
Subject: Question Regarding
To: [Redacted]
CC: [Redacted]

Thank you,

Staff Operations Specialist
FBI Washington Field Office

Desk:
Cell:
From:       
Sent:       
To:         
Cc:         
Subject:    

--- Forwarded message ---

From:       
Date: Jan 6, 2021 1:57 PM 
Subject:    

To:         
Cc:         

Respectfully,

Det. Sgt.

FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTF) 
Washington Field Office - Task Force Officer

--- Forwarded message ---

From:       
Date: Jan 6, 2021 1:57 PM 
Subject:    

To:         
Cc:         

Respectfully,

Detective Sergeant

This e-mail (including any and all attachments) is intended for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise protected by applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivery of this e-mail to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, viewing or use of this e-mail or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy all copies.
FYSA.

IOC INTELLIGENCE:

(U//FOOU) As of 1325 hours, USCP reported demonstrators had breached the west front of the Capitol Complex and are climbing the scaffolding of the inaugural stage. USCP and MPD units are responding. Additional reporting from MPD as of 1325 hours indicated individuals throwing bike racks and fireworks near the Capitol. MPD and USCP are reporting injuries. MPD has declared the incident a riot.

(U//FOOU) Update: As of approximately 1420, the Capitol was placed on lockdown, and the certification vote was paused. As of 1430 hours, protestors have entered the Capitol Rotunda. Protestors are deploying pepper spray against USCP officers.

(U//FOOU) As of 1445 hours, the DC Mayor is implementing a curfew beginning at 1800 hours.
This is the first I am hearing of this, so if anyone could shed light on this I would greatly appreciate it.

All Best Wishes and Encouragement,

Thanks for taking the time to take my call. This is a brief email I shot my people last night and the case number is in the subject line for you. I was told you already knew about this so I apologize for calling you out of the blue.

To follow up on what we discussed.
Task Force Officer
FBI/NJTTF

(O) Temporary
(C)

U.S. Capitol Police
Investigations Division

(C)
I was passed this information today, please disseminate as needed.

All Best and Encouragement,
Interesting tidbit

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 12:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] -

---

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 2:04:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] -
All,

Thank you,

---------- Forwarded message ----------

From
Date
Subject: Demonstrations
To
Cc: "Dawson, James A. (WF) (FBI)"

All,

If I do will communicate.

Thx
From: LY b6 -l1
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 2:24:40 PM
To:  
Cc: 
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - 

For awareness

SSA
FBI Washington Field
JTIF

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From:  
Date: Jan 6, 2021 2:15 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] -
To:  
Cc:  

Respectfully,

Detective Sergeant
FBI Total Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)
Washington Field Office- Task Force Officer

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FBI(21-cv-572)-3918
wrote:

All,

Thanks,

----------- Forwarded message ---------

From: Dawson, James A. (WF) (FBI)
Date: 
Subject: Demonstrations
To: All,
Cc: 

If I do will communicate.

Thx
All information and inquiries should be directed to [Redacted]
All information and inquiries should be directed to FBI(21-cv-572)-3938.
From: [| BIE -5
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 5:24 AM
To: 
Subject: - January 6, 2021

All information and inquiries should be directed to [ ]

FBI(21-cv-572)-3946
From:  
Sent:  Tuesday, December 29, 2020 5:10 PM  
To:  
Subject:  (Last) Tuesday (of 2020) 12/29/20 --- UNCLASSIFIED  

SentinelCaselld:  TRANSITORY RECORD  

Classification:  UNCLASSIFIED  

==============================================
From: | b6 -1
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 5:04 PM | b7C -1
To: | b7E -3,5

Subject: Monday 12/28/2020 --- UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

______________________________________________
TRANSIENT RECORD

Monday:

All 30/60/90 day reviews are up to date. Completed through 01/06/2021.
From: 
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 3:01 PM 
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: --- UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO---
Attachments: FBI_WFO_UPDATE_for_Jan_6th_Events.docx

SentinelCaseld: TRANSITORY RECORD

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO---

----------------------------------------
TRANSITORY RECORD

----------------------------------------
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO---
--- UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO

TRANSITORY RECORD

--- UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO
From: | Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 1:00 PM | To: | Cc: |
Subject: RE: | UNCLASSIFIED//FOBE- |

Please let me know if you need any additional info, and I will send it your way early next week.

Thanks!

SA

From: | Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 6:24 PM | To: | Cc: |
Subject: RE: | UNCLASSIFIED//FOBE- |

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FO8@

For awareness and passage as appropriate in SSA.

From: | Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 2:39:03 PM | To: | Cc: |
Subject: FW r UNCLASSIFIED/FO8@

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FO8@
Thanks!

sal

FBI(21-cv-572)-3982
Here's another one...

Happy New Year!

Just FYI regarding...

If you have any questions, please ask.

Thanks
Good evening.

Thank you. Have a great day!

V/R,
Ok folks, here is the updated summary as of 18:00 hours.
Happy New Year's Eve!!

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO

--------------------------------------------------

From: 
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2020 4:36:35 PM 
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: LAST DAY of 2020!!! — UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO

--------------------------------------------------
From: [____]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8:16:41 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE UNCLASSIFIED Fode-

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED/FO4O-

Thank you for letting us know about your closure. We are working and will keep it up to date as best as possible. Feel free to call or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

From: [____]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2021 2:30 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: f- UNCLASSIFIED/FEt-

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED/FEt-

Good afternoon,

We closed today, as it appears to be the same subject.

Copying out Squad for awareness.

provided the following information:
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 10:26 AM
Subject: -- UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO
Attachments: xlsx

SentinelCaseld: TRANSITORY RECORD

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

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TRANSITORY RECORD

Let me know if I can help with anything else,

Staff Operations Specialist,

==============

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO
Total Deleted Page(s) = 99
Page 7 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 8 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 9 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 10 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 12 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; B7E - 1,2,5;
Page 13 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; B7E - 1,2,5;
Page 14 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1;
Page 15 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1;
Page 16 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1,3,5;
Page 77 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 78 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 93 ~ Duplicate;
Page 95 ~ Duplicate;
Page 97 ~ Duplicate;
Page 99 ~ Duplicate;
Page 1060 ~ Duplicate;
Page 102 ~ Duplicate;
Page 103 ~ Duplicate;
Page 104 ~ Duplicate;
Page 105 ~ Duplicate;
Page 111 ~ Duplicate;
Page 113 ~ Duplicate;
Page 121 ~ b6 - 3; b7A - 1; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,5;
Page 122 ~ b3 - 1; b6 - 3; b7A - 1; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,5;
Page 123 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1;
Page 124 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1;
Page 125 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1;
Page 126 ~ b7E - 1,3,5;
Page 155 ~ Duplicate;
Page 167 ~ b7E - 1;
Page 168 ~ Duplicate;
Page 191 ~ Duplicate;
Page 192 ~ Duplicate;
Page 193 ~ Duplicate;
Page 197 ~ Duplicate;
Page 200 ~ b5 - 1; b7E - 1;
Page 201 ~ b5 - 1; b7E - 1;
Page 204 ~ Duplicate;
Page 207 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 208 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 209 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 210 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 211 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 212 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 213 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 214 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 215 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 216 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 217 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 218 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 219 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 220 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 221 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 222 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 223 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 224 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 225 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 226 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 227 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 228 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 229 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 230 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 231 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 232 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 233 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
Page 234 ~ b6 - 3,6; b7C - 3,6; b7E - 1,2;
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.
Intel Agencies Say Russia Was Likely Behind Hacking Of Government Departments. The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 4, 0:25, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported "the FBI and three other national security agencies" issued "a rare joint statement saying Russia was likely behind the cyber hacking of multiple government departments." NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 7, 0:15, Holt, 6.11M) said the agencies' "assessment is a rebuke of President Trump's suggestion that China might have been behind it." Likewise, Bloomberg (1/5, Sebenius, 3.57M) says the statement "is the latest contradiction of Trump's assessment of the hack," and the New York Times (1/5, Sanger, Barnes, 20.6M) that it is "a clear rebuke of President Trump's efforts" to cast blame on China. Politico (1/5, Geller, 673M) says the statement "had been approved two weeks ago but was delayed at the White House's insistence, a person familiar with the matter told Politico."

The AP (1/5, Tucker) says Trump, "a series of tweets late last month, sought to downplay the severity of the hack and raised the unsubstantiated idea that China could be responsible. Tuesday's statement makes clear that that is not the case, saying the intrusions are likely Russian in origin."

Reuters (1/5, Menn) says the statement from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the FBI, the National Security Agency, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency said that the hacker, "likely Russian in origin, is responsible for most or all of the recently discovered, ongoing cyber compromises of both government and non-governmental networks." The Washington Post (1/5, Nakashima, 10.52M) reports the statement "said that fewer than 10 federal entities had their networks breached, though that list includes major agencies such as the Departments of State, Treasury, Homeland Security, Energy and Commerce. U.S. officials have told The Washington Post that they think that as many as 300 government and private-sector entities at most have been compromised, though investigators are working to ascertain the scope of the hacks and to notify nongovernment entities affected."

USA Today (1/5, Johnson, 12.7M) says the statement is "the most definitive accounting yet after separate statements last month by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and then-Attorney General William Barr who both pointed to the Kremlin."

CNN (1/5, Cohen, 89.21M) reports, "While top US officials, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, have previously suggested that the hacking campaign was carried out by a Russian-backed group, Tuesday's joint statement offers the most definitive and concrete assessment about the attack's origins from agencies investigating the incident. In short, the statement issued by the Cyber Unified Coordination Group (UCG) clearly acknowledges what US officials and experts have suspected since the data breach was first disclosed last month: the Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actor responsible is likely Russian in origin."

The Washington Times (1/5, Gertz, 826K) reports, "The Russian government has denied any involvement in the attack, which has raised serious questions about the security of public and private computer networks in both the U.S. and abroad. The cyberattack affected about 18,000 government and private networks, including computers at key federal agencies such as the Energy, Treasury and Commerce departments."

Yahoo! News (1/5, McLaughlin, 10.87M), The Hill (1/5, 5.69M), CNBC (1/5, Haseltin, 7.34M), Forbes (1/5, Beer, 10.33M), the Financial Times (1/5, Subscription Publication, 1.48M), ABC News (1/5, Barr, 2.44M), TechCrunch (1/5, Whitaker, 502K), the Telegraph (UK) (1/5, Murphy, 249K), US News & World Report (1/5, Shinkman, 1.91M), Fox News (1/5, Belz, 23.99M), NBC News (1/5, Dilanian, 4.91M), NPR (1/5, Myre, 3.69M), NextGov (1/5, Baksh), Bloomberg (1/5, Korte, Sebenius, 3.57M), the Washington Examiner (1/5, Dunleavy, 888K), the Wall Street Journal (1/5, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), BBC News (1/5, 876K), Axios (1/5, Rummier, 1.26M) and The Daily Caller (1/5, Datoc, 375K) provide similar coverage.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) says protecting the government from the next cyber attack and developing a "strategy for speedy recovery from infiltration" must be "an urgent priority for the Biden administration."

Top Admiral Says SolarWinds Hack Did Not Harm US-Based Nukes. The Washington Times (1/5, Glenn, 826K) reports, "America's nuclear arsenal wasn't compromised by a recent cyber attack that targeted thousands of sensitive computer networks used by government agencies and private companies, the Navy admiral in charge of the U.S. Strategic Command said." According to the Times, "The hack exploited a flaw in network monitoring software produced by Texas-based SolarWinds that allowed an Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actor – most likely Russia – to covertly install back door access points in computer networks, officials said. "We believe this was, and continues to be, an intelligence gathering effort," according to a joint statement from the FBI, the National Security Agency, the Director of National Intelligence and other federal officials."
FBI, FAA Investigate Threat To US Capitol To Avenge Soleimani. The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 3, 1:55, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported that "the FBI and FAA are looking into a breach of the air traffic control system tonight after someone broadcast a threat to attack the US Capitol over the radio frequencies used by pilots." CBS' Jeff Pegues added that a "chilling threat obtained exclusively by CBS News was heard by multiple air traffic controllers Monday afternoon in New York." Unidentified Speaker: "We are flying a plane into it Capitol Wednesday. Soleimani will be avenged." CBS cited "sources" who said "the Pentagon and other agencies were briefed today about the digitized voice recording and believe it was designed to suggest hitting the Capitol on the same day Congress is set to count the electoral college results."

On its website, CBS News (1/5, Pegues, 5.38M) reports, "While the government does not believe the warning of an attack is credible, it is being investigated as a breach of aviation frequencies." CBS adds, "The FBI is not commenting but said it takes all threats of violence to public safety seriously."

The Hill (1/5, Budryk, 5.69M) reports, "The message was received on Jan. 3, the first anniversary of the U.S.' killing of Soleimani at a Baghdad airport." Additional coverage includes Fox News (1/5, Singman, 23.99M).

FBI Warns Of COVID-19 Related Fraud Schemes. USA Today (1/5, Phillips, 12.7M) reports, "For the past year, federal law enforcement agencies have received tens of thousands of complaints of fraud tied to the coronavirus pandemic." FBI Financial Crimes Section Chief Steven Merrill said, "We've been concerned about fraud schemes regarding the vaccine as soon as the vaccine went from an idea to reality. The one thing that we've learned throughout this pandemic is that when there's money to be made, criminals will figure out how to do it." He added, "We want to make sure that the public understands that the information they should be getting about the vaccine should not be coming from an advertisement or unsolicited information; it should be coming from an official government website." Warned against "medical providers asking patients to undergo unnecessary tests and procedures, bad actors seeking personal information from unsuspecting victims in order to fraudulently bill Medicare, fraudsters asking people to pay out of pocket to obtain vaccines, and marketing representatives offering wholesale shipments of vaccines in exchange for fees."

Reuters (1/5, Bellon) reports, "Scams include emails promising entry to supposedly secret lists for early vaccine access and robocallers impersonating government agencies." Message boards on the dark web offer purported COVID-19 vaccines for sale.

The Houston Chronicle (1/5, Forward, 982K) reports indicators of fraud include "advertisements for paying for early access to the vaccine or requests for patients to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine or to enter personal medical information," offers for additional medical testing or procedures when obtaining a vaccine, "as well as marketers offering to sell or ship doses of a vaccine, domestically or internationally, in exchange for payment of a deposit or fee."

FBI Says It Was Unaware Agent Was Interrogating Legislative Staffer About Conversation On Legislation. The Detroit Free Press (1/5, Boucher, 2.16M) reports that in a statement, the FBI said that while it interrogated Michigan state Sen. Rosemary Bayer's chief of staff Katie Reiter about a conversation Bayer and her staff had about discussing draft legislation on tear gas, it was unaware of "Reiter's job before coming to her home to question her." While "Bayer suggested the FBI may have eavesdropped on the call," Special Agent Mara Schneider, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Detroit, wrote in an email that the agency "received a complaint from a concerned citizen who overheard comments about the use of tear gas during the upcoming election." She added, "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."

Officials, Law Enforcement Prepare For Possible Violence As Trump Supports Flock To DC For Protests. The AP (1/5, Khalil, Balsamo) reports hundreds of supporters of President Trump gather in Washington, DC, "to cheer his baseless claims of election fraud a day before a congressional vote to affirm Joe Biden's victory." Local officials and law enforcement have been "bracing for potential street clashes" and many businesses boarded up their windows in case the protest devolves into the unrest seen in May and June when dozens of businesses were vandalized. Both the National Guard and federal agents "were on standby, in case they were quickly needed in the city this week." Meanwhile, Trump expressed support on Twitter for the protesters and "president was expected to personally address his supporters in Washington on Wednesday during a rally on the Ellipse."

The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) reports, "Local authorities have enhanced security and warned residents in and around the city to steer clear of potentially violent agitators." The Times says that protesters' "vitriol had already begun on a rainy Tuesday, and, "after dark, groups of men wearing body armor and helmets began showing up," some armed."
Proud Boys Leader Tarrio Barred From DC. The AP (1/5, Balsamo, Long) reports, “A judge has banned the leader of the Proud Boys, a far-right extremist group, from the nation’s capital after he was accused of vandalizing a Black Lives Matter banner at a historic Black church and found with high-capacity firearm magazines when he was arrested.” Enrique Tarrio is barred “from entering the District of Columbia, with very limited exceptions to meet with his attorney or appear in court.” He was arrested in Washington the day before as he was arriving ahead of protests. He is “accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn down from a historic Black church in downtown Washington last month.” Police say he “posted a confession on the right-wing site Parler that he had set fire to the sign.”

The Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) reports that in charging Tarrio “police relied on his statement to the news media and videos that show him crouched with others near the banner as it was being set on fire.” The Post adds, “The FBI’s Washington Field Office enhanced some of the videos to obtain a clearer look.” District police “said they also charged Tarrio with two felony counts of possessing high-capacity ammunition feeding devices, which is a legal term for a magazine that allows guns to hold additional bullets.”

Additional coverage includes WTOP-FM Washington (1/5, Moore, 164K).

Far-Right Forums Urge Violence During Protests. The Washington Post (1/5, Harwell, 10.52M) reports, “Far-right online forums are seething with references to potential violence and urging supporters of President Trump to bring guns to Wednesday’s protests in Washington.” Trump’s tweet promoting his baseless electoral fraud claims and promoting the January 6 protest “has become a central rallying cry,” and “talk of guns and potential violence is rife on the encrypted messaging app Telegram, the conservative social media site Parler and on the donald.win, an online forum that previously operated on Reddit before the company banned it in June after years of racism, misogyny, anti-Semitism and calls for violence.”

Pentagon Seeks To Avoid Political Entanglements. The Washington Post (1/5, Ryan, 10.52M) reports, “Pentagon leaders are bracing for any renewed presidential attempts to employ the military for political ends.” President Trump’s effort “to use expansive military force to put down widespread protests over police violence against Black citizens” in June “served as a wake-up call to many top officials at the Pentagon and in Congress about Trump’s willingness to reach for the military to advance his personal and political interests.” As part of the careful posture and “the Pentagon’s wariness in the final days of Trump’s presidency, it emphasized that National Guard units deployed at DC Mayor Muriel Bowser’s request ‘wouldn’t carry firearms, use armored vehicles or helicopters, or receive backup from units in other states.’

David Ignatius, in a column in the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M), writes that “senior government officials appear confident that the chaotic situation can be handled by the D.C. police, federal law-enforcement agencies and the National Guard — without requiring any use of regular-duty military troops.” Police officers, joined by the guard, will establish control points near the main march sites. Officials’ assessment is “based partly on experience,” but officials also anticipate that left-wing counterprotesters will mostly not attend, lessening “the likelihood of confrontations that could escalate into bloodshed and serious disorder.” While there are concerns that after dark on Wednesday “small bands of Proud Boys and other extremists” may “go looking for trouble,” but “officials expect that the planned force would be adequate.”

DC Mayor Urges Against Deployment Of “Unidentifiable Personnel.” The Washington Times (1/5, Zantow, 626K) reports that in a letter to federal officials, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser urged against deploying “unidentifiable personnel” at pro-Trump rallies, writing, “Unidentifiable personnel — in many cases, armed — caused confusion among residents and visitors and could become a national security threat with no way for [D.C. police] and federal law enforcement to decipher armed groups.”

Legislators Advised To Use Tunnels Amid Protests. The AP (1/5) reports the House sergeant-at-arm, in a memo to members of Congress, advised that, with “potential violence in Washington tied to protests,” they should “use underground tunnels while travelling between chambers in the Capitol and to nearby office buildings during the day.”

Kenosha DA Will Not Bring Charges In Police Shooting Of Jacob Blake. In the lead story, NBC Nightly News (1/5, lead story, 2:25, Holt, 6.11M) reported, “There’s breaking news tonight from Wisconsin, where a prosecutor has announced there will be no charges filed against” Rusten Sheskey, “a white Kenosha police officer who shot” Jacob Blake “in the back as he leaned into a car last August.” Blake “was left paralyzed after the shooting that was captured on video and led to angry protests and even deadly violence on the streets.” NBC’s Gabe Gutierrez added that Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley “says Blake was armed with a knife, and the officer could have successfully argued self-defense.” Graveley said the officers were “called to the scene on a designated domestic abuse call” with the knowledge that there was an arrest warrant for Blake at the time.

On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 3, 2:00, Muir, 7.66M), Alex Perez reported that Kenosha is “bracing for more protests after” Graveley’s decision. The August 23 shooting took place “after police responded to a call about a domestic...
dispute,” and cell phone footage of the incident shows 29-year-old Blake struggling with Officer Rusten Sheskey and another officer, who both deployed their tasers, but were unsuccessful. Perez reported that Blake then appears to lean into the driver’s side of the car, and Sheskey opens fire with Blake’s three young boys in the backseat. Graveley said, “We say with confidence, based on Blake’s admission, based on all the officers saying it, and this video evidence, he clearly is armed with a knife.”

The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 6, 1:50, O’Donnell, 4.65M) reported, “Tonight Kenosha, Wisconsin is on edge after prosecutors announced the police officer who shot Jacob Blake will not face criminal charges, nor will any other officers.” The August shooting sparked unrest in Kenosha, and the National Guard is on patrol tonight. Graveley said, “This case is really all about self-defense and can it be proven that it does not exist. It is really evidence about the perspective of Officer Sheskey.” Blake’s father, Jacob Blake, Sr., said, “We’ll find federal ways that justice will find for my son. We’re not done yet.”

The AP (1/5, Richmond) reports that Graveley announced Tuesday that he will not file criminal charges against Sheskey, the white police officer who shot Blake “in the back in Kenosha last summer, leaving him paralyzed and setting off sometimes violent protests in the city.” The August 23 shooting, “captured on bystander video, turned the nation’s spotlight on Wisconsin during a summer marked by protests over police brutality and racism.” Over 250 arrests were made “in the days that followed, including 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse.”

Reuters (1/5) reports that Graveley “found police officer Rusten Sheskey acted in self-defense while shooting Blake seven times at close range, saying Blake was armed with a knife and had resisted arrest, withstanding multiple Taser shots.” The decision, which also clears two other officers, “could incite more demonstrations, which have frequently broken out in the United States in recent years after police have been cleared of wrongdoing in shootings of African Americans.” Ben Crump, an attorney for Blake, tweeted, “We are immensely disappointed and feel this decision failed not only Jacob and his family but the community that protested and demanded justice.”

The Washington Post (1/5, Guarino, Berman, Bellware, 10.52M) reports that witness accounts differ from Graveley’s depiction, describing Blake “trying to break up an argument between two women” and unarmed when he was shot while walking “back toward his vehicle.”

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Allworth, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Graveley also said that no charges will be brought against Blake following a review of the incident. Civil Rights Division Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband said that a separate investigation being carried out by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation is ongoing. Bloomberg (1/5, Joyce, 3.57M) reports that Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) “activated about 500 National Guard soldiers and airmen in an effort to ensure public safety” on Monday, ahead of the announcement.

The New York Times (1/5, A1, Chiarito, Bosman, Eligon, 20.6M) reports, Evers said after the announcement, “Today’s decision is further evidence that our work is not done — we must work each day in earnest toward a more just, more fair, and more equitable state and country, and to combat the racism experienced by Black Wisconsinites.” The Kenosha City Council had “unanimously passed an emergency declaration Monday that would allow the mayor to implement a curfew” after the announcement, while the Kenosha County sheriff “declared a state of emergency” ahead of expected protests.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, Barton, Spicuzza, Linnane, 844K) reports that Graveley “said he relied both on an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice and on an outside assessment of that investigation, conducted by former Madison Police Chief Noble Wray,” who served as a federal police reform specialist during the Obama administration after his retirement in 2013. The Daily Caller (1/5, Dima, 375K) reports that Graveley said he made the decision “independent of political forces or outside winds that swirl about.” Breitbart (1/5, Pollak, 1.26M) has more on the decision.

Rittenhouse Pleads Not Guilty To All Charges. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, Vielmetti, 844K) reports, “More than four months after he was charged with killing two protesters and wounding a third during civil unrest in Kenosha, Kyle Rittenhouse formally entered not guilty pleas Tuesday, triggering the next phases of what is still expected to be a very drawn-out case.” The Sentinel says, “Rittenhouse has become a symbol to both sides in the national debate over race and justice, law and order, and guns.” Rittenhouse is charged with five felonies: first-degree intentional homicide in the death of Joseph Rosenbaum, 36; first-degree reckless homicide of Anthony Huber, 20; attempted first-degree intentional homicide of Gaige Grosskreutz, 26; and two counts of recklessly endangering safety, for shots fired at others.

Fox News (1/5, Ruiz, 23.99M) reports that Rittenhouse “and his legal team have argued self-defense, maintaining that he only fired his rifle after being attacked from behind.” Prosecutors allege that Rittenhouse traveled “from his home in Antioch, Ill., across state lines to nearby Kenosha, after learning of a call for militia to protect businesses during protests on Aug. 25.” The case is set to go to trial “on March 28, but the start date could be delayed. A pretrial hearing was scheduled for March 10.”
Attorneys For Woman On Death Row Ask Trump To Commute Sentence. USA Today (145, Timms, 12.7M) reports that lawyers for Lisa Montgomery, "the only woman on federal death row," filed a clemency petition on Tuesday asking the President to commute her sentence to life without parole. Montgomery was convicted of killing 23-year-old Bobbie Jo Stinnett in the northwest Missouri town of Skidmore in December 2004. Her attorneys, Kelley Henry and Amy Harwell, have argued that congenital brain damage and multiple traumatic brain injuries "have resulted in incurable and significant psychiatric disabilities." Montgomery, who is set to be executed on January 12, "would be the ninth federal inmate put to death since the Justice Department resumed executions in July after a nearly 20-year hiatus," and the first woman since 1953.

Islamic State Support Trial Pushed Back. The AP (1/5, Selisky) reports Judge Marco Hernandez moved back the trial of Hawazen Sameer Mothafar, whose trial on allegedly producing and disseminating "Islamic State propaganda and recruiting material through social media platforms" had been scheduled to begin Tuesday, to November 1. Mothafar’s attorney, Mark Ahlemeyer, told the judge he needed time to determine what evidence will be presented, what pretrial motions he would file and how much investigating his team needs to do, adding that he assumed it would involve international travel." Judge Hernandez noted the case is complicated because of its international aspects, the requirements of classified discovery and other issues.

Pro-Trump Website Targeting "Enemies," Attributed To Iran, Reappears. The Washington Times (1/5, Blake, 626K) reports the pro-Trump website "Enemies of the People" reappeared, listing the addresses of purported "traitors" along with images of their faces in crosshairs. "The FBI and the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, CISA, ultimately determined Iranian were responsible for the original ’Enemies’ site and related web addresses and accounts."

Sharpton: Firing Not Enough For Officer Who Killed Andre Hill. The AP (1/5, Amiri, Welsh) reports, "Dozens gathered at the First Church of God" in Columbus, Ohio to commemorate Andre Hill, "as family and lawmakers called for justice to be brought against the white Columbus police officer who fatally shot" Hill. The Rev. Al Sharpton said, when delivering Hill’s eulogy, “We don’t want your sympathy. We want justice.” He added that firing the officer, Adam Coy, was not enough, saying, “We cannot have a precedent that if you kill us, you just lose your job and keep living your life as you were.” Meanwhile, “Ohio’s attorney general, the U.S. attorney for central Ohio and the FBI have begun their own probes into the shooting.”

Appeals Court Upholds Corruption Conviction Of Former Texas State Judge. KRGV-TV Harlingen, TX (1/5) reports, "The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the conviction of former Texas state District Judge Rudy Delgado. The court rejected Delgado’s arguments that his conviction wasn’t supported by the evidence. The FBI recorded conversations between attorney Noe Perez, a federal informant, and Delgado, "who accepted cash during conversations about pending cases."

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LEADING THE NEWS

Intel Agencies Say Russia Was Likely Behind Hacking Of Government Departments.
The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 4, 0:25, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported "the FBI and three other national security agencies" issued "a rare joint statement saying Russia was likely behind the cyber hacking of multiple government departments." NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 7, 0:15, Holt, 6.11M) said the agencies’ "assessment is a rebuke of President Trump’s suggestion that China might have been behind it." Likewise, Bloomberg (1/5, Sebenius, 3.57M) says the statement "is the latest contradiction of Trump’s assessment of the hack," and the New York Times (1/5, Sanger, Barnes, 20.6M) that it is "a clear rebuke of President Trump’s efforts" to cast blame on China. Politico (1/5, Geller, 6.73M) says the statement "had been approved two weeks ago but was delayed at the White House’s insistence, a person familiar with the matter told Politico."

The AP (1/5, Tucker) says Trump, "in a series of tweets late last month, sought to downplay the severity of the hack and raised the unsubstantiated idea that China could be responsible. Tuesday’s statement makes clear that that is not the case, saying the intrusions are likely Russian in origin."

Reuters (1/5, Menn) says the statement from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the FBI, the National Security Agency, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency said that the hacker, "likely Russian in origin, is responsible for most or all of the recently discovered, ongoing cyber compromises of both government and non-governmental networks." The Washington Post (1/5, Nakashima, 10.52M) reports the statement "said that fewer than 10 federal entities had their networks breached, though that list includes major agencies such as the Departments of State, Treasury, Homeland Security, Energy and Commerce. U.S. officials have told The Washington Post that they think that as many as 300 government and private-sector entities at most have been compromised, though investigators are working to ascertain the scope of the hacks and to notify nongovernment entities affected."

USA Today (1/5, Johnson, 12.7M) says the statement is "the most definitive accounting yet after separate statements last month by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and then-Attorney General William Barr who both pointed to the Kremlin."

CNN (1/5, Cohen, 89.21M) reports, "While top US officials, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, have previously suggested that the hacking campaign was carried out by a Russian-backed group, Tuesday’s joint statement offers the most definitive and concrete assessment about the attack’s origins from agencies investigating the incident. In short, the statement issued by the Cyber Unified Coordination Group (UCG) clearly acknowledges what US officials and experts have suspected since the data breach was first disclosed last month: the Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actor responsible is likely Russian in origin."

The Washington Times (1/5, Gertz, 626K) reports, "The Russian government has denied any involvement in the attack, which has raised serious questions about the security of public and private computer networks in both the U.S. and abroad. The cyberattack affected about 18,000 government and private networks, including computers at key federal agencies such as the Energy, Treasury and Commerce departments."

Yahoo! News (1/5, McLaughlin, 10.87M), The Hill (1/5, 5.69M), CNBC (1/5, Haselton, 7.34M), Forbes (1/5, Beer, 10.33M), the Financial Times (1/5, Subscription Publication, 1.48M), ABC News (1/5, Barr, 2.44M), TechCrunch (1/5, Whittaker, 502K), the Telegraph (UK) (1/5, Murphy, 249K), US News & World Report (1/5, Shinkman, 1.91M), Fox News (1/5, Betz, 23.99M), NBC News (1/5, Dilanian, 4.91M), NPR (1/5, Myre, 3.69M), NextGov (1/5, Baksh), Bloomberg (1/5, Korte, Sebenius, 3.57M), the Washington Examiner (1/5, Dunleavy, 888K), the Wall Street Journal (1/5, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), BBC News (1/5, 876K), Axios (1/5, Rummier, 1.26M) and The Daily Caller (1/5, Datoc, 375K) provide similar coverage.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) says protecting the government from the next cyber attack and developing a "strategy for speedy recovery from infiltration" must be "an urgent priority for the Biden administration."

Top Admiral Says SolarWinds Hack Did Not Harm US-Based Nukes. The Washington Times (1/5, Glenn, 626K) reports, "America’s nuclear arsenal wasn’t compromised by a recent cyber attack that targeted thousands of sensitive computer networks used by government agencies and private companies, the Navy admiral in charge of the U.S. Strategic Command said." According to the Times, "The hack exploited a flaw in network monitoring software produced by
Texas-based SolarWinds that allowed an Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actor—most likely Russia—to covertly install back door access points in computer networks, officials said. "We believe this was, and continues to be, an intelligence gathering effort," according to a joint statement from the FBI, the National Security Agency, the Director of National Intelligence and other federal officials.

**Operation Legend**

**Operation LeGend Resulted In More Than 6,000 Arrests.**

Voice of America (1/5, Farivar, 85K) reports, "Before he stepped down last month, Attorney General William Barr touted" the results of Operation LeGend, an anti-violent crime initiative that was implemented in nine US cities last year, in which "the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and other federal law enforcement agencies teamed up with local police in these cities to crack down on violent criminals, make arrests and get firearms off the streets." However, Voice of America reports its own police data compilation shows "homicides during 2020 were up by an average of about 40% over the previous year across the nine cities: Kansas City, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; St. Louis, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee; and Indianapolis, Indiana."

The Daily Memphian (TN) (1/5, Jones) reports Operation LeGend resulted in more than 6,000 arrests, "more than 2,600 firearms seized, along with 32 kilos of heroin, more than 17 kilos of fentanyl, more than 300 kilos of methamphetamine, more than 135 kilos of cocaine and more than $11 million in drug proceeds."

The Memphis (TN) Flyer (1/5, Selis, 94K) reports US Attorney D. Michael Dunavant said, "We will continue our targeted enforcement actions and coordination in the future with the federal agents permanently reassigned to Memphis, as well as our LeGend Task Force model."

**Counter-Terrorism**

**Sources: FBI Won't Classify Nashville Bombing As Terrorism.**

WSMV-TV Nashville, TN (1/5, Finley, 230K) reports, "An FBI source close to the Christmas day bombing investigation tells News4 Investigates that evidence indicates it was not an act of domestic terrorism." Such a declaration would "come as a relief to many businesses, who feared their lack of terrorism coverage means they would be shut out of insurance money."

The Nashville (TN) Business Journal (1/5, Hutchinson, Subscription Publication, 859K) reports Nashville Chief of Police John Drake, during a question and answer session with Metro Council, "said the federal bureau's decision had to do with the ideology of Anthony Warner, who on Christmas Day detonated a bomb on Second Avenue." However, in a statement the FBI said, "We continue to assess the evidence collected and this remains an active investigation. At the appropriate time, we will make a final determination when we have been able to review the maximum amount of information."

The AP (1/6, Kruesi, Tucker) reports, "The FBI investigation into whether the Nashville bombing was a terrorist act has sparked criticism about a possible racial double standard," as the agency "has resisted labeling it an act of terrorism." Doug Korneski, the FBI agent in charge of the agency's Memphis office, told reporters, "When we assess an event for domestic terrorism nexus, it has to be tied to an ideology. It's the use of force or violence in the furtherance of a political or social ideology or event. We haven't tied that yet. However, a handful of state and city leaders argue "that authorities would have acted differently if the 63-year-old Warner had not been a white man."

**Experts: License Not Needed To Obtain Materials To Build Bomb.** WBIR-TV Knoxville, TN (1/5, 269K) reports that former federal investigators say that Warner "could have obtained all the materials needed to make the bomb" without a license to handle explosives.

**Mural Honors Police Who First Responded To Bombing.** The Hill (1/5, 5.69M) reports a mural posted Sunday in Nashville on the window of a Hard Rock Café honors the six police.
FBI, FAA Investigate Threat To US Capitol To Avenge Soleimani.
The \textit{CBS Evening News} (1/5, story 3, 1:55, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported that “the FBI and FAA are looking into a breach of the air traffic control system tonight after someone broadcast a threat to attack the US Capitol over the radio frequencies used by pilots.” CBS' Jeff Pegues added that a “chilling threat obtained exclusively by CBS News was heard by multiple air traffic controllers Monday afternoon in New York.” Unidentified Speaker: “We are flying a plane into it Capitol on the same day Congress is set to count the electoral college results.”

On its website, \textit{CBS News} (1/5, Pegues, 5.39M) reports, “While the government does not believe the warning of an attack is credible, it is being investigated as a breach of aviation frequencies.” CBS adds, “The FBI is not commenting but said it takes ‘all threats of violence to public safety seriously.’”

\textit{The Hill} (1/5, Budryk, 5.69M) reports, “The message was received on Jan. 3, the first anniversary of the U.S.' killing of Soleimani at a Baghdad airport.” Additional coverage includes \textit{Fox News} (1/5, Singman, 23.99M).

Arizona Man Sentenced To Over 3 Years In Bomb-making Case.
The \textit{AP} (1/5, Billeaud) reports Ahmad Suhad Ahmad “was sentenced to three years and five months in prison on convictions for heroin possession and distributing information related to explosives.” His attorney argued that Ahmad “used his Middle Eastern background to trick people into thinking he could build bombs, when none of the devices he made actually worked,” but as part of his guilty plea Ahmad “admitted that he, the confidential source and an undercover FBI agent traveled from Tucson in April 2017 to a condominium in Las Vegas, where Ahmad made two bombs and explained to the agent how to the explosive devices worked.”

Police To Bring Charges In New York City Bomb Hoax.
The \textit{AP} (1/5, Sisak) reports that Louis Shenker, “a self-described American nationalist” who is “suspected of leaving a hoax explosive device in a car at the Queens Place Mall in New York City, will face “criminal charges after turning himself in to police, authorities said Tuesday.” New York police spokesperson Detective Denise Moroney said Shenker will be charged for placing a false bomb, possession of stolen property, and abandonment of a disabled animal. The mall was evacuated Monday after the device “was found in a black Tesla parked on a ramp in a parking garage,” along with a dog. The vehicle “had a Nevada license plate and has been reported stolen in that state.” Shenker “surrendered to officers” on Tuesday, but “claimed that the suspicious device was actually a rig to charge the Tesla’s dead battery.”

Additional coverage includes \textit{Fox News} (1/5, Pagones, 23.99M).

FBI Terrorism Task Force Aiding Bomb Threat Investigation.
The \textit{Wenatchee (WA) World} (1/4, O'Cain, 57K) reports, “Investigators are working with the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force in Western Washington to identify” a man who called the RiverCom Dispatch business line and said there was a bomb in downtown Leavenworth.

Continuing Coverage: Guilty Plea In DC Private School Bomb Threat.
In continuing coverage, the \textit{Washington Patch} (1/5, 1.44M) reports that Sonia Tabizada "pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to intentionally obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs by threatening to bomb Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School" after the school announced it would begin publishing same-sex wedding announcements in its alumni magazine.

Islamic State Support Trial Pushed Back.
The \textit{AP} (1/5, Selsky) reports Judge Marco Hernandez moved back the trial of Hawazen Sameer
Mothafar, whose trial on allegedly producing and disseminating "Islamic State propaganda and recruiting material through social media platforms" had been scheduled to begin Tuesday, to November 1. Mothafar’s attorney, Mark Ahlemeyer, told the judge he needed time to determine what evidence will be presented, what pretrial motions he would file and how much investigating his team needs to do, adding that he assumed it would involve international travel. Judge Hernandez noted the case is complicated because of its international aspects, the requirements of classified discovery and other issues.

**Bail Hearing For Assange Set For Wednesday.**

Reuters (1/5, Holden) reports that Julian Assange, "who is currently being held in the top-security Belmarsh Prison in east London, will seek to be freed on bail at a hearing on Wednesday." On Monday, a UK judge "rejected a request from U.S. authorities for Assange to be extradited to the US to face 18 criminal charges of breaking an espionage law and conspiring to hack government computers." Judge Vanessa Baraitser said Assange’s mental health issues meant he would be at risk of suicide if he were extradited. If Assange’s request is granted, “he will be able to enjoy freedom for the first time in more than eight years.”

The Washington Times (1/5, Blake, 626K) reports, “Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Tuesday that Mr. Assange, an Aussie by birth, is free to return once the appeals process is finished and his extradition case is completely over.” Meanwhile, “Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Monday that he is prepared to offer asylum to Mr. Assange.” DOJ subsequently said it plans to challenge the judge’s ruling. In the meantime, she is slated to decide Wednesday whether to release Mr. Assange pending appeal.”

Also reporting is The Hill (1/5, 5.69M).

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Officials, Law Enforcement Prepare For Possible Violence As Trump Supports Flock To DC For Protests.

The AP (1/5, Khalil, Balsamo) reports hundreds of supporters of President Trump gather in Washington, DC, “to cheer his baseless claims of election fraud a day before a congressional vote to affirm Joe Biden’s victory.” Local officials and law enforcement have been “bracing for potential violent street clashes” and many businesses boared up their windows in case the protest devolves “into the unrest seen in May and June when dozens of businesses were vandalized.” Both the National Guard and federal agents “were on standby, in case they were quickly needed in the city this week.” Meanwhile, Trump expressed support on Twitter for the protesters and “president was expected to personally address his supporters in Washington on Wednesday during a rally on the Ellipse.”

The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) reports, “Local authorities have enhanced security and warned residents in and around the city to steer clear of potentially violent agitators.” The Times says that protestors’ “vitriol had already begun on a rainy Tuesday,” and, “after dark, groups of men wearing body armor and helmets began showing up,” some armed.

Additional coverage includes the Wall Street Journal (1/5, Levy, Subscription Publication, 8.11M) and the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M).

Proud Boys Leader Tarrio Barred From DC. The AP (1/5, Balsamo, Long) reports, “A judge has banned the leader of the Proud Boys, a far-right extremist group, from the nation’s capital after he was accused of vandalizing a Black Lives Matter banner at a historic Black church and found with high-capacity firearm magazines when he was arrested.” Enrique Tarrio is barred “from entering the District of Columbia, with very limited exceptions to meet with his attorney or appear in court.” He was arrested in Washington a the day before as he was arriving ahead of protests. He is “accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn down from a historic Black church in downtown Washington last month.” Police say he “posted a confession on the right-
wing site Parler that he had set fire to the sign.”

The *Washington Post* (1/5, 10.52M) reports that in charging Tarrio “police relied on his statement to the news media and videos that show him crouched with others near the banner as it was being set on fire.” The Post adds, “The FBI’s Washington Field Office enhanced some of the videos to obtain a clearer look.” District police “said they also charged Tarrio with two felony counts of possessing high-capacity ammunition feeding devices, which is a legal term for a magazine that allows guns to hold additional bullets.”

Additional coverage includes WTOP-FM Washington (1/5, Moore, 164K).

**Far-Right Forums Urge Violence During Protests.** The *Washington Post* (1/5, Harwell, 10.52M) reports, “Far-right online forums are seething with references to potential violence and urging supporters of President Trump to bring guns to Wednesday’s protests in Washington.” Trump’s tweet promoting his baseless electoral fraud claims and promoting the January 6 protest “has become a central rallying cry,” and “talk of guns and potential violence is rife on the encrypted messaging app Telegram, the conservative social media site Parler and on the donald.win, an online forum that previously operated on Reddit before the company banned it in June after years of racism, misogyny, anti-Semitism and calls for violence.”

**Pentagon Seeks To Avoid Political Entanglements.** The *Washington Post* (1/5, Ryan, 10.52M) reports, “Pentagon leaders are bracing for any renewed presidential attempts to employ the military for political ends.” President Trump’s effort “to use expansive military force to put down widespread protests over police violence against Black citizens” in June “served as a wake-up call to many top officials at the Pentagon and in Congress about Trump’s willingness to reach for the military to advance his personal and political interests.” As part of the careful posture and “the Pentagon’s wariness in the final days of Trump’s presidency,” it emphasized that National Guard units deployed at DC Mayor Muriel Bowser’s request “wouldn’t carry firearms, use armored vehicles or helicopters, or receive backup from units in other states.”

David Ignatius, in a column in the *Washington Post* (1/5, 10.52M), writes that “senior government officials appear confident that the chaotic situation can be handled by the D.C. police, federal law-enforcement agencies and the National Guard — without requiring any use of regular-duty military troops.” Police officers, joined by the guard, will establish control points near the main march sites. Officials’ assessment is “based partly on experience,” but officials also anticipate that left-wing counterprotesters will mostly not attend, lessening “the likelihood of confrontations that could escalate into bloodshed and serious disorder.” While there are concerns that after dark on Wednesday “small bands of Proud Boys and other extremists” may “go looking for trouble,” but “officials expect that the planned force would be adequate.”

**DC Mayor Urges Against Deployment Of “Unidentifiable Personnel.”** The *Washington Times* (1/5, Zantow, 626K) reports that in a letter to federal officials, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser urged against deploying “unidentifiable personnel” at pro-Trump rallies, writing, "Unidentifiable personnel — in many cases, armed — caused confusion among residents and visitors and could become a national security threat with no way for [D.C. police] and federal law enforcement to decipher armed groups."

**Legislators Advised To Use Tunnels Amid Protests.** The AP (1/5) reports the House sergeant-at-arms, in a memo to members of Congress, advised that, with “potential violence in Washington tied to protests,” they should “use underground tunnels while traveling between chambers in the Capitol and to nearby office buildings during the day.”

**Kenosha DA Will Not Bring Charges In Police Shooting Of Jacob Blake.**

In the lead story, *NBC Nightly News* (1/5, lead story, 2:25, Holt, 6.11M) reported, “There’s breaking news tonight from Wisconsin, where a prosecutor has announced there will be no charges filed against” Rusten Sheskey, "a white Kenosha police officer who shot” Jacob Blake “in the back as he leaned into a car last August.” Blake “was left paralyzed after the shooting that was captured on video and led to angry protests and even deadly violence on the streets.” NBC’s Gabe Gutierrez added that Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley "says Blake was armed with a knife, and the officer could have successfully argued self-defense.” Graveley said the officers were “called to the scene on a designated domestic abuse call” with the knowledge that there was an
On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 3, 2:00, Muir, 7.66M), Alex Perez reported that Kenosha is "bracing for more protests after" Graveley's decision. The August 23 shooting took place "after police responded to a call about a domestic dispute," and cell phone footage of the incident "shows 29-year-old Blake struggling with Officer Rusten Sheskey and another officer," who "both deployed their Tasers, but...were unsuccessful." Perez reported that Blake then "appears to lean into the driver's side of the car," and Sheskey "opens fire" with "Blake's three young boys in the backseat." Graveley said, "We say with confidence, based on Blake's admission, based on all the officers saying it, and this video evidence, he clearly is armed with a knife."

On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 6, 1:50, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported, "Tonight Kenosha, Wisconsin is on edge after prosecutors announced the police officer who shot Jacob Blake will not face criminal charges, nor will any other officers." The August shooting "sparked unrest in Kenosha, and the National Guard is on patrol tonight." Graveley said, "This case is really all about self-defense and can it be proven that it does not exist. It is really evidence about the perspective of Officer Sheskey." Blake's father, Jacob Blake, Sr., said, "We’ll find federal ways that justice will find for my son. We’re not done yet."

On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, Richmond) reports that Graveley "announced Tuesday that he will not file criminal charges against" Sheskey, the white police officer who shot Blake "in the back in Kenosha last summer, leaving him paralyzed and setting off sometimes violent protests in the city." The August 23 shooting, "captured on bystander video, turned the nation’s spotlight on Wisconsin during a summer marked by protests over police brutality and racism." Over 250 arrests were made "in the days that followed, including 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse."

Reuters (1/5) reports that Graveley "found police officer Rusten Sheskey acted in self-defense while shooting Blake seven times at close range, saying Blake was armed with a knife and had resisted arrest, withstanding multiple Taser shots." The decision, which also clears two other officers, "could incite more demonstrations, which have frequently broken out in the United States in recent years after police have been cleared of wrongdoing in shootings of African Americans." Ben Crump, an attorney for Blake, tweeted, "We are immensely disappointed and feel this decision failed not only Jacob and his family but the community that protested and demanded justice."

The Washington Post (1/5, Guarino, Berman, Bellware, 10.52M) reports that witness accounts differ from Graveley’s depiction, describing Blake “trying to break up an argument between two women” and unarmed when he was shot while walking "back toward his vehicle."

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Allworth, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Graveley also said that no charges will be brought against Blake following a review of the incident. Civil Rights Division Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband said that a separate investigation being carried out by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation is ongoing. Bloomberg (1/5, Joyce, 3.57M) reports that Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) “activated about 500 National Guard soldiers and airmen in an effort to ensure public safety” on Monday, ahead of the announcement.

The New York Times (1/5, Al, Chierite, Bosman, Eicon, 20.4M) reports, Evers said after the announcement, "Today's decision is further evidence that our work is not done — we must work each day in earnest toward a more just, more fair, and more equitable state and country, and to combat the racism experienced by Black Wisconsinites." The Kenosha City Council had "unanimously passed an emergency declaration Monday that would allow the mayor to implement a curfew" after the announcement, while the Kenosha County sheriff “declared a state of emergency” ahead of expected protests.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, Barton, Spicuzza, Linnane, 844K) reports that Graveley "said he relied both on an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice and on an outside assessment of that investigation, conducted by former Madison Police Chief Noble Wray," who "served as a federal police reform specialist during the Obama administration after his retirement in 2013." The Daily Caller (1/5, Dimar, 375K) reports that Graveley said he made the decision "independent of political forces or outside winds that swirl about." Breitbart (1/5, Pollak, 1.26M) has more on the decision.
Rittenhouse Pleads Not Guilty To All Charges. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, Vielmetti, 844K) reports, “More than four months after he was charged with killing two protesters and wounding a third during civil unrest in Kenosha, Kyle Rittenhouse formally entered not guilty pleas Tuesday, triggering the next phases of what is still expected to be a very drawn-out case.” The Sentinel says, “Rittenhouse has become a symbol to both sides in the national debate over race and justice, law and order, and guns.” Rittenhouse “is charged with five felonies: first-degree intentional homicide in the death of Joseph Rosenbaum, 36; first-degree reckless homicide of Anthony Huber, 26; attempted first-degree intentional homicide of Gaige Grosskreutz, 26; and two counts of recklessly endangering safety, for shots fired at others.” Fox News (1/5, Ruiz, 23.99M) reports that Rittenhouse “and his legal team have argued self-defense, maintaining that he only fired his rifle after being attacked from behind.” Prosecutors allege that Rittenhouse traveled “from his home in Antioch, Ill., across state lines to nearby Kenosha, after learning of a call for militia to protect businesses during protests on Aug. 25.” The case is set to go to trial “on March 29, but the start date could be delayed. A pretrial hearing was scheduled for March 10.”

FBI Says It Was Unaware Agent Was Interrogating Legislative Staffer About Conversation On Legislation. The Detroit Free Press (1/5, Boucher, 2.16M) reports that In a statement, the FBI said that while it interrogated Michigan state Sen. Rosemary Bayer’s chief of staff Katie Reiter about a conversation Bayer and her staff had about discussing draft legislation on tear gas, it was unaware of “Reiter’s job before coming to her home to question her.” While “Bayer suggested the FBI may have eavesdropped on the call,” Special Agent Mara Schneider, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Detroit, wrote in an email that the agency “received a complaint from a concerned citizen who overheard comments about the use of tear gas during the upcoming election.” She added, “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.”

Continuing Coverage: Wray Urged To Investigate Trump Over Georgia Call. In continuing coverage, the Washington Examiner (1/5, Doyle, 888K) reports Reps. Ted Lieu (D-CA) and Kathleen Rice (D-NY) “urged FBI Director Christopher Wray to open a criminal investigation” over President Trump’s instructions to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger “to ‘find’ votes sufficient to alter the results of the election in the state.” However, “legal observers are split on whether Trump’s call offers sufficient basis for a federal investigation.” The Hill (1/5, Kruzel, 5.69M) reports, “It’s not clear yet if federal or state officials will heed the calls for investigations,” and such decisions “would likely involve weighing the interests of justice against the explosive political impact of prosecuting a current or recently sitting president.” The Washington Examiner (1/5, Brest, 888K) reports, “Nearly 100 Democratic members of the House have signaled their support for censuring President Trump for his phone call with the Georgia secretary of state.”

Michelle Goldberg, in a column in the New York Times (1/4, Goldberg, 20.6M), writes that demanding accountability from President Trump “feels like smashing one’s head into a brick wall, but our democracy might not be able to stagger along much longer without it.” While “most excuses for not investigating or prosecuting Trump make at least some sense,” if “there is no penalty for Republican cheating, there will be more of it,” as the structure of our politics means the party doesn’t need substantial majorities to wield national power, and so Republicans “feel free to openly scheme against the majority.” Goldberg warns, “Trump and his Republican enablers have set a precedent for pressuring state officials to discard the will of their voters, and if that fails, for getting their allies in Congress to reject the results.” It shows “that you can’t rely on elections to punish attempts to subvert elections,” only the law.

Attorneys For Woman On Death Row Ask Trump To Commute Sentence. USA Today (1/5, Timms, 12.7M) reports that lawyers for Lisa Montgomery, “the only woman on federal death row,” filed a clemency petition on Tuesday asking the President to commute her
sentence to life without parole. Montgomery “was convicted of killing 23-year-old Bobbie Jo Stinnett in the northwest Missouri town of Skidmore in December 2004.” Her attorneys, Kelley Henry and Amy Harwell, have argued that congenital brain damage and multiple traumatic brain injuries “have resulted in incurable and significant psychiatric disabilities.” Montgomery, who is set to be executed on January 12, “would be the ninth federal inmate put to death since the Justice Department resumed executions in July after a nearly 20-year hiatus,” and the first woman since 1953.

**Pro-Trump Website Targeting “Enemies,” Attributed To Iran, Reappears.**

The *Washington Times* (1/5, Blake, 626K) reports the pro-Trump website “Enemies of the People” reappeared, listing the addresses of purported “traitors” along with images of their faces in crosshairs. “The FBI and the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, CISA, ultimately determined Iranian were responsible for the original ‘Enemies’ site and related web addresses and accounts.”

**Sharpton: Firing Not Enough For Officer Who Killed Andre Hill.**

The AP (1/5, Amiri, Welsh) reports, “Dozens gathered at the First Church of God” in Columbus, Ohio to commemorate Andre Hill, “as family and lawmakers called for justice to be brought against the white Columbus police officer who fatally shot” Hill. The Rev. Al Sharpton said, when delivering Hill’s eulogy, “We don’t want your sympathy. We want justice.” He added that firing the officer, Adam Coy, was not enough, saying, “We cannot have a precedent that if you kill us, you just lose your job and keep living your life as you were.” Meanwhile, “Ohio’s attorney general, the U.S. attorney for central Ohio and the FBI have begun their own probes into the shooting.”

**Denver Police Seized Guns Over Threats To Colorado’s Attorney General.**

The AP (1/5, Sleven) reports Denver police seized the guns of Bryce Shelby, who “was under investigation by the FBI when he made plans with an undercover agent to shoot Attorney General Phil Weiser in the head after planning to obtain a getaway vehicle.” According to court records, the police used the state’s new extreme risk protection order law. The *Daily Caller* (1/5, Greenlee, 375K) reports, “Shelby allegedly told an undercover FBI agent what he was planning on shooting Weiser and that he didn’t mind having ‘blood on his hands.’”

**Police Officer Chicago’s Latest Carjacking Victim.**

The AP (1/5, Babwin) reports a Chicago police officer suffered a carjacking while off duty on Monday. The city has seen carjackings more than double in 2020 compared to the year before. Chief of Detectives Brendan Deenihan “attributes much of the spike in carjackings and other violent crimes to the pandemic and the social unrest following” the police killing of George Floyd.

**Man Arrested Over Concerns About Disrupting Vermont COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution.**

*VTdigger* (VT) (1/5, Keays, 9K) reports Aaron Loucks was arrested “after a source turned over notes to law enforcement that ‘suggested’ a threat to vaccine distribution in Vermont.” Notes reportedly belonging to Loucks and information from a source “indicated Loucks believes the Covid-19 vaccination effort is part of a government conspiracy to control the population.” The investigation involved the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and other law enforcement agencies.

**Continuing Coverage: FBI Traced Ghislaine Maxwell Using Cell Phone Data.**

In continuing coverage, Newsweek (1/5, Royston, 2.67M) reports an affidavit indicates that the FBI’s Jeffrey Epstein investigation traced Ghislaine Maxwell “using her cell phone data and a fake mobile phone mast.” Newsweek adds, “The FBI had already obtained a warrant for her GPS and location data on the mobile phone but applied for an additional warrant because they had still been unable to pinpoint her exact location.”

Additional coverage includes *The Guardian* (UK) (1/5, Milman, 5.53M) and the *Independent* (UK) (1/5, 1.19M).
Continuing Coverage: Barr Questioned Jeffrey Epstein's Cellmate.
In continuing coverage, the Daily Mail (UK) (1/5, Gordon, 4.11M) reports, “Attorney General William Barr personally questioned” Efrain “Stone” Reyes, the last inmate to share a cell with Jeffrey Epstein before his suicide.

Undercover Police Sought To Buy A Gun From Dolal Idd Prior To Fatal Shooting.
The Daily Mail (UK) (1/5, Mulaney, 4.11M) reports that prior to shooting and killing Dolal Idd, “Minneapolis police was trying to buy a handgun” from him in an undercover operation, according to search warrant documents. “After the shooting, cops carried out a raid on his father’s home where the informant had also told them that they would find further firearms that Idd planned to sell illegally,” but no guns were found there.

Man Held On Bail For Attempted Arson Of Historically Black Church.
The Boston Globe (1/5, Andersen, 1.04M) reports Dushko V. Vulchev of Maine “was held on $25,000 bail Tuesday for allegedly trying to set fire to” Martin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church, a predominantly Black church in Springfield. Vulchev’s public defender, Nicholas J. Raring, said in an email that Vulchev “vehemently denies setting fire to the church” and the other crimes he’s accused of. He was arraigned on three felony counts of attempting to burn a building, three counts of malicious damage to a motor vehicle and one count of taking and stealing parts from a vehicle.

Videos Show Chicago Police Pinned A Woman Under Their SUV For Eight Minutes.
USA Today (1/5, Hauck, 12.7M) reports Bodycam videos show how on Nov. 13, 2019 a Chicago police officer drove into Martina Standley, “knocking her to the ground and crushing her leg beneath the SUV for more than eight minutes as she bled in the street.” Community organizer William Calloway released the videos after a judge ordered the department to satisfy a Freedom of Information Act request for them. An investigation of the incident by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability, the police department’s civilian oversight agency, is ongoing and “the officers involved in the incident remain on full-duty status.”

Indiana Woman Arrested In Connection To Murder.
The What’s New LaPorte (IN) (1/5) reports Lynn Ware has been arrested in connection to the disappearance of Laura Wolfe, who was reported missing last July. The FBI joined the investigation last October, when a farmer located human remains on his property in Springfield Township.

WKVI-FM Knox, IN (1/5) reports Ware “was arrested New Year’s Eve.”

Florida Man Sentenced Over Bank Fraud.
The Miami Herald (1/5, 647K) reports Yasmani Granja Quijada “was sentenced Monday to 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit bank fraud and aggravated identity theft last year.” He “was arrested in June 2019 after investigators spotted him at several Harris Teeter stores in Virginia.”

US Embassy Staffer Charged With Serial Rape.
The Daily Beast (1/5, 933K) reports US Embassy staffer Brian Jeffrey Raymond is “accused of drugging and sexually assaulting at least 23 women over the past 10 years,” and he “lured at least one of his victims across international borders to Mexico from the United States for a night of abuse she barely remembers.” He “was arrested Oct. 9 in La Mesa, California, where he had been staying with his parents after abruptly quitting his job.”

Cliven Bundy’s Son Arrested.
The AP (1/6) reports Cliven Lance Bundy, one of “rancher and states’ rights advocate” Cliven Bundy’s sons, has been arrested and jailed in Nevada. The arrest comes years after Cliven Lance Bundy “was sentenced to prison for 2013 felony convictions.” At that time, “he apologized for
missing court dates, failing to keep in contact with probation officers and failing...to complete a one-year court-run drug diversion program." A similar Las Vegas Sun (1/5, Torres-Cortez, 165K) article says "warrants for violating a domestic violence restraining order and resisting a public officer" led to Cliven Lance Bundy's recent arrest. The Sun adds, "The Bundy family shot into prominence in 2014 over an armed standoff with federal agents after the Bureau of Land Management tried to round up" Cliven Bundy's "cattle on public land near the family's home."

Human Trafficking Organization Profiled.

WFLX-TV West Palm Beach, FL (1/5) profiles No More Tears, which was founded by child sex abuse survivor Somy Ali. She said of her organization's mission, "Our mission is to rescue and empower victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, victims in the LGBTQ community, animals that are abused, children that are sexually and physically abused."

Drug Case Defendant Sentenced To More Than 20 Years In Prison.

The Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (1/5, Ellis, 55K) reports Benny Ray Williams, Jr., a resident of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was recently "sentenced to nearly 23 years in federal prison" for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine. The drug trafficking investigation that led to Williams' arrest was "conducted by the FBI in conjunction with state and local authorities."

Tennessee FBI Agent Interviewed Over Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

WATE-TV Knoxville, TN (1/5, 157K) reports about its interview with Supervisory Special Agent Neal Gruhn, who discussed the FBI's human trafficking team. He said, "Here in the United States, both U.S. residents and foreign nationals are being bought and sold like modern day slaves. Traffickers use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to exploit victims. Victims are forced to work as prostitutes or to take jobs as migrant, domestic, restaurant, or factory workers with little or no pay. Human trafficking is a heinous crime that exploits the most vulnerable in society."

Investigators Searching For FBI Most Wanted Fugitive In Arizona.

My Local News (AZ) (1/5) reports about the ongoing search for FBI's Ten Most Wanted list fugitive Robert William Fisher, who "is wanted for the murder of his wife and two children in Scottsdale, Arizona in 2001." Retired Arizona police sergeant Christine Burke "launched HelpSolveTheCase.com in 2010 to assist in resolving cold cases and wrongful convictions by uncovering new clues and utilizing new tools like genetic genealogy."

Michigan Residents Arrested In Connection To Bank Robberies.

WZZM-TV Grand Rapids, MI (1/5, 232K) reports Kimathi R. Smith and Dennis L. Burger "are facing 20 years for robberies" committed last year.

Washington State Minor Located.

KHQ-TV Spokane, WA (1/5, 164K) reports that the FBI successfully located 15-year-old Angeles Reveleta-Buenrostro, who "was reported missing from her Yakima home Monday morning." She "was located during a traffic stop on a highway near Wells," and Eric Landeros "was arrested and charged with kidnapping and contributing to the delinquency of a minor."

KTVM-TV Phoenix (1/5, 390K) reports that Arizona police "are also looking for 36-year-old Daniel Ovante, who is suspected of having arranged for Reveleta-Buenrostro to be taken from Yakima to Phoenix."

FBI Searching For Texas Bank Robber.

KTRK-TV Houston (1/5, 314K) reports that the FBI Violent Crime Task Force "is seeking Houstonians' help in identifying the 'Dynamite Desperado,' responsible for a bank robbery in the Galleria area Monday." The suspect "gave the teller a 'threatening note' demanding money."
FBI Investigating Illinois Bank Robbery.
The Naperville (IL) Patch (1/5, 1.44M) reports that the FBI is investigating the January 4 robbery of the Fifth Third Bank in Naperville. The suspect’s vehicle “was pursued on eastbound I-88, where it was last seen approaching I-294.”

The Chicago Sun-Times (1/5, 970K) reports that the FBI “hasn’t released photos of the suspects.”

The Chicago Daily Herald (1/5, Rohr, 360K) also reports.

Memphis Police Department Warns Of Growing Gang Violence.
The Memphis (TN) Flyer (1/5, Hill, 94K) reports Memphis Police Deputy Chief Michael Hardy and Major Frank Winston spoke Tuesday at the Memphis City Council meeting, where they “gave a presentation that outlined where local gang activity is concentrated and demonstrated their expertise on the subject.” The pair “said gangs in the Memphis area are generally managed under three major umbrella organizations: Folk Nation, People Nation, and Latino Gangs.”

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

FBI Warns Of COVID-19 Related Fraud Schemes.
USA Today (1/5, Phillips, 12.7M) reports, “For the past year, federal law enforcement agencies have received tens of thousands of complaints of fraud tied to the coronavirus pandemic.” FBI Financial Crimes Section Chief Steven Merrill said, “We’ve been concerned about fraud schemes regarding the vaccine as soon as the vaccine went from an idea to reality ... The one thing that we’ve learned throughout this pandemic is that when there’s money to be made, criminals will figure out how to do it.” He added, “We want to make sure that the public understands that the information they should be getting about the vaccine should not be coming from an advertisement or unsolicited information; it should be coming from an official government website.” Warned against “medical providers asking patients to undergo unnecessary tests and procedures, bad actors seeking personal information from unsuspecting victims in order to fraudulently bill Medicare, fraudsters asking people to pay out of pocket to obtain vaccines, and marketing representatives offering wholesale shipments of vaccines in exchange for fees.”

Reuters (1/5, Bellon) reports, “Scams include emails promising entry to supposedly secret lists for early vaccine access and robocallers impersonating government agencies.” Message boards on the dark web offer purported COVID-19 vaccines for sale.

The Houston Chronicle (1/5, Forward, 982K) reports indicators of fraud include “advertisements for paying for early access to the vaccine or requests for patients to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine or to enter personal medical information,” offers for additional medical testing or procedures when obtaining a vaccine, “as well as marketers offering to sell or ship doses of a vaccine, domestically or internationally, in exchange for payment of a deposit or fee.”

Appeals Court Upholds Corruption Conviction Of Former Texas State Judge.
KRGR-TV Harlingen, TX (1/5) reports, “The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the conviction of former” Texas state District Judge Rudy Delgado. The court rejected Delgado’s arguments that his conviction wasn’t supported by the evidence. The FBI recorded conversations between attorney Noc Perez, a federal informant, and Delgado, “who accepted cash during conversations about pending cases.”

Pharmacist Who Tried To Spoil COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Released.
USA Today (1/5, Vielmetti, 12.7M) reports Steven R. Brandenburg, a “pharmacist suspected of intentionally spoiling 500 doses of COVID-19 vaccine at a Wisconsin hospital,” was released from jail Monday. Grafton was concerned “the vaccines could change people’s DNA, an unfounded claim that has been debunked.” At a hearing, “Ozaukee County District Attorney Adam Gerol told Circuit Judge Paul Malloy that the hospital had ‘walked back’ some of the information on which police had relied, that the vials in question have not since been destroyed, but are still in the hospital’s
possession and might even still be viable.” If the vaccine remains okay, “Gero! said, the most he could charge Brandenburg with would be attempted criminal damage to property, a misdemeanor.”

**CYBER DIVISION**

**Trump Order Bans Eight Chinese Apps.**

The *Wall Street Journal* (1/5, Restuccia, McKinnon, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that President Trump signed an executive order Tuesday banning transactions with eight apps tied to China including the AliPay payment platform owned by Ant Group Co. and the WeChat Pay app owned by Tencent Holdings Ltd. In the order, Trump said the apps can access users’ personal information which the Chinese government could use to “track the locations of Federal employees and contractors, and build dossiers of personal information.” Reuters (1/5, Alper, Shepardson) reports, “The order released by the White House names AliPay, CamScanner, QQ Wallet, SHAREit, Tencent QQ, VMate, WeChat Pay, and WPS Office.”

The *Washington Post* (1/5, Whalen, 10.52M) says Trump’s order “will take effect in 45 days, after the start of the Biden administration, leaving its fate unclear.” The *New York Times* (1/5, Swanson, 20.6M) provides similar coverage.

**NYSE Reconsidering Plan To Allow Three Chinese Telecom Companies To Remain Listed.**

Reuters (1/5, McCrank, Alper, Li) reports, “The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is reconsidering its plan to allow” China Mobile Ltd, China Telecom Corp Ltd, and China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd “to remain listed.” NYSE “said late Monday it reversed an decision announced just last week to delist” the three telecom companies “after consulting with regulatory authorities in connection with the U.S. Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control.” The change in plans “was due to ambiguity over an executive order issued by President Donald Trump banning investment in firms Washington says are tied to the Chinese military, and whether the three firms were banned under the order,” according to an unnamed source. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin called NYSE President Stacey Cunningham “on Tuesday to tell her he disagreed with the exchange operator’s decision to reverse course on the delistings, a separate source said.”

The *New York Post* (1/5, Manskar, 7.45M) reports, “The companies were among 35 firms that the Trump administration has sought to cut off from US investors under the president’s November executive order because of their links to the Chinese military.” The three companies “issued statements saying they had noted the stock exchange’s latest move and would release information in line with regulations,” adding “that investors should pay attention to investment risks.” Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying on Monday “said American political forces were wantonly suppressing foreign companies” listed in the US.” Hua said, “We hope the United States will respect the market and rule of law and do things conducive to upholding order in the global financial market, protecting investors’ lawful rights and interests, and promoting the steady development of the global economy.”

Bloomberg (1/5, Zhao, Tu, 3.57M) reports that the NYSE “gave no reason for its decision...saying only that it had consulted ‘relevant regulatory authorities’ about Trump’s executive order, signed in November as part of his administration’s push to check China’s growing economic power.” Bloomberg reports that the shift “came as a surprise and sparked confusion among officials at the U.S. Treasury and State departments, and National Security Council.”

The *New York Times* (1/5, Rappaport, Mozur, 20.6M) says the “sudden reversal...sowed confusion and reflected the ongoing fighting within the Trump administration about how hard a line to take against China during President Trump’s final days in office.”

The *Wall Street Journal* (1/5, Oisipovich, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), *The Hill* (1/5, Castronuevo, 5.69M) and *TechCrunch* (1/5, Ha, 502K) also report.

**San Francisco Cybersecurity Company Moves Headquarters To Florida.**

The *San Francisco Business Times* (1/5, Coffey, Subscription Publication, 895K) reports that
OPSWAT announced Monday it is relocating its corporate headquarters to Tampa, Florida from San Francisco. The cybersecurity company’s CEO, Benny Czarny, said the move “signals rapid growth but also our commitment to providing the best-in-class infrastructure protection to our global customers.” OPSWAT’s move is part of a “corporate exodus” from the San Francisco area, “with many companies moving their headquarters outright out of California or opening regional headquarters in states such as Texas, Denver, Arizona, Tennessee, Florida and North Carolina.” Czarny added, “we are excited to strengthen our East Coast presence and join Tampa’s emerging technology and cybersecurity ecosystem.”

Report: Ransomware Attacks To Worsen In 2021.

According to Fox News (1/5, Crothers, 23.99M), ransomware attacks “may be even worse” in 2021 after wreaking havoc in 2020. The outlet says the “ransom payment jumped 31% to $233,817 in the third quarter from the second quarter, according to a report from Coveware.” The report said, “The biggest change over the past 6 quarters is [criminals] now realize that their tactics scale to much larger enterprises without much of an increase in their own operating costs,” adding the “profit margins are extremely high and the risk is low.” Index Engines vice president of marketing and business development Jim McGann said, “Cybercriminals are deploying advanced technology, including machine learning, to aid them in penetrating security defenses.”


NextGov (1/5, Baksh) reports that the Commerce Department’s IG “is required to create an interagency report on the most recent two-year period in collaboration with” other IGs in the IC “and other appropriate federal agencies under the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, according to a Dec. 14 memo alerting Commerce’ chief information officer.” The IG’s office will “begin assessing agencies’ information-sharing practices.” Previous reports “have focused on weak private-sector information sharing with the government or vice versa.” But the 2015 law “also governs how well information is being disseminated within the federal government, and on that front, a key government contractor has already weighed in with a scathing review.” IGs from departments including DOD, DOE, DHS, DOJ, and Treasury, as well as Commerce and ODNI, will participate in the interagency report.

Cybersecurity Stocks On The Rise After Recent Hacking Attacks.

CNBC (1/5, 7.34M) discusses Jim Cramer’s “top cybersecurity picks,” which include CrowdStrike, Zscaler, and Okta. Cramer emphasized NortonLifeLock. The rise in cybersecurity stocks is “not really surprised due to recent corporate headlines.” Microsoft, for instance, disclosed “a massive security breach with hackers accessing the company’s source code in that SolarWinds hack last month, which included a breach of cybersecurity company FireEye.”

Iboss Among Cybersecurity Firms Taking Advantage Of Cloud Market Boom.

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Uberti, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that shifting to remote work due to the pandemic has helped cybersecurity firms raise funds. For instance, Iboss Inc. raised $145 million, with plans to grow its sales and marketing teams. Iboss is eyeing the growing cloud computing sector, hoping the trend continues after the pandemic, according to co-founder and CEO Paul Martini, who commented, “The next 24 to 36 months are really important.”

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Continuing Coverage: Gun Background Checks, Violence Rose In 2020.

In continuing coverage, Mother Jones (1/5, Cohen, 889K) reports, “Nearly 40 million firearms were sold in 2020, according to FBI data,” a record for “guns sold in a single year since the FBI started tracking background checks conducted through its National Instant Criminal Background Check System in 2000.” Additionally, “as gun sales soared in 2020, so did gun violence.”
US Attorney For The Eastern District of Virginia Resigns.

The AP (1/5, Barakat) reports G. Zachary Terwilliger, US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced he is resigning to join the Vinson and Elkins law firm. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (1/5, Green, 401K) reports, “With President-elect Joe Biden taking office later this month, Terwilliger said Monday that ‘I think it just makes a lot of sense, rather than wait.’”

Trump Names New US Attorney For Atlanta.

Politico (1/5, Gerstein, 6.73M) reports that President Trump “has replaced the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta with another Trump-appointed prosecutor from southern Georgia, bypassing a top career prosecutor.” According to Politico, “Trump’s move came after the U.S. attorney in Atlanta, Byung ‘Bjay’ Pak, abruptly resigned Monday.” Politico reports that Justice Department officials have “declined to say whether Pak resigned voluntarily or was asked to do so.” Politico adds, “Trump’s installation of a new leader in the U.S. attorney’s office in Georgia’s largest city comes as he continues to rail against the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for failing to move aggressively against what he has baselessly alleged was rampant fraud in the November election in Georgia and in other swing states.”

Additional coverage includes The Hill (1/5, Castronuovo, 5.69M) and Fox News (1/5, Rambaran, 23.99M).

Senators Urge Biden To Choose Doug Jones For Attorney General.

HuffPost (1/5, Terkel, Reilly, Robillard, 363K) reports that, according to two congressional sources, “at least 14 Democratic senators have sent a letter to President-elect Joe Biden recommending former Sen. Doug Jones for attorney general.

GOP Senators Remain Divided On Electoral Vote Certification.

The Senate and House will meet in joint session on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. for the formal certification of the Electoral College vote for president and vice president. Reports say Republicans remain split over whether, and to what extent, to challenge results in close states won by Joe Biden, with more GOP senators, including some who are usually allied with President Trump, saying Tuesday that they will not block certification. Coverage also highlights the role of Vice President Pence, who is scheduled to preside over the event.

David Muir said on ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 2, 3:45, 7.66M), “Congress is now set to certify the presidential election results and tonight, new pressure from President Trump on [Pence] to reject the electors. This comes after that recorded phone call – the President pressuring Georgia’s Secretary of State to find 11,780 votes, saying there’s ‘nothing wrong with saying…you recalculated.’” On Tuesday, Trump “tweeted about the Vice President, saying, ‘The Vice President has the power to reject fraudulently chosen electors.’” ABC’s Jonathan Karl said, “That’s just not true. Pence has no actual power to change or reject any electoral vote. And one of Trump’s longtime lawyers is saying as much, directly contradicting the President.” Jay Sekulow: “I actually don’t think that’s what the Constitution has in mind. If that were the case, any vice president could refuse any election.”

Norah O’Donnell said on the CBS Evening News (1/5, story 2, 2:55, 4.65M) that Trump “is still insisting the election was stolen from him, even as Congress is set to confirm Joe Biden’s win. The President plans to address supporters tomorrow here in Washington.” CBS’ Weijia Jiang: “The President has privately and publicly pressured Mr. Pence to stop Congress from approving the election results. … But election law expert David Becker said it’s up to members of Congress to approve the Electoral College’s count affirming Mr. Biden’s win, not the Vice President.” Becker: “The Vice President’s role during this joint session of Congress is entirely ceremonial. He basically
operates like a host at the Oscars would. His role is to open up envelopes and count what’s in there."

Kristen Welker said on NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 3, 2:20, Holt, 6.11M) that Trump "falsely tweet[ed Tuesday], 'The Vice President has the power to reject fraudulently chosen electors.' But under the Constitution, Pence cannot change the election results. His role tomorrow will be largely ceremonial. A person close to him telling NBC News, 'Don't expect any surprises,' quote, 'The Vice President thinks it is his job to follow the Constitution and the law.'"

Politico (1/5, Kumar, 6.73M) reports Trump "has privately acknowledged he lost the presidency" and "recognizes Congress will formally certify the results on Wednesday. To one person, Trump even confided he was 'just disappointed we lost.' ... Sometimes, Trump does still lapse back into the belief that maybe, just maybe, he could somehow eke out a win, most often when listening to his small group of lawyers. ... But mostly, he is continuing his fight to subvert the election for a Trumpian reason: to keep the attention on himself and give his supporters what they want, according to the people who have spoken with him."

According to the AP (1/5, Mascaro, Jalonick, Freking), Republicans "who are orchestrating a last-gasp attempt to overturn" Biden's victory "have not settled on a full strategy ahead of Wednesday's joint session. ... Those Republicans leading the longshot effort in Congress are still deciding the details of their strategy." The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) reports Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) are expected to object to the certification of Arizona's electors, Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-GA) to those of Georgia, and Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) to those of Pennsylvania. The challenges "were all but certain to fail amid bipartisan opposition. But their decision to join House Republicans in seeking to overturn the election ensured that Congress would be thrust into a caustic debate over the results." The Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) reports that until Tuesday, Cruz "had declined to identify a specific state whose electors he will challenge."

USA Today (1/5, Garrison, 12.7M) says "13 Republican senators and perhaps more than 100 House members will look to exert enormous federal power in choosing a president that would be unprecedented in modern American history. ... Trump loyalists in the Senate and House have cast the joint session as the moment where the truth will finally come out – a fact-finding mission – about voter fraud allegations that have been debunked in court over the past two months." Roll Call (1/5, Tully-McManus, McPherson, 130K) says "the GOP effort will likely extend the process into the night – and possibly the next day."

The Los Angeles Times (1/5, 3.37M) writes, "If the Senate upholds an objection and the House does not, or vice versa, the objection does not succeed and the votes are counted. ... So why are Republicans doing this? Mostly because Trump has asked them to as part of his effort to falsely portray the 2020 election results as invalid." The Washington Post (1/5, Nakamura, 10.52M) writes that "since his defeat in the November election, Trump’s critics have warned that his scorched-earth effort to invalidate the outcome amounts to a new level of danger: the first attempted coup d'etat in U.S. history to illegally maintain power."

However, CNN (1/5, Raju, Herb, 89.21M) reports on its website, "a growing number of Republicans are balking at efforts to reject the Electoral College votes." Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) writes in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette (1/5, 309K), "Objecting to certified electoral votes won't give the president a second term. With Democrats in control of the House, Republicans have no chance of invalidating even a single electoral vote, much less enough votes to deny Joe Biden a majority in the electoral college. Instead, these objections would exceed Congress’ constitutional power, while creating unwise precedents that Democrats could abuse the next time they are in power."

Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) writes in the Manhattan (KS) Mercury (1/5, 30K), "I am a conservative Republican. Therefore, I must strictly adhere to the United States Constitution. ... To vote to reject these state-certified electoral votes would be to act outside the bounds of the Constitution, which I will not do." Axios (1/5, Treene, 1.26M) reports Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) also plans to certify Biden’s win. Fox News (1/5, Singman, 23.99M) reports on its website that Sens. John Boozman (R-AR), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Mitt Romney (R-UT), and Roger Wicker (R-MS), among others, have also "said that they will vote to certify the Electoral College count."
Pence Reportedly Told Trump He Has No Power To Block Certification. The AP (1/5, Miller, Colvin) says Pence "finds himself in the most precarious position of his tenure as he prepares to preside over Wednesday's congressional tally of Electoral College votes." According to the AP, Pence, "whose proscribed role is largely pro forma, is under intense pressure from the president and legions of supporters who want the vice president to use the moment to overturn the will of the voters in a handful of critical battleground states." Reuters (1/5, Mason) reports, "Trump ramped up pressure on Pence on Tuesday to block Congress' certification of the November election results." But the vice president, a loyal lieutenant during the four years of Trump's often chaotic presidency, has no plans to attempt to do so, even as he seeks to show support for the Republican president's quest.

The New York Times (1/5, 206.6M) reports Pence told the President on Tuesday "that he did not believe he had the power to block congressional certification" of Biden's victory "despite Mr. Trump's baseless insistence that he did." Pence's message, "delivered during his weekly lunch with the president, came hours after Mr. Trump further turned up the public pressure" on Pence "to do his bidding when Congress convenes Wednesday." However, The Hill (1/5, Samuels, 5.69M) reports Trump denied the Times account. He "called the report 'fake news' and insisted he and Pence were 'in total agreement that the Vice President has the power to act' to decertify results of the Electoral College."

CNN (1/5, Liptak, 89.21M) reports on its website that Pence "has previously sought to explain his ceremonial role to the President in the hopes of easing pressure on himself in the lead-up to the January 6 joint session of Congress. A person close to him said Tuesday he would 'follow the law and Constitution.'" Politico (1/5, Niedziadow, Cheney, 6.73M) reports Pence "was also tangentially involved in a minor imbroglio Tuesday about whether he would show up on the Capitol at all Wednesday, leaving the duties" to Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), the Senate president pro tem. However, "both the vice president and Grassley's offices moved quickly to defuse the speculation."

The Washington Post (1/5, Dawsey, 10.52M) says Pence and his team "have begun anticipating the ire of President Trump – likely to come in the form of angry tweets – in the aftermath of Wednesday's certification.

WPost Analysis: Wednesday Session Marks Start Of "More Challenging Era" For McConnell. The Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) reports that "a new chapter" in Senate Majority Leader McConnell's "14-year run as Senate Republican leader is set to begin in dramatic fashion Wednesday, with the GOP majority hanging in the balance and his members badly split on a fundamental question of democracy. ... McConnell appears to be entering a more challenging era – a return to a period of GOP jockeying and infighting likely to be further complicated by Trump's continued presence." McConnell will be the first to speak on any challenges Wednesday, providing "an opportunity to make an early and definitive statement that Trump lost and it is time to move on. ... Yet any gesture rejecting Trump's claims will inflame the GOP's hard-right base and stoke a conflict inside his own ranks."

Federal Judge Dismisses Trump's Bid To "De-Certify" Georgia Results. Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports that on Tuesday, President Trump "failed again to invalidate his election loss in Georgia and allow the state's Republican-led legislature to declare him the winner." Bloomberg says US District Judge Mark H. Cohen in Atlanta "denied Trump's motion to 'de-certify' [Biden's] victory in the state." According to Bloomberg, "The ruling came in a Dec. 31 lawsuit filed by Trump that rehashed claims of voter fraud previously made by his campaign and allies in dozens of other cases that were universally rejected by courts." The New York Times (1/5, Feuer, 20.6M) also covers the ruling.

Mitchell Resigns From Law Firm Following Trump Call To Georgia Officials. The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) reports attorney Cleta Mitchell, who has been "advising [Trump] in recent weeks," has resigned from her law firm "after it was revealed that she participated in the call where Mr. Trump pressured Georgia officials to help him reverse the state's election results." The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, 844K) reports a statement from Milwaukee-based Foley & Lardner read in part, "Cleta Mitchell has informed firm management of her decision to resign from Foley & Lardner effective immediately. Ms. Mitchell concluded that her departure was in the firm's
best interests, as well as in her own personal best interests.” The Washington Post (1/5, Kranish, 10.52M) says Mitchell “is a onetime Democratic member of the Oklahoma legislature who became a Republican and has made a Washington career representing GOP candidates, committees and causes, culminating with her work after the election advising Trump.”

Navarro Says Democrats Employed “Conscious Strategy To Tip This Election” To Biden. In an appearance on the Brian Kilmeade Show (1/5), Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Navarro said Democrats focused “on two prongs of attack. One was to dramatically increase the absentee and mail-in ballots specifically in the battleground states, and at the same time, they wanted to dramatically decrease the level of ballot verification.” Navarro continued, “There was a conscious strategy to tip this election in favor of Biden using sometimes legal means, but at times, clear bending and breaking rules.”

Scottish Leader Says Trump Cannot Travel There At Time Of Inauguration. The New York Times (1/5, Landier, Haberman, 20.6M) reports, “Trump has not said where he plans to go after leaving the White House on Jan. 20. But the leader of Scotland made clear on Tuesday that Mr. Trump is not welcome in her country.” First Minister Nicola Sturgeon “said that under newly imposed virus restrictions, which prohibit all but essential travel, a visit by the president to one of his Scottish golf resorts, Trump Turnberry, would not be acceptable.” The Times says rumors that Trump “would head for Scotland flared after a Scottish paper reported that an American military version of a Boeing 757 – sometimes used by Mr. Trump – was scheduled to land at a nearby airport” on January 19.

The Independent (UK) (1/5, 1.19M) reports Sturgeon said, “We are not allowing people to come in to Scotland without an essential purpose right now and that would apply to him, just as it applies to anybody else. Coming to play golf is not what I would consider to be an essential purpose.” The Washington Post (1/5, Booth, 10.52M) says “the White House battered away the speculation. Anonymous sources who claim to know what the President is or is not considering have no idea. When President Trump has an announcement about his plans for Jan. 20 he will let you know,’ White House spokesman Judd Deere said in a written statement.”

US Passes 21M COVID Cases. On the CBS Evening News (1/5, story 5, 3:20, 4.65M), Norah O'Donnell reported the US has “just passed 21 million confirmed cases. And after one to have the deadliest weeks of the pandemic, the US death toll now tops 356,000.” Jonathan Vigliotti added one “major concern now is that new variant of the virus, over 50% more contagious, found in California, Florida, Colorado, New York, and now Georgia.” The AP (1/5, Kirka, Charlton) also highlights that a growing number of countries “are reporting cases of [the] new, more contagious variant that has already swept across Britain.”

In addition, the Washington Post (1/5, A1, Nirappil, Wan, 10.52M) reports the US now has “record numbers of Americans hospitalized with the coronavirus, straining a health-care system bracing for a post-holidays surge that has the potential to further stress hospitals.” The Post adds, “More than 131,000 covid-19 patients were hospitalized nationwide as of Tuesday, eclipsing the record set in the last week of 2020. Facilities across the West and South are especially burdened.”

Arizona Has Highest Rate Of COVID Cases Nationwide. On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 4, 3:55, Muir, 7.66M), Matt Gutman reported Arizona has “the highest rate of infections in the country. Patients driving as far as six hours to find an open ICU bed.” The New York Times (1/5, Robertson, Smith, 20.6M) also reports that from “more than a month, from early June until mid July,” Arizona had “added cases at the highest per capita rate in the country,” and now “is again in dire shape, with a higher rate of new cases than any other state.” According to the Times, “Hospitalizations and deaths have surpassed records. Over the last week, the state has averaged more than 8,000 cases a day, more than double the summer peak.”

NIH Scientists Work With Moderna To Study Benefit Of Smaller Doses. On NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 4, 2:15, 6.11M), Lester Holt said that the US COVID vaccine roll out is sparking “growing frustration over the slow pace, [with] just 273,000 vaccinated
Monday. Torn Castello reported on long waits in Florida to receive the vaccine, and added that one California hospital “had to vaccinate local jail staff and nursing home residents within hours after the hospital freezer failed, putting all of its vaccine doses in jeopardy.” Castello added, “Nationwide, 12,000 vaccination sites are up and running, an increase from 1,000 three weeks ago.”

However, the New York Times (1/5, A1, Stolberg, LaFraniere, 20.6M) reports that federal officials “and drugmakers, faced with a slower-than-expected rollout of the coronavirus vaccine, are racing to find ways to expand the supply, looking at lowering the required dosage and extracting more doses from the supplies they have.” The Times adds that scientists at the National Institutes of Health and Moderna “are analyzing data to see if they can double the supply of the company’s coronavirus vaccine by cutting doses in half” as part of a “long planned” study that has become “increasingly urgent in the face of looming shortages as the country tries to fight off a surging pandemic.”

In another article, the New York Times (1/5, Stolberg, 20.6M) reports John Mascola, the Director of the Vaccine Research Center at the NIH, indicated that “the research, which also involves scientists from Operation Warp Speed, the government’s vaccine initiative, could take about two months.” The Times says “the prospect of doubling the supply of Moderna doses was first raised on Sunday by Dr. Moncef Slaoui, the head of Operation Warp Speed, who said...that data from Moderna’s clinical trials demonstrated that people between the ages of 18 and 55 who received two 50-microgram doses showed an ‘identical immune response’ to the two 100-microgram doses.”

Fauci Says US Could Soon Be Giving At Least 1M COVID Vaccinations A Day. The AP (1/5, Neergaard) reports NIAID Director Fauci on Tuesday predicted the US “could soon be giving at least a million COVID-19 vaccinations a day despite the sluggish start...even as he warned of a dangerous next few weeks as the coronavirus surges.” Fauci told the AP, “Any time you start a big program, there’s always glitches. I think the glitches have been worked out.” With the holidays over, Fauci added, “once you get rolling and get some momentum, I think we can achieve one million a day or even more.” The Hill (1/5, Axelrod, 5.69M) also reports that Fauci called “Joe Biden’s plan to inject 100 million Americans with the vaccine in his first 100 days ‘a very realistic, important, achievable goal.”

Adams Says States Should Proceed To Vaccinate “Other Priority Groups“ Beyond Healthcare Workers. The New York Times (1/5, Goodnough, 20.6M) reports that amid a slow rollout of vaccines, Surgeon General Adams “urged the states on Tuesday not to stick rigidly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines about whom to vaccinate first” if healthcare workers are not getting the vaccine. On NBC’s Today, Adams argued, “If the demand isn’t there in 1a, go to 1b and continue on down. If the demand isn’t there in one location, move those vaccines to another location.” Adams said, “Your headline today really should be, ‘Surgeon General tells states and governors to move quickly to other priority groups.”

 Asked on NBC’s Today (1/5, 1.98M) about current challenges in distributing vaccines, Adams said, “We need to continue to do a better job of matching up supply and demand at the local level. Some states are doing a really good job,” noting that others “still haven’t distributed more than 25% of their vaccines.”

Messonnier Predicts Delays In Vaccinations Will Improve Soon. STAT (1/5, Joseph, 262K) reports Nancy Messonnier, Director of the CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, on Tuesday “predicted...delays in the administration of the shots would improve soon, even as public health experts have piled up complaints about the slow rollout and about the gap between the number of doses distributed versus those actually going into people’s arms.” Messonnier said, “I really expect the pace of administration to go up pretty massively in the next couple weeks.”

Cuomo: New York In Talks To Increase Its Vaccine Allotment. Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) revealed on Tuesday that the state is “talking to the federal government about an increase in its weekly 300,000-dose vaccine supply as it prepares to boost distribution.” However, “So far, only about 900,000 vaccines have been distributed for a cohort of 2.1 million health-care workers, Cuomo said Tuesday at a virus briefing.
"You’d need another four weeks of allocations before you can get out of health-care workers, roughly, roughly, before you finish 1A and then move to 1B,” Cuomo said, describing the state’s tiered distribution system.” According to Bloomberg, “The 1B category includes essential workers and members of the general public over the age of 75.”

**Hogan Outlines Plans To Accelerate Vaccine Rollout.** The Baltimore Sun (1/5, Wood, Stole, 629K) reports Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) “announced actions Tuesday to speed up the [vaccine] process, while cautioning against assigning blame.” The Sun adds Hogan “said he had ‘productive’ conversations Tuesday with CVS CEO Larry Merlo and Walgreens President John Stanley,” and said he contacted HHS Secretary Azar “on Tuesday to express our serious concerns about the pace of the federal nursing home/pharmacy program.” According to the Sun, Hogan also “pledged that vaccines soon would be administered so quickly that the state would be using up its doses of vaccines before the next shipments arrive.”

In addition, the Washington Post (1/5, Cox, Tan, Fadulu, 10.52M) reports that Hogan announced he will “deploy the state’s National Guard to hasten local health departments’ inoculation of medical workers, while threatening to take away unused vaccines from hospitals slow to administer them.” The Hill (1/5, Weixel, 5.69M) provides similar coverage.

**California Has Only Administered A Third Of Its Available Vaccine Doses.** The AP (1/5, Ronye) reports that “distribution hiccups and logistical challenges have slowed the initial coronavirus vaccine rollout in California,” and “so far only about 1% of California’s 40 million residents have been vaccinated.” According to the AP, “The 454,000 doses of vaccine that have been administered in California represent just a third of the more than nearly 1.3 million received in the state so far.” The AP says that “even as he acknowledged the state must do better,” Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) “sought to shift some responsibility for the slow rollout, noting ‘the vaccines don’t arrive magically in some state facility.’”

**Congress Using Curative COVID Test Despite FDA Warning Of False Hits.**

Politico (1/5, Lim, Ferris, 6.73M) reports that the House and Senate have been “screening members and staff with a Covid-19 test that the Food and Drug Administration says is prone to false results – complicating the already difficult task of stemming coronavirus outbreaks on Capitol Hill.” According to Politico, the Office of the Attending Physician “has been offering the test, made by Curative, to members, staff and reporters on Capitol Hill since at least November,” but its accuracy is “in doubt, after the FDA took the unusual step Monday of alerting health care providers and patients that the test poses a ‘risk of false results, particularly false negative results.’”

**Some California Hospitals Activate Crisis Care Standards.**

On NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 6, 1:55, Holt, 6.11M), Miguel Almaguer reported California’s healthcare system is “in critical condition,” and “at least one LA hospital has activated its crisis care standards, allowing the medical center to ration care. As COVID cases cripple and overwhelm ERs, residents in southern California are being urged to only call 911 in an extreme emergency. And now in a stunning directive, EMS teams in Los Angeles County are being asked to conserve oxygen as paramedics have been told not to transport patients who can’t be resuscitated.”

The New York Times (1/5, Patil, 20.6M) also says California deployed the US Army Corps of Engineers and the California Emergency Medical Services Authority to deliver and refill oxygen tanks. In addition, the Times reports Los Angeles County officials “said a person is being infected every six seconds in the county and one in five residents currently tested was infected with Covid-19.” Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times (1/5, Cosgrove, 3.37M) reports Los Angeles County “hit another disturbing milestone Tuesday, exceeding 11,000 COVID-19 deaths.” Los Angeles County has “reported nearly 1,300 deaths since Dec. 30, according to health officials, including 237 on Tuesday, according to data compiled by The Times.”

**Mississippi Says 108 Inmates Died In 2020 But Does Not Disclose Cause Of Death.**

The New York Times (1/5, Griesbach, 20.6M) says the Mississippi Department of Corrections “reported that 108 people died in its prisons in 2020, a toll that was significantly higher than a year earlier,” but the department as of Monday “had not disclosed whether any of those deaths were
Florida Nursing Home Vaccinated Wealthy Donors.

The Washington Post (1/5, Boburg, 10.52M) reports Keith Myers, the CEO of MorseLife Health System, "a high-end nursing home and assisted-living facility" in West Palm Beach, Florida, has made "scarce coronavirus vaccines – provided through a federal program intended for residents and staff of long-term-care facilities – available not just to its residents but to board members and those who made generous donations to the facility, including members of the Palm Beach Country Club, according to multiple people who were offered access, some of whom accepted it." The Post adds the vaccinations, “in appearing to rely on a program run by chain pharmacies for nursing home residents and staff, may have violated national immunization guidelines, as well as state protocols.”

WHO Director-General Criticizes China For Blocking Researchers’ Access.

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Hinshaw, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the World Health Organization on Tuesday criticized China, with the agency utilizing a news conference to convey disappointment that China has yet to provide authorization to United Nations investigators to look into the coronavirus pandemic’s origins.

The AP (1/5, Keaten) reports WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus "said...he was 'very disappointed' that China has still not authorised the entry of a team of international experts to examine the origins of the coronavirus,” and “said members of the international scientific team began departing from their home countries over the last 24 hours as part of an arrangement between WHO and the Chinese government.” Reuters (1/5) says that “the 10-strong team had been due to set off in early January as part of a long-awaited mission to probe early cases of the coronavirus.”

EU Confronts Problems With Vaccine Rollout.

The New York Times (1/5, Santora, 20.6M) reports European officials “promised that mass vaccinations will bring an end to the suffering,” but the bloc is facing “shortages of needies in Italy, Greece and other countries,” while Spain “has not trained enough nurses,” and France “has only managed to vaccinate around 7,000 people.” The Times adds Poland “was rocked by scandal after it was revealed that celebrities were given preferential treatment,” and Germany faces “calls...to take control over vaccine purchases from European Union authorities.” According to the Times, “Nearly every country in Europe has complained about burdensome paperwork. And then there is the Netherlands, which has not even begun its campaign.”

Germany Lengthens Lockdown, Toughens Restrictions.

The AP (1/5, Grieshaber) reports the German government “said Tuesday it is extending the country’s lockdown by three weeks until Jan. 31.” Chancellor Angela Merkel “said it was ‘absolutely necessary’ to maintain restrictions, particularly in light of a more infectious variant of the virus that emerged in England.” Following a videoconference with Germany’s state governors, Merkel said, “We must reach a point where we can once again follow the chains of infection.” The AP adds that Merkel “said that restrictions on social contacts will be tightened. People will be allowed to meet only one person outside their own household.” Moreover, “authorities across Germany will allow people in areas with more than 200 new infections per 100,000 residents over seven days to travel only 15 kilometers (just over nine miles) from their hometown unless they have a good reason to go further.”

UK Says One Out Of Every 50 People In England Has COVID.

Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports that according to the British government, in excess of one million
individuals in England are now infected with the coronavirus. Official survey results indicated that one out of every 50 people in England has COVID, with that ratio in London being one in 30. Prime Minister Boris Johnson "unveiled the statistics as he vowed to speed up the government's vaccination program, in order eventually to lift the latest lockdown," which Johnson "put the country into" on Monday. On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 5, 1:15, Muir, 7.66M), James Longman reported that on Tuesday, "there were more than 60,000 new cases in just one day, the most ever in Britain."

According to the AP (1/5, Kirka), the UK "is facing a long, bleak winter as cold, wet weather and a more contagious variant of the coronavirus," which has "put unprecedented strain on the nation's hospitals and force record numbers of patients to wait 12 hours or more, sometimes on ambulance gurneys, before receiving treatment." The New York Times (1/5, Castle, Santora, 20.6M) reports that with "more than a million confirmed cases in the week ending Jan. 2, or 2 percent of England’s population, Britain is in a race against time to distribute vaccines."

Israel Leading World In Coronavirus Vaccination.

On NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 5, 1:30, Holt, 6.11M), Richard Engel reported Israel "is rolling out the COVID vaccine far more quickly and efficiently than any other nation by far." According to Engel, "Israel has immunized 1.3 million people, about 12% of the population, with the Pfizer vaccine. And of the top priority group including those over 60 or in fragile health they’ve given the first shot to 55%." However, the Los Angeles Times (1/5, Tarnopolsky, 3.37M) reports that while Israel’s "extraordinary achievement" is being "hailed by public health experts at home and abroad, and one that could propel it toward coveted herd immunity more rapidly than almost any nation," the country faces "criticism for leaving behind the nearly 5 million Palestinians under its control in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who are expected to wait considerably longer for mass inoculation."

Palau Would Owe Vaccination Effort To Operation Warp Speed.

The Washington Post (1/5, Berger, 10.52M) reports Palau, a "tiny island nation" that is "partnered with the United States under a ‘free association’ agreement," could soon "vaccinate nearly its entire population against the coronavirus. If it succeeds, it will have Operation Warp Speed, the U.S. vaccine development and distribution plan, to thank." The Post adds that Palau’s isolation has "served as a shield during the coronavirus pandemic: Palau has not recorded a single case of covid-19, the illness caused by the virus," and this week, "after receiving 2,800 doses of the Moderna coronavirus vaccine through the U.S. program Saturday, the country swiftly began a mass vaccination plan for its population of 16,000."

US Accuses Iran Of Seizing South Korean Tanker In Response To Sanctions.

The New York Times (2/5, Kwai, Choe, 20.6M) reports that South Korea "will send a delegation to negotiate the release of a ship and its 20-member crew after the vessel was seized by Iranian forces." According to the Times, Iranian officials "said the ship was detained in the Persian Gulf by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps because it had violated environmental protocols and was polluting the sea," but the seizure happened "as Tehran has sought to pressure the government in Seoul to release about $7 billion in revenues from oil sales that remain frozen in South Korean banks since the Trump administration tightened sanctions on Iran." The Times reports that "news outlets linked to the Revolutionary Guards ran front-page headlines on Tuesday linking the seizure of the ship to negotiations with South Korea on releasing the frozen funds."

The Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) reports that the State Department called the seizure "part of a clear attempt to extort the international community into relieving the pressure of sanctions," Iran "rejected that characterization, even as it repeated its demand for Seoul to return money that has been frozen by its banks due to U.S. sanctions." Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei told reporters, "We’ve become used to such allegations...but if there is any hostage-taking, it is Korea’s government that is holding $7 billion which belongs to us hostage on baseless grounds."

Reuters (1/5, Cha) says Iran’s "ability to challenge shipping in the Gulf is one of its main
points of leverage in what is expected to be a difficult negotiation when the Biden administration takes office.” Bloomberg (1/5, Motevalli, 3.57M) reports that South Korea “ordered its naval destroyer ROKS Choi Young to waters near the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday.”

**Treasury Sanctions Chinese Firm Tied Iran’s Steel Industry.**

Reuters (1/5) reports that on Tuesday, the US “blacklisted a Chinese company that makes elements for steel production, 12 Iranian steel and metals makers and three foreign-based sales agents of a major Iranian metals and mining holding company, seeking to deprive Iran of revenues.” Reuters says the Treasury Department “named the China-based company as Kaifeng Pingmei New Carbon Materials Technology Co Ltd. (KFCC), saying it specialized in the manufacture of carbon materials and provided thousands of metric tonnes of materials to Iranian steel companies between December 2019 and June 2020.” Treasury Secretary Mnuchin released a statement reading, “The Trump Administration remains committed to denying revenue flowing to the Iranian regime as it continues to sponsor terrorist groups, support oppressive regimes, and seek weapons of mass destruction.”

**AP Analysis: Trump Moves Make It Harder For Biden To Engage With Iran.**

The AP (1/5, Burns, Baldor) reports in an analysis that Joe Biden is “facing an increasingly uncertain situation when it comes to Iran,” due to its “provocative moves...and less-than-coherent actions by the outgoing Trump administration.” In “the past week alone, President Donald Trump’s team has dispatched B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf in response to alleged Iranian attack planning and reversed an order to bring home the USS Nimitz, the only U.S. aircraft carrier in the region.” The AP adds that on Monday, Iran “announced it had resumed advanced uranium enrichment in violation of the 2015 nuclear deal.” According to the AP, “This combustible combination coming just two weeks before [Biden’s] inauguration threatens to derail or at least delay Biden’s hopes to return the U.S. to the nuclear accord that Trump withdrew from in 2018.” In a separate story, the AP (1/5) reports that “later comments Tuesday by the head of Iran’s civilian nuclear program suggested Tehran’s current production of uranium enriched to 20% wouldn’t reach levels needed for a nuclear weapon for over two years, potentially giving time for negotiations under” Biden.

Reuters (1/5, Cha) says Biden “aims to revive the nuclear agreement, but any thaw is likely to pose a diplomatic challenge.” Reuters continues, “Since Trump abandoned the deal, Iran has taken steps that violate it; Biden says Iran must be fully compliant before the deal can be restored, while Iran says Washington must first lift the sanctions.”

**Afghan Peace Talks Resume In Qatar.**

The Washington Post (1/5, Constable, 10.52M) says that on Tuesday, “Afghan delegates flew to Qatar...to reopen peace talks with Taliban leaders amid a rash of mutual recriminations, mixed signals from U.S. officials and a continued spate of assassinations targeting prominent civilians.” Also Tuesday, Zalmay Khalilzad, “the U.S. diplomat who brokered a separate U.S. deal with the Taliban in February, arrived in Kabul” from Qatar. According to the Post, “While both Afghan and Taliban officials have issued recent statements saying they were committed to the talks...their messages were tinged with anger and blame that boded ill for the new round.” The Post adds that “some observers in Kabul predicted that the talks, which are resuming after a two-week holiday hiatus, would probably collapse.” The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Amiri, Donati, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

**Countries Along Former Soviet Borders Rebuilding Their Defenses.**

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports countries along the former borders of the Soviet Union are alarmed by Russia’s aggressive foreign policy under Vladimir Putin and are moving to rebuild their defenses. The Journal focuses in particular on Sweden, which remained neutral during the Cold War but is now strengthening its ties with the US.

**At Start Of North Korean Party Congress, Kim Says Five-Year Economic Plan Failed.**
Reuters (1/5, Shin) reports as North Korean leader Kim Jong-un opened the ruling Worker's Party congress on Tuesday, he said his five-year economic plan had failed to meet its goal on almost every sector. "Kim said, "The previous five-year plan was due last year but it tremendously fell short of goals on almost every sector." Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports Kim said the party would explore a "new path" for making a "big leap forward."

The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) says Kim's comments come "amid deepening economic trouble caused by the one-two punch of international sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic."

Pro-Democracy Figures Arrested In Hong Kong.
The AP (1/5, Soo) cites local media reports which say "about 50 Hong Kong pro-democracy figures were arrested by police on Wednesday under a national security law, following their involvement in an unofficial primary election last year held to increase their chances of controlling the legislature." The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) says the arrests "marked the largest roundup yet under the security law, which the central Chinese government imposed on Hong Kong in June to quash dissent after months of fierce anti-Beijing protests. The move on Wednesday suggested that the authorities were casting a wide net for anyone who had played a prominent role in opposing the government."

The Washington Post (1/5, Yu, 10.52M) reports, "Several arrested and charged under the law have been denied bail, meaning the pro-democracy activists arrested Wednesday could be held indefinitely until formal hearings, which could take weeks."

Former Chief Of Major Chinese State Bank Sentenced To Death.
The New York Times (1/5, Stevenson, 20.6M) reports that Lai Xiaomin, "the former chief of a big Chinese state lender, was sentenced to death on Tuesday for bribery, corruption and bigamy, in a rare and dramatic example of Beijing's use of capital punishment for economic crimes." Lai "was found guilty by a court in the coastal city of Tianjin of receiving some $277 million in bribes," and "was among the highest-profile figures to fall from grace amid a sweeping crackdown on corruption by Xi Jinping, China's top leader." The Times adds that "the unusually harsh sentence could send a signal that Mr. Xi is not ready to ease his anticorruption campaign, which he began shortly after he took control of the Communist Party in late 2012."

Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports that "capital punishment is unusual for corruption in China," and says "the move underscores the ruling Communist Party's increasingly tough stance on corruption among government cadres and corporate executives, which has seen more than 1.5 million government officials punished."

Saudis End Three-Year Rift With Qatar At Urging Of Trump Administration.
The AP (1/5, Batrawy, DeBre, Nabil) reports that on Tuesday, "Gulf Arab leaders signed a declaration...to ease a rift with Qatar, following Saudi Arabia's decision to end a 3 1/2-year embargo of the tiny energy-rich country that deeply divided regional U.S. security allies and frayed social ties across the Arabian Peninsula." In addition, Saudi Arabia "said it was restoring full diplomatic relations with Qatar, although it was not clear how soon the step would be followed by the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, which had joined the kingdom in isolating the country over its regional policies." According to the AP, "The diplomatic breakthrough followed a final push by the outgoing Trump administration," and "also came as Saudi Arabia seeks to unify Arab ranks ahead of the incoming administration...which is expected to take a firmer stand toward the kingdom and re-engage with Iran."

The New York Times (1/5, Specia, 20.6M) says "few details were immediately available" about the deal, which was "signed at a regional summit meeting in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia, by representatives from that kingdom and the five other Gulf Cooperation Council countries." According to the Times, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, "speaking during the meeting, said the agreement emphasized 'solidarity and stability in the Gulf.'" Reuters (1/5, Yaakoubi) reports that the deal "followed mediation efforts by the United States and Kuwait, and a
Socialists Take Control Of Venezuela’s Congress.
The AP (1/5, Rueda, Goodman) reports "allies of President Nicolas Maduro retook control of Venezuela’s congress Tuesday, the last institution in the country it didn’t already control." The ruling socialist party “swept legislative elections last month boycotted by the opposition and denounced as a sham by the U.S., the European Union and several other foreign governments.” Incoming assembly president Jorge Rodriguez “vowed to ‘exorcise’ from the legislative palace all vestiges of its previous occupants, who he accused of plotting from its neo-classical chamber Maduro’s violent overthrow with the help of foreign mercenaries and the Trump administration.”

Vietnam Sentences Three Journalists To Prison.
In what the New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) calls "the latest crackdown on independent thought" in Vietnam, “where the authorities are busy stamping out dissent ahead of an important meeting by the ruling Communist Party later this month,” three journalists were sentenced to prison on Tuesday, “including a prominent reporter who had written for foreign news organizations and advocated press freedom in the one-party state.” The reporter, Pham Chi Dung, “was sentenced to 15 years on charges of making and disseminating propaganda against the state. ... Two other journalists, Nguyen Tuong Thuy and Le Huu Minh Tuan, were sentenced on similar charges in the same Ho Chi Minh City court. They received 11 years each.”

Ethiopian Police Release Reuters Cameraman.
Reuters (1/5) reports Reuters cameraman Kumerra Gemechu was released by Ethiopian police Tuesday after he was detained "without charge for 12 days. Police had told his lawyer Melkamu Ogo that their lines of inquiry included accusations of disseminating false information, communicating with groups fighting the government, and disturbing the public's peace and security," but Melkamu "said he had seen no evidence.”

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:
Tight Georgia Runoff Races Leave Senate Control In Balance
Hong Kong Police Arrest Dozens Of Opposition Politicians Over Alleged Subversion
NYSE Takes Heat After Flip-Flop On Chinese Companies
Russian Aggression Spurs Neighbors To Rebuild Defenses
Frank Gehry’s Luxury New York City Skyscraper Has Everything — Except Enough Tenants
Saudi Arabia To Cut Oil Production Sharply In Bid To Lift Prices

New York Times:
Pence Said To Have Told Trump He Lacks Power To Change Election Result
Warnock Beats Loeffler In Georgia Senate Race
Warning Of Shortages, Researchers Look To Stretch Vaccine Supply
Jacob Blake Shooting: No Charges Against Officer In Kenosha, Wisconsin
One Hospital System Sued 2,500 Patients After Pandemic Hit
"I Will Get Up": A Hard New Year Greets A World In Waiting
**Washington Post:**
- West And South Feel Pressure As Hospitalizations Hit Record
- With Senate Control At Stake, Georgia Votes
- He's Not On Ballot, But Trump Looms Large In Voters' Minds
- A Final Test Of Pence's Loyalty To Trump
- McConnell Is Assured A Turbulent Road Ahead

**Financial Times:**
- Trump Pressures Pence To Overturn US Election Result
- Microsoft Looks To Make 2021 The Year Of Teams
- Gojek And Tokopedia In Advanced Talks To Form $18BN Tech Group

**Washington Times:**
- Democrats On Verge Of Stunning Sweep In Georgia Senate Runoffs
- Trump Presses Pence To Uprock Electoral College: "The Vice President Has The Power"
- Greens Rip EPA's New 'Secret Science' Rule As Last-Ditch Attempt To Hamstring Biden
- Tighter Budgets Force Marines To Speed Embrace Of Ambitious Overhaul
- Immigration Loophole, Often Ripped By Trump, Finally Confirmed By DHS Data
- Side Effects: US Sees 400,000 More Deaths In 2020 As COVID Wreaks Havoc

**Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:**
- ABC: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case; COVID Surge; UK-Lockdown; NFL-COVID; American Airlines-Emotional Support Animal Ban; Stepdad Adopts Stepson.
- CBS: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Iranian Threat; Russia-Cyber Hack; COVID Surge; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case; NFL-COVID; Amazon-Boeing Jets; Grammys; Alex Trebek Farewell.
- NBC: Wisconsin-No Charges in Jacob Blake Case; Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Vaccines; Vaccines-Israel; COVID Surge; Russia-Cyber Hack; Maryland-Rep. Raskin’s Son; COVID Protocols; Powerball; Man Helps Family Who Lost Everything In Fire.

**Network TV At A Glance:**
- Georgia-Senate Runoff – 9 minutes, 35 seconds
- COVID Surge – 9 minutes, 10 seconds
- Election Certification – 9 minutes, 0 seconds
- Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case – 6 minutes, 15 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:**
- ABC: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Vaccines; COVID-Variants.
- CBS: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Biden-Georgia Runoff; COVID-Variants; Russia-Cyber Hack; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case.
- FOX: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case.
- NPR: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case; DC-Pro Trump Protests.

**WASHINGTON’S SCHEDULE**

**Today’s Events In Washington.**

**White House:**
- President Trump — Will work from early in the morning until late in the evening. He will make many calls and have many meetings. The President will depart for the Ellipse at 10:50 AM to deliver remarks at a Save America Rally.
- Vice President Pence — Presides over a joint session of Congress to count Electoral votes.

**US Senate:**
Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters

Location: CVC 217, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC; 10:00 AM

Senates convenes and begins a period of morning business

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 12:30 PM

Joint session of Congress convened to certify presidential election result – Congress meets in a joint session to count the Electoral College votes, presided over by Vice President Mike Pence, who announces the result before declaring who has been elected as president and vice president. Several Republican lawmakers, in both the House of Representatives and Senate, have said they intend to object to certain state electors, though any challenges are unlikely to succeed as they need to be passed by both the full Senate and Democrat-controlled House. Democrats Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won the election by over seven million votes ahead of President Donald Trump and Vice President Pence, with an Electoral College victory of 306 – 232, making Trump the first one term president since George H.W. Bush. Biden and Harris are sworn in 20 Jan.

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

US House:

- House of Representatives meets for legislative business

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 12:00 PM

- Joint session of Congress convened to certify presidential election result – Congress meets in a joint session to count the Electoral College votes, presided over by Vice President Mike Pence, who announces the result before declaring who has been elected as president and vice president. Several Republican lawmakers, in both the House of Representatives and Senate, have said they intend to object to certain state electors, though any challenges are unlikely to succeed as they need to be passed by both the full Senate and Democrat-controlled House. Democrats Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won the election by over seven million votes ahead of President Donald Trump and Vice President Pence, with an Electoral College victory of 306 – 232, making Trump the first one term president since George H.W. Bush. Biden and Harris are sworn in 20 Jan.

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

Cabinet Officers:

- No public schedules released.

Visitors:

- No scheduled visitors.

This Town:

- Federal Open Market Committee meeting minutes and economic forecast published – Federal Open Market Committee meeting minutes published. Summary of quarterly economic projections made by Federal Reserve Board members and Reserve Bank presidents also included. The FOMC decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 0-0.25% at its last meeting in December as it continued to deal with the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the U.S. economy; 2:00 PM

- Operation Warp Speed logistics chief discusses vaccine rollout (virtual) – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation holds a ‘Path Forward: Navigating the Return to Work’ event with Operation Warp Speed Supply, Production, and Distribution Head Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Paul Ostrowski, who discusses the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine rollout; 2:00 PM

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called at (703) 483-6100.
From: The Washington Post
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - [MARKETING] The Daily 202: Biden's debt to Black voters grows as Warnock makes history in Georgia
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 11:23 AM (UTC-05:00)
Intelligence for leaders.

By James Hohmann
with Mariana Alfaro
Email
Biden’s debt to Black voters grows as Warnock makes history in Georgia

Black voters delivered for Joe Biden. By rallying behind him in South Carolina’s February primary, they catapulted the former vice president to the Democratic nomination. By turning out in huge numbers from Philadelphia to Detroit and Milwaukee in November, they ensured he won the electoral college. By defying expectations in Georgia on Tuesday, and turning out at higher rates than their White counterparts, it appears more likely than not that they have just provided Democrats with control of the Senate for the first time in six years and, with it, the ability for the president-elect to enact key elements of his agenda and confirm his nominees.

Democrats have definitely picked up one of Georgia’s two runoff elections and lead in the other. The Rev. Raphael Warnock defeated appointed Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler to become the first African American Democrat to ever win a Senate seat in what was once the Confederacy. Jon Ossoff and national Democrats declared victory this morning over Sen. David Perdue (R) in the other contest, but his lead is narrower, and that race remains too close to call.

If Ossoff prevails, Democrats would control the 50-50 Senate because Vice President-elect Kamala Harris can cast a tie-breaking vote. The Californian, one of just 10 Black senators to ever serve in the chamber, will be the first Black vice president.

Campaigning with Harris on Sunday in his hometown of Savannah, Warnock reminisced about once being arrested by Capitol Police during a protest for racial justice. “They were doing their job, and I was doing my job, but in a few days I’m going to meet those Capitol Hill police officers again and, this time, they will not be taking me to central booking,” he said. “They can help me find my new office.”
The 51-year-old grew up in the Savannah housing projects and became the senior pastor of Atlanta’s Ebenezer Baptist Church, which was led by Martin Luther King Jr. until his martyrdom in 1968. Warnock was the 11th of 12 children. His mother, Verlene, grew up in a sharecropping family. She spent her summers picking cotton and tobacco as a teenager in the 1950s.
"The 82-year-old hands that used to pick somebody else's cotton went to the polls and picked her youngest son to be a United States senator," Sen.-elect Warnock said in a live-streamed address in the wee hours of this morning. "The improbable journey that led me to this place in this historic moment in America could only happen here."

A third of Georgia's population is African American. In Fulton County, which as home to Atlanta is the state's most populous, more in-person voters showed up Tuesday than on Nov. 3. But Democrats also benefited from major turnout across the more rural, majority African American counties such as Macon and Randolph that comprise what's known as the Black Belt.

Loeffler saturated the airwaves with commercials that featured out-of-context clips of past sermons by Warnock at Ebenezer. She and her bevy of Republican consultants misrepresented standard-fare religious teachings as somehow sinister and anti-military.

Loeffler's attacks backfired by galvanizing Black voters who historically have not voted at high rates in runoff elections. More than 100 religious leaders condemned the "naked hypocrisy" and "blatant contradictions" of Loeffler's message in an open letter last month. "We see your attacks against Warnock as a broader attack against the Black Church and faith traditions for which we stand," the letter said.

Biden's narrow victory there in November might also have motivated African Americans, who saw that their votes can make a real difference. Stacey Abrams, who narrowly lost the governor's race in 2018, has also spent years spearheading voter
registration efforts in the Black community to combat what she decries as continuing voter suppression.

Some African Americans also said they were motivated by the death from cancer of civil rights legend and longtime congressman John Lewis, who had frequently been on the receiving end of President Trump's attacks. Ossoff once interned for Lewis, who supported his campaign before he passed away, and he worked as a staffer for Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.), another Black congressman.
If he wins, the 33-year-old Ossoff would be the youngest newly elected Democratic senator since a 29-year-old kid named Joe Biden won a 1972 upset in Delaware.

During his victory speech on Nov. 7, the president-elect referred to the South Carolina primary. “Especially those moments when this campaign was at its lowest ebb, the African American community stood up again for me,” Biden said. “You’ve always had my back, and I’ll have yours.”

Warnock, the first Democrat of any color to win a Senate seat in Georgia since 2000, said this morning that he plans to continue pastoring while holding public office. “I intend to return to my pulpit and preach on Sunday mornings and talk to the people,” Warnock said on CNN. “The last thing I want to do is become disconnected from the community and just spend all of my time talking to the politicians. I might accidentally become one, and I have no intentions of becoming a politician. I intended to be a public servant.”

The Trump era looks like it may end in 14 days with Republicans having lost control of the House, Senate and White House. Trump loomed large in these runoffs, and his domination of the battle space may have helped gin up Democrats who hate him as much as the Republicans who love him but also now doubt the efficacy of voting because he spread so much disinformation.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) might have erred by appointing Loeffler last year to
replace Johnny Isakson when the senator retired for health reasons. This put him at loggerheads with Trump, who had pushed Kemp to appoint Rep. Doug Collins (R), a frequent defender of the president on Fox News. Collins challenged Loeffler from the right, and to make it to the runoff, she lurched far to the right. But the first-time candidate often did so in ham-handed and cartoonish ways.

Loeffler campaigned with QAnon adherents and ran a commercial that described her as “more conservative than Attila the Hun.” She also coupled her fate completely with Trump’s, boasting at every stop that she supports him “100 percent” of the time. This week, Loeffler even announced plans to vote against certifying the presidential results from her own state in a bid to placate Trump.

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) may soon be demoted from majority leader to minority leader because of the post-election donnybrook caused by Trump. His former campaign manager and chief of staff Josh Holmes, who remains a top adviser, said the party’s messaging in Georgia repulsed the suburbanites who reliably voted Republican in the pre-Trump era:
Other Republicans also pointed fingers. A writer for National Review cited a trio of factors:

And a leading immigration hardliner, who has been a close ally of White House aide Stephen Miller, warned that the Georgia results could undermine Trump's hope for a comeback in 2024:
Join us this afternoon for a special report.

I will join Libby Casey in The Washington Post newsroom starting at noon Eastern for live video coverage as Congress counts electoral votes. We will live-stream the floor proceedings as long as they go, offering context and analysis during any pauses.
Vice President Pence prepares for a final performance that will probably infuriate Trump.

“Pence and his team have huddled for hours with the Senate parliamentarian. They have studied historical examples of other vice presidents who have presided over election results. And they have begun anticipating the ire of Trump — likely to come in the form of angry tweets — in the aftermath of Wednesday’s certification of the electoral college vote count before a joint session of Congress,” Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey report. “Pence’s team views the vice president’s role as procedural and limited, not unlike an umpire calling balls and strikes but ultimately hemmed in by the rules of the game. ... The president’s faulty belief that Pence can somehow overturn the election results is being fueled by agitators who are feeding Trump misinformation ... The group includes Rudolph W. Giuliani, the president’s personal
attorney; Peter Navarro, a top White House trade adviser; and Sidney Powell, a lawyer and Trump ally. Few if any legal experts agree. ...

"During their weekly lunch Tuesday, Pence explicitly told Trump that he does not believe he has the authority to block the congressional certification of Biden’s electoral victory, according to a White House official. But Trump issued a statement later Tuesday denying the conversation. ... Some advisers have proposed that Pence, while leading the Senate on Wednesday, make comments that allege irregularities while still certifying the results, in a bid to show Trump he is fighting and is supportive. ...

“Two administration officials said the president was frustrated because he thought that Pence should be doing more to publicly push his view that the election was stolen and that Pence had given up too easily. A person familiar with Trump’s ire said the president largely blames Marc Short, Pence’s chief of staff, for the vice president’s rhetorical caution. Short has told others that Pence’s language about the election has been deliberately careful and that the vice president did not want to echo some of Trump’s most incendiary claims.”

- Republican lawyer Cleta Mitchell, who advised Trump during his weekend call to Georgia’s secretary of state, resigned as a partner in the D.C. office of law firm Foley & Lardner. Mitchell’s resignation came a day after the law firm issued a statement saying it was “concerned by” her role in the call. (Michael Kranish)
- The city of Detroit is trying to get the pro-Trump attorneys Sidney Powell and Lin Wood disbarred. “We have been horrified by the inappropriate actions of these attorneys and the plaintiffs themselves, and we have intended to seek any sanction the court can order,” said Detroit’s counsel David Flink. (Law and Crime)
- After the abrupt and unexplained resignation of the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta, Trump bypassed the normal line of succession on Tuesday to install a temporary replacement from outside the office. The president named Bobby Christine, the U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Georgia, to replace BJay Pak on an acting basis, even as he maintains his current role. Longtime federal prosecutor Kurt Erskine would have otherwise assumed the job. (Matt
- Trump and his campaign shared the wrong phone number on social media for a Michigan legislator, urging followers to call and demand a vote to decertify the election results. The 28-year-old who has that number was deluged by calls from angry Trump supporters. (Jaclyn Peiser)
- “At this point, the strategy of his legal team is far more Jim Jones than James Baker,” quipped journalist Ben Jacobs.

Democrats are prepared for today’s culminating dispute.

“The Biden camp, led by rival-turned-ally Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), prepared to force the dissenters to debate into the night, hoping to dispose of the challenge as quickly as possible and prevent a days-long ordeal. Klobuchar and her aides also distributed background to Democrats and lined up swing-state lawmakers to speak,” Annie Linskey and Michelle Ye Hee Lee report. “During Wednesday’s proceedings, a joint session of Congress is set to accept the electoral college tallies as they are called out alphabetically by state. If at least one senator and one House member question any state’s result, the chambers individually debate and vote on that challenge. The Republican dissenters say they will object to the tallies of at least three states — Arizona, Georgia and Pennsylvania — and adding more could prolong the process to more than 24 hours. Klobuchar, who as the top Democrat on the Senate Rules Committee will be one of four lawmakers tallying the votes, said that although the rules allow for a break — Klobuchar said she and Chairman Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) have decided they would not take one.”

Republican Sens. Tim Scott (S.C.), Jerry Moran (Kan.) and John Boozman (Ark.) announced their opposition on Tuesday to the efforts led by fellow Republicans Josh Hawley (Mo.) and Ted Cruz (Tex.) to challenge the results. “There is no constitutionally viable means for the Congress to overturn an election,” Scott said in a statement. “There’s no whip count. More than a dozen senators have not taken a clear position on what they’ll do.”

Trump diehards began protesting in D.C. on Tuesday.

“For nearly eight hours, speakers repeated election conspiracy theories, closed their eyes to pray and shared discount codes for MyPillow, a company owned by a Trump
ally. Shortly before 8 p.m., they danced to a part-country, part-rap song, ‘Roger Stone did nothing wrong.’ Stone, who was pardoned by Trump for lying to Congress and obstructing justice, appeared onstage in a pinstripe suit and feathered fedora, swinging his hips to the tune,” Marissa Lang, Emily Davies, Peter Hermann, Jessica Contrera and Clarence Williams report. “He then launched into a speech comparing the investigation into his wrongdoing to centuries of abuses and terror inflicted on Black people. He claimed he was the subject of a ‘legal lynching.’ He said Trump ‘freed this slave,’ referring to himself. The mostly White crowd howled their support, chanting his name. [Someone else recently pardoned by Trump, former national security adviser Michael Flynn, also spoke during the rally.] ...

"All day, the crowd ranted against the need for masks, vaccines and precautions against the virus ... D.C. police are not enforcing the District’s mask mandate, despite the worsening coronavirus surge ... Local law enforcement will instead focus on arresting anyone who is unlawfully armed. ... In all, D.C. police made five arrests Tuesday and Park Police made one. Charges included weapons violations and assault. ... A group of about 200 Trump supporters marched to the police line at Black Lives Matter Plaza just before 10:15 p.m. Punches were thrown at the line and a woman was bloodied.”

- Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio, accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner taken from a Black church, was barred from the District by a judge, forcing him out of the city ahead of potentially volatile demonstrations led by his followers. He is allowed to return only for a court hearing on June 8. (Peter Hermann and Keith Alexander)

- A group of Trump supporters heckled Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) as he flew from Salt Lake City to Washington. The group, recorded on video, chanted “Traitor!” for 20 seconds and demanded that he resign. Before boarding, Romney was approached by a maskless woman, who yelled at him for not supporting Trump. “I do support President Trump in things I agree with,” Romney responded, calmly and patiently. (Jaclyn Peiser)

**As Trump backers descend on the capital, the military hopes to avoid the political fray.**

“Pentagon leaders are bracing for any renewed presidential attempts to employ the
military for political ends,” Paul Sonne, Missy Ryan and Ellen Nakashima report. “Top Pentagon officials, in answering a request by D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) to deploy National Guardsmen in the nation’s capital in advance of Wednesday’s protests, emphasized that the Guard wouldn’t carry firearms, use armored vehicles or helicopters, or receive backup from units in other states — a far more muted presence than in June after the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd. The careful posture reflects the Pentagon’s wariness in the final days of a presidency during which Trump has tested the norms of a politically impartial military. ... A senior U.S. official said Tuesday that the Pentagon senior leadership — civilian and military — will not obey an unlawful order from the president to use the military to his own political ends. These leaders likely would resign before following an unlawful order, the senior official said."

- Multiple air traffic controllers in New York heard someone vow on their radio channel that will be revenge for the killing of Iran’s Qassem Soleimani. "We are flying a plane into the Capitol on Wednesday. Soleimani will be avenged,” a voice in the audio said. Federal officials don’t believe this is a credible threat, but they’re investigating the breach of aviation frequencies. And a message was sent to all air traffic controllers yesterday reminding them any threat or a plane deviating from its flight path should be reported immediately. (CBS News)
- Three people who have spoken to Trump recently say he privately acknowledges he lost the presidency but say he’s continuing his fight to keep attention on himself. “The point is to still be relevant and still be talked about in the news,” one of the people told Politico.
- The White House denied reports Trump will travel to his resort in Scotland to golf during Biden’s inauguration. (William Booth and David Fahrenthold)

**Trump's anti-democratic impulses are contagious.**

“The seating of new Pennsylvania legislators turned into a bitter partisan spectacle Tuesday, as Republicans in the state Senate blocked a Democratic lawmaker from taking his oath of office and removed the Democratic lieutenant governor from his role overseeing the proceedings,” Hannah Knowles reports. “Republicans say they will not seat Sen.-elect Jim Brewster as a legal challenge to his victory is pending, although his win has been certified and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court recently sided with him in a dispute over how to count votes in a close race. Democrats
decried the move as an overreach and an echo of Republican attempts to overturn the result of the presidential election. In an interview, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman (D) accused Republicans of ‘raw partisanship,’ drawing a ‘straight line’ between their actions and broader GOP resistance to certifying the election of Biden. ... Brewster edged out his Republican opponent Nicole Ziccarelli by 69 votes, and Ziccarelli is urging a federal court to discount about 300 mail ballots from Allegheny County without handwritten dates on their envelopes."

The coronavirus
States in the West and South have the highest share of residents hospitalized.

"More than 131,000 covid-19 patients were hospitalized nationwide as of Tuesday," Fenit Nirappil and William Wan report. "Several Los Angeles hospitals have turned
away ambulance traffic in recent days because they can’t provide the airflow needed to treat patients. Arizona now has the nation’s highest rate of coronavirus hospitalizations. In the Atlanta area, nearly every major hospital is almost full, prompting state officials to reopen a field hospital for the third time. ... Vaccine distribution is also off to a slow start, with at least 4.6 million inoculated, far short of the 20 million the Trump administration vowed to vaccinate by the end of 2020.

"The back-to-back timing of Christmas and New Year’s Eve could have catastrophic results because many people develop symptoms roughly five to seven days after infection and are most contagious during the 48 hours before those symptoms appear. That means someone who was exposed to the virus on Christmas could have been contagious by the time they attended a New Year's party or began traveling home. Just how bad the situation gets in the United States may depend on how widely the virus’s new variant — which scientists believe is more contagious, but not deadlier or vaccine-resistant — is circulating. The variant has been reported in five states including Georgia, which reported its first case [on] Tuesday. ... New daily deaths and cases have increased by more than 20 percent over the past week, to a total of more than 355,000 fatalities and 21 million infections. But experts say the toll on hospitals paints a clearer picture of the pandemic because of complications in reporting test results during the holidays."

- Two House Republican from Texas, Reps. Kevin Brady and Kay Granger, tested positive for the virus. Brady received the first of two vaccine shots last month. Both are isolating. (NPR)
- Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) will deploy the state’s National Guard to help local health departments as they inoculate medical workers, and he threatened to take away unused vaccines from hospitals that are slow to administer them. (Erin Cox, Rebecca Tan and Lola Fadulu)
- Moderna said it will be able to produce at least 600 million doses of the vaccine this year, 100 million more than previously announced. The Massachusetts company also said it is making investments and adding staff to make as much as 1 billion doses this year. (WSJ)

The rich receive special invites to the front of the vaccine line in
“The invitation to affluent Floridians arrived in writing and by telephone. ‘He asked me if I wanted to have a vaccine,’ said Ryna Greenbaum, 89, recounting the phone message she got last week. ‘I’m one of the people who has given him some money.’ The call, she said, had come from Keith Myers, chief executive of MorseLife Health System, a high-end nursing home and assisted-living facility in West Palm Beach, Fla.,” Isaac Stanley-Becker and Shawn Boburg report. “MorseLife has made scarce coronavirus vaccines — provided through a federal program intended for residents and staff of long-term-care facilities — available not just to its residents but to board members and those who made generous donations to the facility ...

“The arrangement, in appearing to rely on a program run by chain pharmacies for nursing home residents and staff, may have violated national immunization guidelines, as well as state protocols, even though state officials ... acknowledged that the rules have not been spelled out clearly enough by Gov. Ron DeSantis (R). ... The MorseLife episode highlights how the country’s patchwork approach to immunization against the coronavirus — leaving decisions about eligibility to state and local authorities as well as to individual providers — is creating opportunities for facilities to provide access to well-connected people while thousands of others wait in line. In Florida, some elderly residents have camped out overnight in hopes of receiving a shot.”

- Native American tribes are prioritizing the vaccination of speakers of endangered languages. “When all of us first-language speakers are gone, it’s gonna be gone,” John Ross, a Cherokee translator who was among the first to get immunized, told the Tulsa World.
- “When the coronavirus began spreading through New York, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo ordered state-run hospitals to stop suing patients over unpaid medical bills. But one chain of hospitals plowed ahead with thousands of lawsuits: Northwell Health, which is the state’s largest health system and is run by one of Mr. Cuomo’s closest allies. The nonprofit Northwell sued more than 2,500 patients last year,” the Times reports.
- The coronavirus-free nation of Palau could soon vaccinate almost all its people. A partnership with the U.S. government provided 2,800 doses of the Moderna vaccine. The island has a population of 18,000. (Adam Taylor and Miriam
A nurse became the first person to be vaccinated in the Netherlands as the Dutch government faces growing criticism for its belated rollout. The Netherlands is the last country in the E.U. to begin distributing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. (Antonia Farzan)

Colleges are adjusting their plans for in-person spring semesters. Since mid-December, Syracuse, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Old Dominion University and more than a dozen other schools have updated their academic calendars. (WSJ)

So many pets have been adopted during the pandemic that shelters are running out in the D.C. region. “We thought people would stop adopting because they would need to conserve their money,” said Cindy Sharpley, founder and director of Last Chance Animal Rescue, a nonprofit animal shelter in Waldorf. “It’s been just the opposite. They’re going like hot cakes.” Last Chance saw its pet adoptions — mostly dogs — increase 30 to 40 percent last year. (Dana Hedgpeth)

China claims it’s “negotiating” with the WHO over a mission to investigate the pandemic’s origins.

“Responding to criticism from the World Health Organization that China had blocked a scheduled mission to investigate the origins of the coronavirus, Beijing on Wednesday said the two sides were ‘still negotiating,’” Lily Kuo reports. “Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular news briefing that the issue of tracing the source of the virus was ‘very complicated’ and arrangements were needed to ‘ensure the smooth progress’ of the team of researchers. ... An international team of scientists led by the WHO were to begin a deployment to China on Tuesday but WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the group was barred from traveling to the country ... In a rare rebuke of China, Tedros said at a news conference on Tuesday that he was ‘very disappointed.’”

More than 41 Hong Kong residents, including pro-democracy activists, lawmakers, a pollster and a lawyer, were arrested in an early-morning sweep that marked the most far-reaching and chilling use of a new Beijing-imposed national security law. Many of those who have been detained were taken from their homes by plainclothes officers. (Shibani Mahtani and Theodora Yu)

Trump signed an executive order banning transactions with a number of...
A new Trump rule says it's okay to kill scores of birds.

"In a last-gasp effort before departing the White House, the Trump administration took another swipe at weakening enforcement of a 100-year-old law that protects migrating birds," Darryl Fears reports. "With only two weeks left in office, the administration published a rule Tuesday that spares industries and individuals from prosecution or penalties under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act if their actions, such as development or failure to cover tar pits, results in bird deaths. If the deaths were unintentional, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says in the rule, there will be no enforcement.

"Conservation groups immediately promised to sue to stop the rule from going into
effect a month from now. They also called on the Biden administration to overturn it. The groups are confident a legal challenge will prevail due to an earlier court decision that rejected the opinion on which the new rule is based. U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni issued a blistering opinion in August that quoted Harper Lee's famous novel, after deciding in favor of state attorneys general and conservationists who sued the administration. 'It is not only a sin to kill a mockingbird, it is also a crime,' Caproni wrote. ...

“In May 2019, a United Nations panel determined that 1 million species face extinction — 'more than any other period in human history.' Four months later, top ornithologists in government and academia reported that 3 billion birds have vanished in North America over the past 50 years. ... The American Exploration and Production Council, an oil industry lobby group, supported the rule ... Past Fish and Wildlife estimates show that industry sources kill an average of 709 million birds each year, and up to 1.1 billion. Oil pits alone kill up to 1 million birds yearly.”

Trump races to undermine decades-old rules against discrimination.

“The Justice Department is seeking to change interpretation of Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which bars discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin by recipients of federal funding. Under these rules, actions are considered discriminatory if they have a discriminatory effect, what's known as a 'disparate impact,' on protected groups. Under the new version, only intentional discrimination would be prohibited,” Laura Meekler and Devlin Barrett report. “The Trump administration has been considering this change for more than two years but waited until its final weeks to try to put it into effect. ... The Justice Department currently distributes about $6 billion a year in grants or awards ... The planned change was pushed in late December by William P. Barr, one of his last acts as attorney general. ... Typically regulations of this magnitude are published first as proposals and the government collects public comment before publishing its final version. It would be unusual to publish a final regulation — particularly one of this magnitude — without going through that process, but the document says that its proposal falls under an exception and therefore the administration is not required to seek public comment.”
The intelligence community officially blaming Russia for the major cyberattacks.

"The statement, issued jointly by four agencies in a special task force, counters Trump's baseless suggestion last month that the intrusions might have been the work of Chinese hackers," Ellen Nakashima reports. "Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said previously that the breaches were 'clearly' Russian in origin, and U.S. officials have for weeks said privately that Moscow's foreign intelligence service carried them out. The breaches were so alarming that they had government and private-sector personnel working through the holidays to identify and mitigate them."

Biden names more Obama administration alumni for key foreign policy jobs.

"For deputy secretary of state, Biden will nominate Wendy Sherman, the chief U.S. negotiator of the Iran nuclear deal under the Obama administration," John Hudson reports. "The nomination for the No. 3 job at the State Department, undersecretary for political affairs, is expected to go to Victoria Nuland, who served as spokesperson for the department under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and was the top U.S. diplomat for Europe under Secretary of State John F. Kerry. At the National Security Council, Biden is expected to give the job of deputy national security adviser to Jon Finer. Finer is a former Washington Post reporter who worked in a number of jobs in the Obama administration that culminated in his role as director of policy planning at the State Department."

Social media speed read

Stuart Stevens, who was Mitt Romney's chief strategist in 2012 and has emerged as a vocal Trump critic, celebrated Loeffler's defeat:
George W. Bush's spokesman said the former president will attend Biden's inauguration:
And his brother got the vaccine:
Alabama's DeVonta Smith became the first wide receiver to win the Heisman Trophy in 29 years:
Videos of the day
Seth Meyers said Republicans are running a scam by suggesting to voters that there is a chance Trump can remain in office:
Stephen Colbert said Trump is putting Pence in a bind:

We think you'll like this newsletter

Check out The Optimist for a selection of inspiring stories to help you disconnect, hit refresh and start the week off right, delivered every Wednesday and Sunday. Sign up »
Subject: DC Prep
Location: 7142

Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:15 AM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentatively accepted

Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: b7E -5
Required Attendees: Benavides, Bradley S. (CD) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: DC Prep
Location: 7142

Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:15 AM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentatively accepted

Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: 

Required Attendees: Benavides, Bradley S. (CD) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI);
Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI);

Optional Attendees: Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI);
Subject: DC Prep
Location: 7142
Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:15 AM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:00 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Accepted
Organizer: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Benavides, Bradley S. (CD) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Required Attendees: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Benavides, Bradley S. (CD) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Optional Attendees: Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: DC Prep
Location: 7142

Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:15 AM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentatively accepted

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI)

Required Attendees: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Benavides, Bradley S. (CD) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)

Optional Attendees: Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI);
Subject: Canceled: DC Prep
Location: 7142
Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:15 AM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:00 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Accepted
Organizer:
Required Attendees: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI);
Benavides, Bradley S. (CD) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI);
Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI);
Optional Attendees: Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI);
Importance: High
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)  
Subject: Fw:  
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)  
Sent: January 6, 2021 3:53 PM (UTC-05:00)

Brian....all EADs and ADD are good with...

Regards,
John  

On Jan 6, 2021 15:38, "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)" wrote:
Any concerns before launch? Thanks.
Launching.

On Jan 6, 2021 3:53 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Brian....all EADs and ADD are good with...

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 15:38, "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)" wrote:
Any concerns before launch? Thanks.
Boss,
We do have now a confirmed shooting at capital. One victim, Female. NFI at this time

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Roger... confirmed?

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 16:57, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

Boss,
We do have now a confirmed shooting at capital. One victim. Female. NFI at this time

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
From: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)  
Subject: Dir question  
To: Brown, John A, (NSB) (FBI)  
Cc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)  
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:00 PM (UTC-05:00)  

Yes. I had.

Jill Sanborn  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 4:58 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote: 
Roger....confirmed?

Regards,  
John

On Jan 6, 2021 16:57, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote: 
Boss, 
We do have now a confirmed shooting at capital. One victim Female. NF1 at this time

Jill Sanborn  
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Alcoke said yes...happened early. Allegedly one shot...

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 17:00, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Yes, I had

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 4:58 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Roger....confirmed?

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 16:57, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Boss,
We do have now a confirmed shooting at capital. One victim Female. NF1 at this time

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:12 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
No worries...interestingly, can talk later...obviously.

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 8:07 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Are you on this call? Welcome to join...

Regards,
John

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: SIOC
Date: Jan 6, 2021 19:45
Subject: Conference Call 01/06/2021 at 8PM EST
To: "Kaul, Sean L. (PX) (FBI)" "Hacker, J. C. (AT) (FBI)"

"Camp, Earl D. (SecD) (FBI)"
Cc: "Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI)" "Laycock, Stephen C. (IB) (FBI)"
"Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)"

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
STRATEGIC INFORMATION & OPERATIONS CENTER
ADD Abbate requests your participation in a conference call regarding today’s PVCA events.

Please use the following phone number and passcode to access your unclassified conference call line:

- **Date/Time:** 01/06/2021 8:00 PM ET
- **Phone number:** __________
- **Passcode:** __________

SIOC cannot control, monitor, or confirm the identities of conference call participants, so please only share this phone number and passcode with authorized participants.

For assistance, or if you no longer need this conference call line, please contact SIOC at ________ or ________

Emergency Action Specialist: ________ Watch Commander: SSA

This message and any attachments are for situational awareness and may be confidential and/or legally privileged. If you received this in error, please delete, do not disseminate further, and notify SIOC immediately.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO
Roger...on right track...

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:14, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
just said same. He also advised

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:12 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
No worries...interestingly...can talk later...obviously.

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:09, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Oh no sorry on the CP call with WFO

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:07 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Are you on this call? Welcome to join...

Regards,
John

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: SIOC
Date: Jan 6, 2021 19:45
Subject: Conference Call 01/06/2021 at 8PM EST
To: "Kaul, Sean L. (PX) (FBI)"
"Hacker, J. C. (AT) (FBI)"

FBI(21cv1168)-92
From: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd: Conference Call 01/06/2021 at 8PM EST
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 8:16 PM (UTC-05:00)

Yep

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:15 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Roger...on right track...

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:14, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
just said same. He also advised...on the call with WFO...can talk later...obviously.

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:12 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
No worries...interestingly...

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:09, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Oh no sorry on the CP call with WFO

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:07 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Are you on this call? Welcome to join...

Regards,
John
Have a great night...thank you for today...and the cookies!

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:16, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Yep

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:15 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Roger...on right track...

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:14, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
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Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:12 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
No worries...interestingly...can talk later...obviously.

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:09, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Oh no sorry on the CP call with WFO

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Thx u too. The rest went to CP.

Get meeting moved to 830 Y™,

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:21 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Have a great night...thank you for today...and the cookies!

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 8:15 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Roger...on right track...

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:12 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
No worries...interestingly. can talk later...obviously.
Will do....

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:24, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Thx u too. The rest went to CP.

Get meeting moved to 830 AM.

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:21 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Have a great night...thank you for today...and the cookies!

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:16, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Yep

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 6, 2021 8:15 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Roger...on right track...

Regards,
John

On Jan 6, 2021 20:14, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
just said same. He also advised
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Request from Sen. McConnell - ASAP
To: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI)
Cc: Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI); Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 10:41 PM (UTC-05:00)

Jill,

Standby...

Regards,
John

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)
Cc: Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI); Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI)
Subject: Request from Sen. McConnell - ASAP

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

FBI (21cv1168)-105
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)

Jill,

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); 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
FBI Office of Congressional Affairs

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

Jill,

Standby...

Regards,

John

From: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:37 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: Request from Sen. McConnell - ASAP

FBI(21cv1168)-107
Thanks John

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

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); 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)
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

From: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:37 PM
Thank you, EAD Brown. And boss for the call.

-JCT

Jill C. Tyson
Assistant Director
FBI Office of Congressional Affairs

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

From: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI)
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
From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs - Director's AM News Briefing Thursday, January 07, 2021
To: 
Sent: January 7, 2021 5:00 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: FBI.DirBriefing210107.doc

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 shuffled 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, Neison, Bowden, Feis, 7.45M) reports, "One reporter tweeted that a protester made it all the way to the dais of the Senate chamber, and declared: 'we 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 the 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, 5.89M) 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, 28K) 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
Storm Capitol" that "pro-Donald Trump rioters stormed the Capitol Wednesday afternoon."

Reports 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.”

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 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, Polaniz, 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, Lavalace, 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' 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 challenge 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, Perret, 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 brief 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, Loven) 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 Hankinson, 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, Duvalt, 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, Welte, 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, Donaghu, 5.33M) 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 the 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, Wright, 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, Holdren, 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, 865K), 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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All information and inquiries should be directed to
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, 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, 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 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 tear gas...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, 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 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, Forgy, Niedzwieck, 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. 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 (1/6, 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, “Forces 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—breeched 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 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.’”

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Newsweek (1/7, 2.67M) reports, “They knew it could happen. They feared that Donald Trump would pull a ‘Sarnson,’ 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, Leonng, Davis, Lamothte, Fahrenthold, 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 flagpoles, riot shields and shoes. 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 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 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 voicing 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-Donald 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, Rodríguez, 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.”

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 women 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, 10.5263), 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, Welter, 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.” 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 Artis 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, Herbets, 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, 592K) 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
disclose anything about the other investigation involving Alcalá Cordones. However, "multiple people involved in" a failed attempt to remove Maduro from office last year "have acknowledged providing statements to the FBI."

Operation Disruptor Defendant Pleads Guilty To Drug Charge.
In online coverage, KTVT-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 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.”

Louisiana Man Sentenced Over Methamphetamine Trafficking.
The Shreveport (LA) Times (1/6, 134K) reports Xxavier 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.
WQAY-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 Valdez, who "was found at the Skyline Motel, 8136 W. Jollet 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, WJHL-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, KFDA-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 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, Periloof, 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 Unicorn 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 tension 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 depositary shares in China Telecom Corp. Ltd., China Mobile Ltd. and
China Unicorn Hong Kong Ltd. after Jan. 1."

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, 888K) 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 two
people familiar with the plans." The pick "indicates that the Biden White House intends to reelevate
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."

Israel 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 Arazu "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 an 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 (1/6, Rosenberg, 7.45M) reports officials say that Nygard “fueled his need for ‘near-dally’ 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, 626K), the Washington Examiner (1/6, Dunleavy, 888K), 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.”

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 “excoriates William Barr, Trump’s second attorney general, who ran interference over Mueller’s final report.” Additional coverage includes The Hill (1/6, Stelter, 5.69M) and HuffPost (1/6, Amatulli, 363K).


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 (1/6, Sommerfeld, 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
[Biden's] Pennsylvania victory." The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (1/6, 1.46M) reports Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-GA), "citing the violence that shook the U.S. Capitol" on Wednesday, "abandoned her plan to challenge Georgia's electoral results."

*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, Groppe, 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 sanctum 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.”
USA Today (1/6, Barmey, 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.

Grieham, 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 opportunity," 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.**

Reuter (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. ... And they don’t seem to be sufficiently different that the therapeutics, 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-Grindoff, 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 swaths 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, Roubein, 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, LeVito, 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...
NIAID 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 ramped 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, 16.52M) 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.

As 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.**

*Reuters* (1/6) 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.**

*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, Schmall, 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.”
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, 20.6M) 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 truly 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 (1/6, Batawy) 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 blizzards, 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 Failures
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, 6 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
- 'Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan for the United States: A Roadmap to Elimination (2021-2025)' released — 'Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan for the United States: A Roadmap to Elimination (2021-2025)' released * Webinar on the release features Assistant Secretary of
Subject: Paper DC
Location: 7142

Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:00 PM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentatively accepted

Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: 

Required Attendees: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)

Optional Attendees: 
Subject: Paper DC (EAD Brown to Handle)
Location: 7142
Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:00 PM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:30 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Accepted
Organizer:
Required Attendees: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Optional Attendees:
Subject: Paper DC (EAD Brown to Handle)
Location: 7142
Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:00 PM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentatively accepted
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded
Organizer: 
Required Attendees: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Optional Attendees: 

Subject: Paper DC
Location: 7142
Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:00 PM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:30 PM
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Recurrence: (none)
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Optional Attendees: 
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Location: 7142
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End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentatively accepted
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded
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Required Attendees: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Optional Attendees:
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Location: 7142
Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:15 AM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:00 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded
Organizer:
Required Attendees: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Benavides, Bradley S. (CD) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Optional Attendees: Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI)
Importance: High
Subject: Paper DC (EAD Brown to Handle)
Location: 7142
Start: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:00 PM
End: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentatively accepted
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded
Organizer: 
Required Attendees: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Optional Attendees: 

From: Team Everbridge
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:08 AM (UTC-05:00)
Yesterday, the US Capitol Building was breached by protestors and both the House and Senate Chambers were locked down. All sessions were placed into recess as police attempted to secure the building and restore order.

As these types of unrest events unfold, we at Everbridge want to ensure you receive the resources you need to keep your people safe and operations running. The Everbridge Risk Intelligence Monitoring Centers (RMIC) actively monitor and analyze unpredictable incidents such as these and develop detailed reports of all security risks which may have an impact on the health and safety of people or disrupt business operations.

Click here for an in-depth look at the events that unfolded throughout the night. Learn actionable risk intelligence about the unrest in Washington D.C. to better prepare for any potential impact to the safety and security of your people and facilities.

DOWNLOAD NOW

US +1 888 956 1011 • Everbridge, 25 Corporate Drive, 4th Floor, Burlington, MA 01803
UK +44 8450 635 001 • 9 Grey’s Road, 9 Grey Square, Reading, Berkshire, England RG1 8HR
Thank you Brian.

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Laycock, Stephen C. (IB) (FBI); Jones, Jason A. (OGC) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); D’Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI)
Subject: RE: USAO Sherwin phone briefing

FYSA

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:14 PM
To: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI); Laycock, Stephen C. (IB) (FBI); Jones, Jason A. (OGC) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); D’Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI)
Subject: USAO Sherwin phone briefing

FYSA
FYI --
I don't have a direct quote. But in the sudden phone briefing by Acting U.S. Attorney Michael Sherwin he was...
FBI(21cv1168)-168
On Wednesday, several thousand supporters of President Trump's reelection campaign marched from the White House to the Capitol building, where the group breached security. The group climbed onto the Capitol by scaling vertical walls and overwhelming U.S. Capitol Police.
Federal Employees to Receive 1% Pay Raise in 2021

President Trump recently signed an executive order granting federal employees a 1 percent pay increase in 2021. The order does not affect locality pay rates.
Top News
CIGIE Announces New Chairperson

In a press release from December 15, 2020, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) announced their new chairperson, Allison C. Lerner. She began her term on January 1, 2021.
Financial planning isn’t just for the super wealthy. Anyone can benefit from the guidance of a credentialed, experienced, and objective planner. Here are five situations that make you a good candidate for a conversation.
The Takedown
$7 Million in Iranian Assets Collected for Victims of State-Sponsored Terrorism

The funds were collected as a part of a civil forfeiture investigation that led to millions of dollars being claimed from several Iranian nationals and others.
The final FEDtalk episode of 2020 reviewed the year, discussed how COVID-19 changed the landscape for federal employee associations, and what the future holds in 2021.
Video of the Week
VTA Human Trafficking Awareness Training

Human trafficking can occur in public settings like buses or trains. Learn the red flags of human trafficking to protect yourself and others from this heinous crime.

Watch Here
Case Law Update
Eighth Circuit Refuses to Extend Bivens to False Arrest by Deputized Federal Officer

Read the latest case law update on Ahmed v. Weyker.
Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund

Bransford Scholarship for First-Generation College Students

FEEA is pleased to announce this $7,500 scholarship is available again this year for first-generation college students who are the children of eligible federal employees or are federal employees themselves.

Learn More
*Unconfirmed* report that one hospitalized USCP officer passed away?
From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Subject: US Capitol Police Chief Sund just resigned
To: Shivers, Calvin A. (CID) (FBI); Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); D’Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI);
      Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI); Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI);
      Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 7, 2021 6:25 PM (UTC-05:00)

Checking

On Jan 7, 2021 6:16 PM, "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)" wrote:
*Unconfirmed* report that one hospitalized USCP officer passed away?
From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Subject: US Capitol Police chief Sund just resigned
To: Shivers, Calvin A. (CID) (FBI); Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI); Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI); Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 7, 2021 6:44 PM (UTC-05:00)

On Jan 7, 2021 6:16 PM, "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)" wrote:
*Unconfirmed* report that one hospitalized USCP officer passed away?
From: Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)
Subject: US Capitol Police chief Sund just resigned
To: Shivers, Calvin A. (CID) (FBI); Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WE) (FBI); Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI); Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 7, 2021 6:57 PM (UTC-05:00)

On Jan 7, 2021 6:16 PM, "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)" wrote:
*Unconfirmed* report that one hospitalized USCP officer passed away?

"Unconfirmed* report that one hospitalized USCP officer passed away?
From: Laycock, Stephen C. (IB) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 6:20 PM
Subject: Fwd: FYSA

Fyi

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Byron, Pamela (DI) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 7, 2021 6:13 PM
Subject: FYSA

Thanks,
Pam

Pamela Byron
Deputy Assistant Director
Directorate of Intelligence / FBI
desk)

FBI(21cv1168)-197
George,

Thank you...much appreciated.

Regards,

John

We are now getting the same unconfirmed reports as well.
I will continue to vet it.

On Jan 7, 2021 6:16 PM, "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)" wrote:

*Unconfirmed* report that one hospitalized USCP officer passed away?
National reporting has the officer passed.

Federal Police fraternal groups carrying same information.

USCP not officially confirming at this time.

On Jan 7, 2021 6:16 PM, "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)" wrote:

*Unconfirmed* report that one hospitalized USCP officer passed away?
From: John
To: Jill (CTD) (FBI) Sanborn
Cc: Williams; Douglas A., Jr. (DO) (FBI); Cohen; Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Tyson; Jill C. (OCA) (FBI);
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:11 PM (UTC-05:00)

Regards,
John

On Jan 7, 2021 19:18, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

Boss,

Just two post close out updates worth passing now.... possibly more in the AM.

More in the AM if I have it.

Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Dear Partners,

Although this is not the New Year's message we hoped would be our first communication to you in 2021, it is important that we pass along information related to yesterday's violence at the U.S. Capitol. The FBI is working with many partners to address the events that took place in the nation's capital yesterday and in addition to the statement below from our Director, we are also attaching

FBI Director Christopher Wray's Statement on Violent Activity at the U.S. Capitol Building:

"The violence and destruction of property at the U.S. Capitol building yesterday showed a blatant and appalling disregard for our institutions of government and the orderly administration of the democratic process. As we've said consistently, we do not tolerate violent agitators and extremists who use the guise of First Amendment-protected activity to incite violence and wreak havoc. Such behavior betrays the values of our democracy. Make no mistake: With our partners, we will hold accountable those who participated in yesterday's siege of the Capitol.

Let me assure the American people the FBI has deployed our full investigatory resources and is working closely with our federal, state, and local partners to aggressively pursue those involved in criminal activity during the events of January 6. Our agents and analysts have been hard at work through the night gathering evidence, sharing intelligence, and working with federal prosecutors to bring charges. Members of the public can help by providing tips, information, and videos of illegal activity at fbi.gov/USCapitol. We are determined to find those responsible and ensure justice is served."

Sincerely,

National Counterintelligence Task Force
J. Edgar Hoover Building
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Re: Fw. The Los Angeles Times has a question on deadline
To: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:39 PM (UTC-05:00)

Regards,

john

From: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 20:28
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd: Fw: The Los Angeles Times has a question on deadline

FYI

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 7, 2021 8:18 PM
Subject: Fw: The Los Angeles Times has a question on deadline
To: NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>
Cc: Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI)

On Jan 7, 2021 8:17 PM, NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV> wrote:
Copying OCA for awareness and guidance as appropriate.

Good evening. LA Times is seeking comment on Rep. Thompson's (D-Miss) statements requesting those involved in mobbing the US Capital yesterday be added to the nation's No-Fly list for fear they will cause trouble on flights out of Washington. LA Times would like to know whether the FBI can do this or plans to do this. I recommend

Please advise. Reporter is on deadline. Thank you.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 7, 2021 8:25 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fw: The Los Angeles Times has a question on deadline
To: "Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)"

Please advise. Reporter is on deadline. Thank you.
From: Martin, Hugo <Hugo.Martin@latimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 6:23 PM
To: NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - The Los Angeles Times has a question on deadline

Can I get a response to a statement issued today by Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss) who requested that all of those people involved in mobbing the Capitol yesterday be added to the nation’s No-Fly list for fear they will cause trouble on flights out of Washington.
Can you respond as to whether the FBI can do this, will do this or plans to do this?
Thanks

Hugo Martin
Business Writer
Los Angeles Times

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Very sorry to hear that George, thank you for letting me know.

DB

On Jan 7, 2021 7:17 PM, "Beach, George P. (OPE) (FBI)" wrote:
National reporting has the officer passed.

Federal Police fraternal groups carrying same information.

USCP not officially confirming at this time.

On Jan 7, 2021 6:16 PM, "Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)" wrote:
*Unconfirmed* report that one hospitalized USCP officer passed away?
Message from the National Counterintelligence Task Force: FBI Director statement on violence at the U.S. Capitol and

Dear Partners,

Although this is not the New Year’s message we hoped would be our first communication to you in 2021, it is important that we pass along information related to yesterday’s violence at the U.S. Capitol. The FBI is working with many partners to address the events that took place in the nation’s capital yesterday and in addition to the statement below from our Director, we are also attaching

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“The violence and destruction of property at the U.S. Capitol building yesterday showed a blatant and appalling disregard for our institutions of government and the orderly administration of the democratic process. As we’ve said consistently, we do not tolerate violent agitators and extremists who use the guise of First Amendment-protected activity to incite violence and wreak havoc. Such behavior betrayed the values of our democracy. Make no mistake: With our partners, we will hold accountable those who participated in yesterday’s siege of the Capitol.

Let me assure the American people the FBI has deployed our full investigative resources and is working closely with our federal, state, and local partners to aggressively pursue those involved in criminal activity during the events of January 6. Our agents and analysts have been hard at work through the night gathering evidence, sharing intelligence, and working with federal prosecutors to bring charges. Members of the public can help by providing tips, information, and videos of illegal activity at fbi.gov/us-capitol. We are determined to find those responsible and ensure justice is served.”

Sincerely,

National Counterintelligence Task Force
J. Edgar Hoover Building.
Page 166 ~ b5 - 1,2,3; b7A - 1; b7E - 1,2,5,8;
Page 168 ~ b6 - 3; b7A - 1; b7C - 3; b7D - 1,2; b7E - 1,2;
Page 170 ~ Duplicate;
Page 172 ~ Duplicate;
Page 193 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,5;
Page 194 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,5;
Page 195 ~ b6 - 3,4; b7C - 3,4; b7E - 1,2,5;
Page 196 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1,2,5;
Page 197 ~ b3 - 1; b7E - 1,2,5;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X  Deleted Page(s)   X
X  No Duplication Fee  X
X  For this Page  X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)

Subject: Re: Few Updates

To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)

Cc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI);

Sent: January 7, 2021 8:49 PM (UTC-05:00)

Regards,

John

Cell)

Desk)

From: Sanborn, Jill {CTD} (FBI)

Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 19:18

To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)

Cc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI)

Subject: Few Updates

Boss,

Just two post close out updates worth passing now.... possibly more in the AM.

More in the AM if I have it.

Jill

FBI(21cv1168)-270
Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
[Redacted]
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Re: Few Updates
To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Cc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); Williams, Douglas A., Jr. (OCA) (FBI);
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:16 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thank you for the updates. Of course, we have a lot more work on it before us, but has done a great job thus far...so please tell them thank you.

Also, thank you for the update on .

Thank you again...great work!

Regards,
John

Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)

Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 19:18
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Cc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); Williams, Douglas A., Jr. (OCA) (FBI)

Subject: Few Updates

Boss,

Just two post close out updates worth passing now... possibly more in the AM.
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Fw. Few Updates
To: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI)
Cc: Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI); Laycock, Stephen C. (IB) (FBI); Sallet, Jeffrey S. (HRB) (FBI)
Bcc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:18 PM (UTC-05:00)

Sir,

Since you won't be at the 9am tomorrow morning...thought you would be interested in the below. Thank you.

Regards,
John

---

From: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 19:18 PM
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Cc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA); Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); Williams, Douglas A. Jr. (OCA) (FBI)

Subject: Few Updates

Boss,

Just two post close out updates worth passing now.... possibly more in the AM.

More in the AM if I have it.

FBI(21cv1168)-274
From: Brown, John A, (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Re: Update
To: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:21 PM (UTC-05:00)

Excellent!! Preparing for those "all field office employee" messages!

Regards,
John

---

From: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 17:46
To: 
Subject: Update

Team,

First off I wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope you got to enjoy the holidays as best as you could have and spend time with your families. I wanted to send a quick note with any info we’re tracking regarding current events. The D.C. was pretty quiet today and hopefully will remain that way, but yesterday was quite crazy.

As for the posture now:

Please work through your Unit Chiefs on whether or not As I said D.C. was quiet today and there were no road blocks to get into the office.

Don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions/concerns. Please stay safe and thanks for your continued hard work.
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.

**Contractual Obligations and Copyright:** This copyrighted material is for the internal use of FBI employees only and, by contract, may not be redistributed without Bulletin Intelligence's express written consent.

**Contact Information:** Please contact us any time at 703-483-6100 or through the email address. Use of this email address will automatically result in your message being delivered to everyone involved with your service, including senior management. Thank you.
FBI Seeking Public’s Help in Identifying Capitol Rioters. Reuters (1/7) reports, “The FBI sought the public’s help in identifying the pro-Trump rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol.” Additionally, “the FBI is taking the lead on an investigation into two pipe bombs that were recovered from the headquarters of the Republican and Democratic national committees.” Reuters adds, “The FBI has asked the public to submit tips, including images and videos, to help identify people who were ‘actively instigating violence.’” Similarly, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser “said police also intend to ask the public for help in identifying rioters.”

US News & World Report (1/7) reports the FBI tweeted it is “seeking to identify individuals instigating violence in Washington, D.C. We are accepting tips and digital media depicting rioting or violence in and around the U.S. Capitol on January 6” and provided a link for the public to “submit any images, videos, or other multimedia files you have related to possible violations of federal law committed.” The Hill (1/7, Gstalter, 5.69M) reports that the FBI said in a statement, “Our goal is to preserve the public’s constitutional right to protest by protecting everyone from violence and other criminal activity.”

NSC News (1/7, Eggert, 4.91M) reports, “The FBI Washington Field Office has received more than 4,000 tips including digital media that are now being analyzed.”

FBI Releases Photo, Offers Reward For Information On Pipe Bomb Suspect. ABC News (1/8, 2.44M) reports, “The FBI has shared a photo of the person responsible for placing the suspected explosive devices outside the Republican National Committee and Democratic National Committee Wednesday.” The FBI tweeted the photo and “posted a reward of up to $50,000 “for information leading to the location, arrest, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the suspected pipe bombs.” ABC adds, “A federal law enforcement source told ABC News that the suspected pipe bombs were indeed active, and U.S. Capitol Police confirmed that the devices could have caused ‘great harm.’”

Lawmakers Seek FBI Briefing On Capitol Siege. The AP (1/7) reports, “Democratic leaders of five House committees are seeking an immediate briefing from the FBI on its investigation of Wednesday’s violent breach of the Capitol, which left four people dead and disrupted a congressional proceeding to confirm the results of the presidential election.” According to the AP, “In a letter Thursday to FBI Director Christopher Wray, the lawmakers called the riot a deadly terrorist attack” incited by President Donald Trump and his supporters. The lawmakers wrote, ‘Given the incendiary environment caused and exacerbated by President Trump’s rhetoric, along with the upcoming inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden, it is imperative that the FBI leverage all available assets and resources to ensure that the perpetrators of this domestic terrorist attack and those who incited and conspired with them are brought to justice, and that this domestic terrorist group is disrupted from further actions against our government.”

First Charges Brought Against Capitol Rioters, Wray, Other Law Enforcement Vow More Arrests To Come. The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports, “Several dozen people arrested in the violent chaos at the U.S. Capitol made their first appearances in court Thursday,” and “authorities vowed to track down additional suspects.” Meanwhile, “D.C. police chief Robert J. Contee III vowed that his department would arrest ‘each and every one of the violent mob,’ and said that investigators are circulating information publicly and to FBI offices nationwide.” Similarly, acting Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen said, “The
Department of Justice is committed to ensuring that those responsible for this attack on our Government and the rule of law face the full consequences of their actions under the law.

HuffPost (1/7, 363K) reports that FBI Director Christopher Wray said the attack "showed a blatant and appalling disregard for our institutions of government and the orderly administration of the democratic process," adding, "Make no mistake: With our partners, we will hold accountable those who participated in yesterday's siege of the Capitol." US Attorney for the District of Columbia Michael Sherwin said the feds have a "good start," but charges are "just the beginning." He said the rioters "will be held accountable, both for what was done on the Capitol grounds and what happened within the Capitol."

The Daily Caller (1/7, Datoc, 375K) reports Wray said, "We do not tolerate violent agitators and extremists who use the guise of First Amendment-protected activity to incite violence and wreak havoc. Such behavior betrays the very values of our democracy."

CNN (1/7, Perez, Herb, 89.21M) reports, "The FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies are planning a push to make arrests and bring charges against those who led the insurrection at the US Capitol."

The AP (1/7, Richer, Balsamo, Whitehurst) reports acting US Attorney for DC Michael Sherwin said that "all options are on the table" for charging members of the violent pro-Trump mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol — including sedition charges. Experts say that other possible charges include civil disorder, destruction of property and rioting.

The Washington Post (1/7, Zapotosky, 10.52M) reports Former Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, in September, when he was Deputy Attorney General, urged in a memo that prosecutors "consider tough federal charges for those engaged in violent unrest," including sedition conspiracy, damage to federal property, use of explosives, and crossing state lines to commit crimes. The memo was intended to address civil rights protests, but "law enforcement officials say Rosen's memo is a blueprint for pursuing federal cases against Wednesday's rioters." Fox News (1/7, Fordham, 23.99M) reports that a Trump executive order from June, signed "after protesters targeted historic monuments and statues in the wake of George Floyd's death," authorizes up to 10 years in prison for "injury of federal property."

Prosecutors Looking At Trump's Role In Capitol Riot. The Washington Post (1/7, Barrett, 10.52M) reports acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin "said Thursday that President Trump was not off limits in his investigation of the events surrounding Wednesday's riot at the U.S. Capitol." When asked whether they will look at statements made at the Trump rally just before the riot, and by Trump specifically, Sherwin replied, "We are looking at all actors here, and anyone that had a role, if the evidence fits the element of a crime, they're going to be charged." However, Sherwin "said that the first priority of investigators are the individuals who personally engaged in destructive or violent acts at the Capitol, or what he called 'the closest alligators to the boat'," and "emphasizing] that the Justice Department and FBI are rapidly pursuing cases against those who engaged in violence or other lawbreaking." FBI Director Christopher A. Wray "said the FBI has deployed its full investigative resources and will hold accountable those who participated in yesterday's siege of the Capitol."

New York Times (1/7, Benner, 20.6M) reports that Sherwin's "comments were an extraordinary invocation of the rule of law against a president who has controlled on the Justice Department to advance his personal agenda." Politico (1/7, Gerstein, 6.73M) reports prosecutors raised "the prospect that inflammatory statements President Donald Trump and Rudy Giuliani made to supporters shortly before the assault will be closely scrutinized for possible criminal charges."

Additional coverage includes The Financial Times (1/7, Subscription Publication, 1.48M).

US Attorneys Promise Charges Against Any Who Travelled From Their Areas To Participate In Capitol Riot. The Houston Chronicle (1/7, Dellinger, 982K) reports, "More than a dozen U.S. attorneys from Texas, Ohio, Nebraska, South Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Connecticut, Virginia and Maryland" have made statements that they will "prosecute anyone from their regions who traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the riot."

The Detroit Free Press (1/7, Boucher, 2.16M) reports US Attorney Matthew Schneider said, "We're not looking at the people who were being peaceful. We are working with our partners in the FBI to determine whether or not people were committing acts of violence from Michigan, crossing a state line to do so. That's really the focus."

Boston (1/7, 538K) reports US Attorney Andrew Lelling said the Constitution does not protect "a violent assault on government institutions. Americans on the right and left must re-learn the difference. Anyone who traveled from Massachusetts with the intent to commit such crimes will be prosecuted in the District of Massachusetts."

Additional coverage includes the Hartford (CT) Courant (1/7, Mahoney, 438K).
Critics Allege Racial Double Standard in Treatment Of Rioters. The Hill (1/7, Johnson, 5.69M) reports, "Civil rights groups, NBA stars and many others are criticizing what they said was a glaring difference in how police treated Black Lives Matter protesters over the summer and their treatment of a predominantly white, pro-Trump crowd that assaulted the U.S. Capitol." In particular, they point to a video in which "officers of the Capitol Police are shown offering no resistance to the rioters as they streamed into the building." They argued "there was a difference between peaceful protests calling for the end to police brutality and systemic racism against Black Americans and what transpired at the Capitol Wednesday afternoon." Rashad Robinson, President of Color Change, said, "In 2015, the FBI published a report about how police departments had been infiltrated with white nationalists and white supremacy, and we haven't seen anything, in terms of legislation to deal with this." He added that what happened is "a consequence of a whole set of enablers from those in government to those and social media platforms, to folks in mainstream media."

The AP (1/7, Morrison) reports that while Black Lives Matter protests drew "overwhelming force from law enforcement in dozens of cities," "chemical dispersants," "rubber bullets and hand-to-hand combat with largely peaceful crowds and some unruly vandals and looters," and "more than 14,000 arrests," on Wednesday there were "barely more than a few dozen arrests," with "several weapons seized [and] improvised explosive devices found. Members of a wilding mob [were] escorted from the premises, some not even in handcuffs. The key difference? The first set of protesters were overwhelmingly Black Americans and their allies. The second group was overwhelmingly white Americans who support President Trump's "baseless claims of election fraud."

On ABC World News Tonight (1/7, story 5, 1:45, Muir, 7.47M), Rachel Scott said, "It's being described as a double standard... and many are wondering, what if those rioters had been Black?... The size of the demonstration was similar to this one months earlier, but the response was not. This summer, when thousands took to the same streets in DC to peacefully protest racial inequality, law enforcement was out in full force — military helicopters flying low, tear gas and pepper balls deployed. ... Over the summer, the President called those protesters 'thugs.' Yesterday, calling his own supporters 'great patriots.'" On NBC Nightly News (1/7, story 6, 1:40, Holt, 5.91M), Gabe Gutierrez said, "During the George Floyd protests, President Trump tweeted, 'When the looting starts, the shooting starts.' Yesterday..." Trump: "Go home. We love you. You're very special."

The Online Morning News (1/7, 772K) reports, "Protesters and organizers said the police response was consistent with what they have seen: a long pattern of society's coddling of racists and downplaying of the violent white supremacist ideology that routinely places white people's grievances above those of their Black, often disenfranchised and downtrodden, countrymen and women."

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (1/7, Rao, 855K) reports Arizona State University criminology professor Edward Maguire said it was a 'really reasonable concern' that the law enforcement response to the Capitol riot "seemed so hands-off, especially in comparison to the unrest that erupted over the police killings of Black Americans." NBC News (1/8, 4.91M) reports Cleveland State University Associate Professor of urban studies Ronnie Dunn said, "This is the epitome of white privilege or white supremacy — the notion that they have the right or dominion to go into the Capitol and overthrow the results of a fair and free election and the will of the people."

Capitol Police Chief Resigns Amid Questions Over Security Failures. On ABC World News Tonight (1/7, story 4, 2:00, 7.47M), David Muir said, "There are still major questions tonight. With the President calling for demonstrations for weeks, why weren't there more security [at the Capitol]? The President himself had said, 'This will be wild.'" ABC's Pierre Thomas: "We're learning just how dangerous the situation was: more than 80 people arrested, and... five firearms recovered, including a military-style assault rifle, as well as 'two powerful functioning pipe bombs and 11 Molotov cocktails.'" On the CBS Evening News (1/7, story 6, 2:25, O'Donnell, 4.61M), Kris Van Cleave said, "Capitol Police appeared unprepared, despite warning signs online like this one calling for participants to come armed."

The New York Times (1/7, Dewan, MacFarquhar, Eligon, Hill, 20.6M) reports the Capitol Police, "which numbers about 2,000 officers and has sole jurisdiction over the Capitol's buildings and grounds, was clearly outnumbered and unprepared for the onslaught, even as it was openly organized on social media sites like Gab and Parler." Reuters (1/7, Tanfani, Shiffman, Januta, Rosenblatt) says that according to some law enforcement officials, "the siege of the Capitol represents one of the gravest security lapses in recent U.S. history."

The New York Times (1/7, Dewan, MacFarquhar, Eligon, Hill, 20.6M) reports, "Some law enforcement experts were astonished by the sight of an officer cowering in the crush of pro-Trump extremists and rioters using police shields and metal barricades as battering rams." USA Today (1/7, Brook, Phillips, 12.7M) reports, "Among the most striking images of law enforcement futility, on a day when chaos convulsed the U.S. Capitol, was of a lone, shirt-sleeved officer in retreat waving a baton at an advancing mob that had breached the Senate side of the building. Flag-waving rioters appeared to stalk the officer who bounded up one stairway after another — with no immediate back-up to be found."
Tom Costello said on NBC Nightly News (1/7, story 5, 2:26, Holt, 5.91M), "Among the charges prosecutors could press against the mob: trespassing, destruction of federal property, mail theft, federal rioting, assault on a police officer, federal gun charges, and insurrection." The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund announced his resignation effective Jan. 16, a decision that came hours after House Speaker Pelosi publicly called on him to step down over the department's handling of the violent pro-Trump siege. Earlier Thursday, the AP (1/7, Daly) reports that Sund "defended his department's response to the storming of the Capitol, saying that officers 'acted valiantly when faced with thousands of individuals involved in violent riotous actions.'"

The Los Angeles Times (1/7, 3.37M) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer said Thursday that he plans to fire Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger when Schumer becomes majority leader later this month. Politico (1/7, Everett, Caygle, 6.73M) reports, "Stenger and House Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving are both under pressure to step down after the deadly and embarrassing breach of security." Bloomberg (1/7, 3.57M) reports that Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham called for a joint task force to investigate the response by authorities to the violence on Wednesday. Bloomberg adds that the House Appropriations Committee "separately announced an investigation into the Capitol Police's handling of the turmoil."

Capitol Police Turned Down Offers Of Assistance Twice. The AP (1/7, Long, Belgard, Balsamo, Merchant) reports, "Three days before supporters of the President "rioted at the Capitol, the Pentagon asked the U.S Capitol Police if it needed National Guard manpower," and "and as the mob descended on the building Wednesday, Justice Department leaders reached out to offer up FBI agents. The police turned them down both times, according to senior defense officials and two people familiar with the matter. Despite plenty of warnings of a possible insurrection and ample resources and time to prepare, the Capitol Police planned only for a free speech demonstration."

The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports, "The secretary of the Army and the chief of D.C.'s police force acknowledged Thursday that they did not expect President Trump's supporters to try to enter the Capitol building, despite extensive online conversations in which far-right groups publicly discussed their plans to do just that. When that breach did occur, the Capitol Police called D.C. police to help, and eventually the D.C. National Guard moved in to help."

Authorities Begin To Probe Security Failures. Reuters (1/7, Tanfani, Shiffman, Hosenball) reports, "The bloody chaos inside the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday came after the police force that protects the legislative complex was overrun by a mob of Trump supporters in what law enforcement officials called a catastrophic failure to prepare." Reuters adds, "The siege of the Capitol, home to both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, represents one of the gravest security lapses in recent U.S. history, current and former law enforcement officials said, turning one of the most recognizable symbols of American power into a locus of political violence." According to Reuters, "That lapse came despite glaring warning signs of potential violence by hardline supporters of President Donald Trump, who are inflamed by his baseless claims of a stolen election and hope to block the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden."

NBC News (1/7, Dilanian, Ainsley, 4.91M) reports, "Amid growing evidence that pro-Trump extremists were planning to target the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, the day Congress was set to certify the election of Joe Biden as president, in recent days Congressman Tim Ryan had asked the people in charge of security whether they had everything they needed. I had conversations with the sergeant-at-arms and the chief of the Capitol Police, who gave me assurances that every precaution was being taken, that we had enough manpower, that we were going to keep people completely away from the Capitol," Ryan, the Ohio Democrat who chairs the subcommittee that funds the Capitol complex, told reporters Thursday. NBC News adds, "What happened instead was a security failure that one federal law enforcement official described 'as the darkest day since 9/11,' and Ryan and other members of Congress are now seeking answers."

The Washington Post (1/7, Kornfield, 10.52M) reports, "Members of both political parties pointed to the destruction of government property, threats to law enforcement and two explosive devices found near the Capitol as acts of terrorism as far-right extremist groups rallied in the nation's capital to contest the results of the presidential election. In the media, CNN executives told the organization's journalists that they could refer to the siege as 'domestic terrorism.' National security experts agreed with that assessment, comparing the aggressive takeover of the federal landmark to the FBI's definition of domestic terrorism: 'Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature.' The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Jones, Fuller, Grimaldi, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also reports.

Pentagon Limited Use Of DC National Guard Ahead Of Protests Due To Narrow Mission. The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports, "The Pentagon placed tight limits on the D.C. National Guard ahead of pro-Trump protests this week, trying to ensure the use of military force remained constrained, as the Guard carried out a narrow, unarmed mission requested by the city's mayor to help handle traffic ahead of planned protests." The Post adds, "In memos issued Monday and Tuesday in response to a request from the D.C. mayor, the Pentagon prohibited the District's guardsmen from receiving ammunition or riot gear, interacting with protesters unless necessary for self-defense, sharing equipment with local law enforcement, or using Guard...

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surveillance and air assets without the defense secretary’s explicit sign-off, according to officials familiar with the orders. The limits were established because the Guard hadn’t been asked to assist with crowd or riot control.

Four Who Died Wednesday Have Been Identified. USA Today (1/7, Hauck, Wagner, 12.7M) reports, “Four people died Wednesday when a mob of pro-Trump supporters stormed the Capitol, including three who suffered medical emergencies on Capitol grounds.” The police announced during a Thursday press conference that 50-year-old Benjamin Phillips of Pennsylvania, 34-year-old Rosanne Boylan of Georgia, and 55-year-old Kevin Greeson of Alabama died from medical emergencies.

The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports that 35-year-old Ashli Babbitt was killed by a Capitol police officer as she “tried to climb through a smashed glass pane in one of the doors” of the House chamber. The “California native and Air Force veteran was struck in the neck and later died. The two officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because an investigation into the incident is ongoing, said she was unarmed.” The New York Times (1/7, Barry, Bogel-Burroughs, Phillips, 20.6M) reports, that Babbitt's "social media feed was a torrent of messages celebrating President Trump; QAnon conspiracy theories; and tirades against immigration, drugs and Democratic leaders in California." The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Duehren, Caldwell, Lubold, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also has a feature on Babbitt.

Documents Taken From Capitol May Contain National Security Risks. Newsweek (1/7, 2.67M) reports, “Acting U.S. Attorney Michael Sherwin has said that materials stolen during yesterday's coup attempt on the U.S. Capitol by rioters supporting President Donald Trump's attempts to overturn the election may constitute a breach of national security. 'Materials were stolen, and we have to identify what was done, mitigate that, and it could have potential national security equities,' Sherwin said. 'We just don't know the extent of that damage at this point — if there was damage, we don't know the extent of that.' Specifically, Sherwin said that rioters stole electronics from U.S. senators' offices that could've contained sensitive information relating to domestic and foreign intelligence and other sensitive matters, Reuters reports.”

Right-Wing Extremist Groups To Use Capitol Attack As Recruitment Tool. USA Today (1/7, Carless, 12.7M) reports, "Wednesday's mob insurrection at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., is unlikely to be the last violent action from far-right extremists, who may also be using the week's extraordinary events to recruit members for a swelling coalition around ongoing president Donald Trump, according to experts on extremism." USA Today adds, "While this week's attack was extraordinary in its brazenness, it was also a wake-up call to federal and local law enforcement that threats from far-right Trump supporters should be taken very seriously over the last two weeks of Trump's presidency and beyond, said Mary McCord, legal director at the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. "There's a whole lot of talk about what happened in far-right extremist forums and chatrooms today, and about how the inauguration on January 20 will be the last stand and now is the time to recruit," McCord said.”

Trump Allies Suggest Far-Left Activists Were Behind Capitol Violence. The New York Times (1/7, Peters, 20.6M) reports many of President Trump's "most vocal and visible allies in Congress, the media and conservative politics...could not bring themselves to fault him for the surreal and frightening attack carried out by people he had just urged to 'fight like hell." They "downplayed the violence" and "deflected with false equivalencies about the Democratic Party's embrace of the Black Lives Matter movement. Some even tried to dispute the fact that Trump supporters were actually the perpetrators, suggesting that far-left activists had infiltrated the crowd and posed as fans of the president." Such claims “came from some of his highest-profile allies who helped enable his rise in the Republican Party,” including Sarah Palin, who wrote, "To any insincere, fake DC 'patriots' used as PLANTS — you will be found out.”

Curators Believe Capitol's Art Treasures Didn't Suffer Major Damage. The New York Times (1/7, Bahr, 20.6M) reports detailed damage assessments from the Architect of the Capitol or the U.S. Capitol Police on the art in the Capitol due to the riot “have yet to be released.” However, “the singular works of art that curators consider the treasures of the building did not appear to have suffered any major damage.”

However, NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said that rioters stole a tribute to the late civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis (D-GA).

Rep. Ryan: As Many As 60 Capitol Police Officers Injured. NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH) revealed “that as many as 60 Capitol Police officers were injured yesterday, including 15 hospitalized and one in critical condition.” He said that many were struck on the head with lead pipes.

GOP Legislators Identified As Participants At Events Surrounding Riot, One Identified As A Rrioter. The Hill (1/7, Wilson, 5.69M) reports West Virginia Del. Derrick Evans (R) was identified as being “among the violent mob that broke into the Capitol building” — he “posted a video of himself entering the building.” At least six other Republican state legislators “participated in events surrounding the attempted insurrection.” The AP (1/7, Dil) reports that the president of the national Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, Jessica Post, said "any Republican legislator who took part in yesterday's insurrection, in Washington, D.C., or anywhere else in the country, should resign immediately."
Rioters Came From A Number Of Backgrounds. USA Today (1/7, Voyles Pulver, Salman, 12.7M) reports, “Participants in the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday came from many backgrounds and across the country,” and despite claims of conservative pundits, including Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), “all of the people identified so far by USA TODAY who breached the U.S. Capitol or were arrested had professed their support for Trump through social media postings and conversations with family or friends.” USA Today publishes the names and profiles of a number of rioters.

Capitol Rioter Who Put Feet On Pelosi’s Desk Got PPP Loan. NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports, “The Capitol rioter photographed with his feet on a desk in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office, Richard Barnett — an independent glass and glazing contractor in Gravette, Arkansas — received a $9,300 forgivable loan under the Paycheck Protection Program last April.”

The Washington Times (1/7, Blake, 626K) reports, “Barnett said that he took a letter from Mrs. Pelosi’s office and left a note on her desk,” and “he identified himself to reporters after leaving the Capitol building.” The Daily Caller (1/7, Kerr, 375K) reports Barnett told a local news station, “I didn’t mean to be there. Hell, I was walking around looking for a bathroom.”

Man Photographed Taking House Lectern Identified. The Miami Herald (1/7, Ballogg, DeLeon, 647K) reports that the “man seen in a viral photo taking a lectern from the U.S. House during Wednesday’s attack on the Capitol” has been identified as Adam Johnson of Parrish, Florida. “Numerous local residents quickly recognized and identified him.” Fox News (1/7, Sorace, 23.99M) reports, “Authorities have not officially identified the man in the photo or named Johnson as a person of interest.”

Texas Sheriff Investigating Lieutenant Who Posted Photos Of Herself Among Mob. The San Antonio Express-News (1/7, Pettaway, 685K) reports, “The Bexar County Sheriff’s Office is investigating whether” jail lieutenant Roxanne Mathai, “broke policy or any laws by attending a pro-Trump rally that turned into an angry mob storming the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.” Photos posted to the Facebook page “don’t show Mathai committing an unlawful act,” but Sheriff Javier Salazar “said some of the photos show the lieutenant in the middle of the crowd that assaulted law enforcement agents.” He added, “If she just stood by while first responders were assaulted, it would be more than just troubling, it would be downright infuriating” and he would have her investigated on administrative charges of conduct unbecoming. The sheriff also “sent the photos to the local FBI agency to see if Mathai participated in any illegal behavior during the incident.”

Flight Attendants Union Urges Banning Rioters From Flights. The Los Angeles Times (1/7, Martin, 3.37M) reports the Assn. of Flight Attendants-CWA, the nation’s largest flight attendants union, called for barring “members of the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday” from commercial flights out of Washington, DC, citing “several incidents of raucous, unruly behavior on flights into Washington in the days leading up to the riot, attributed to supporters of President Trump.” Association President Sara Nelson “urged the airlines to work in coordination with federal law enforcement agencies to ‘ensure the safety and security of passengers and crews by keeping all problems on the ground.’”

Companies Firing Some Capitol Rioters After Identities Become Public. Reuters (1/7, Bartz) reports some of the rioters at the Capitol “were fired from their jobs on Thursday after internet sleuths publicized their identities.”

Kathy Griffin Takes Swipe At FBI Efforts. Newsweek (1/7, Jackson, 2.67M) reports comedian Kathy Griffin “took a swipe directly at the FBI on Thursday,” tweeting back after the bureau said it is looking for the people who committed acts of violence at the US Capitol. She said, “With all due respect, you work for the Department of Justice. The DOJ contacted me within hours of posting an offensive photo of donald trump. Hours. There is ample evidence all over the Internet clearly identifying thousands of these actual terrorists.”

The New York Daily News (1/7, Matthews, 2.51M) reports Griffin “said she was investigated by the Secret Service and FBI after posing with a fake severed head of the president. Griffin said she was investigated by the Secret Service and FBI regarding the photo, kicked off of CNN’s annual New Year’s Eve broadcast and received death threats because of the photo.”

Concerns Over Cybersecurity Abound After Capitol Breach Leaves Devices Vulnerable. The Washington Post (1/7, Riley, 10.52M) reports yesterday’s breach of the Capitol “left many unanswered questions about security at the Capitol, including its cybersecurity,” as “the quick evacuation left computers and other device unattended as the mob ransacked offices. This is the stuff of cybersecurity pros’ nightmares.” Luta Security founder and CEO Katie Moussouris said, “There’s an old saying, if an attacker has physical access to your computer, it’s not your computer anymore.” Right-wing journalist tweeted a photo showing “rioters had access to at least one unlocked computer in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office, open to email appearing to belong to a staffer,” and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) “said a computer was stolen from his office.” CNN (1/7, Fung, 89.21M) reports that in addition to Merkley’s laptop having been stolen, “US officials said multiple senators’ offices were hit.” Acting US attorney for the District of Columbia Michael Sherwin said, “This is probably going to take several days to flesh out exactly what happened, what was stolen, what wasn’t.” Sherwin added, “Documents, materials, were stolen, and we have to identify what was done, mitigate that, and it could have potential national security equities.”
event “highlights the grave cybersecurity risks that now face all lawmakers, congressional staffers, and any outside parties they may have communicated with in the course of business, security professionals say.”

TechCrunch (1/7, Whittaker, 502K) reports that the “breach will likely present a major task for Congress’ IT departments, which will have to figure out what’s been stolen and what security risks could still pose a threat to the Capitol’s network.” However, the “classified computers are separate from the rest of the unclassified congressional network and in a designated sensitive compartmented information facility, or SCIFs, in locked-down areas of the Capitol building.” Former House Intelligence Committee staffer Mieke Eoyang said, “No indication those [classified systems] were breached.”

New Republic (1/7, Silverman, 192K) says the “Trumper riot exposed not just the grounds’ physical insecurity...but also its openness to electronic attack.” The outlet adds, “It would have been trivial for a tech-savvy MAGA head or QAnon cultist, or an agent of a criminal organization or foreign government, to abscond with a government computer or leave behind a small listening device.”

Also reporting is the Los Angeles Times (1/7, Masunaga, 3.37M).

Boeing To Pay $2.5B To Settle Criminal Charge Related To 737 Max. The Dallas Morning News (1/7, 772K) reports the Justice Department “has filed criminal fraud charges” against Boeing for “impairing, obstructing, defeating and interfering with U.S. regulators’ attempts to properly certify the 737 Max and its faulty software program before two fatal crashes.” The New York Times (1/7, Chokshi, Schmidt, 20.6M) says the company agreed to a deferred prosecution agreement under which it will “pay more than $2.5 billion” to resolve the charges. The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Tangel, Michaels, Pasztor, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says the settlement includes a $243 million fine and $2.2 billion in compensation to airline customers and the families of people killed in two MAX crashes. Reuters (1/7, Sheppardson, Ruchinski) reports the Justice Department “said the $243.6 million fine was at ‘low end’ of the sentencing guidelines.”

Barron’s (1/7, Root, 1.36M) reports that Special Agent in Charge Emmerson Buie of the FBI’s Chicago Field Office said, “Today’s deferred prosecution agreement holds Boeing and its employees accountable for their lack of candor with the FAA regarding MCAS.”

Politico (1/7, Mintz, 6.73M) reports Boeing CEO David Calhoun in a statement, “I firmly believe that entering into this resolution is the right thing for us to do – a step that appropriately acknowledges how we fell short of our values and expectations.” Calhoun added that the resolution is “a serious reminder to all of us how critical our obligation of transparency to regulators is, and the consequences that our company can face if any one of us falls short of those expectations.”

Bloomberg (1/7, Levin, 3.57M) says this is “the latest to hit the planemaker’s bottom line. The company’s inability to deliver planes during the ground and cancellations of previous orders have cost the company billions of dollars.” The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M), the AP (1/7), and the Seattle Times (1/7, Gates, Kamb, 1.19M) provide similar coverage.

FBI Argues Twitter Can’t Publish Report On Its Cooperation With The Agency. Law360 (1/7, Subscription Publication, 9K) reports the FBI argued before the Ninth Circuit that Twitter should not be allowed to release “a transparency report that details the instances in which the social media giant cooperated with the agency on national security matters.” The FBI argued that the case is not a First Amendment issue and that Twitter’s proposed disclosures could do “serious damage to national security.”

Federal Judiciary Electronic Filing System Likely Compromised In SolarWinds Hack. The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports federal judiciary officials say the SolarWinds hack likely compromised the electronic filing used by federal courts. The Administrative Office of the US Courts stated Wednesday that the judiciary was adding new security measures to protect “highly sensitive confidential documents filed with the courts.” It added, “An apparent compromise of the confidentiality of the [filing] system due to these discovered vulnerabilities currently is under investigation. ... Due to the nature of the attacks, the review of this matter and its impact is ongoing.”

The AP (1/7) reports that DOJ also “disclosed on Wednesday” it was “among the dozens of U.S. government agencies and private businesses compromised by a massive, monthslong cyberespionage campaign that U.S. officials have linked to elite Russian hackers.” DOJ “said that 3% of its Microsoft Office 365 email accounts were potentially affected, but did not say to whom those accounts belonged.” The federal judiciary “said on its website that ‘an apparent compromise’ of the U.S. judiciary’s case management and electronic case file system was under investigation.” DHS “was scouring the system, it said, and cited a particular risk to the sealed court filings, whose disclosure could jeopardize a lot more than active criminal investigations.”

Trump Said To Prepare Presidential Pardon List, Including Self-Pardon. Bloomberg (1/7, Jacobs, Sink, Wingrove, 3.57M) reports, “President Donald Trump has prepared a sweeping list of individuals he’s hoping to
pardon in the final days of his administration that includes senior White House officials, family members, prominent rappers -- and possibly himself, according to people familiar with the matter." The sources said the President is planning the announcement for January 19 after vetting by senior advisers and the White House counsel. Bloomberg says, "The biggest question facing his legal team may be whether the president has the authority to pardon himself," a power "Trump has previously claimed...though it's a matter of legal dispute and has never before been attempted by a president." Other pardons reportedly under consideration include Ivanka Trump, White House Senior Adviser Jared Kushner, Chief of Staff Meadows, White House adviser Stephen Miller, and Rudy Giuliani.

The New York Times (1/7, Schmidt, Haberman, 20.8M) reports that the President "has suggested to aides he wants to pardon himself in the final days of his presidency, according to two people with knowledge of the discussions, a move that would mark one of the most extraordinary and untested uses of presidential power in American history." The Times says that "Trump has shown signs that his level of interest in pardoning himself goes beyond idle musings," and while "legal scholars are divided about whether the courts would recognize" a self-pardon, "they agree [it] could create a dangerous new precedent for presidents to unilaterally declare they are above the law."
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 5:25 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: January 8, 2021

All information and inquiries should be directed to [Redacted].
TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF
DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021 6:30 AM EST

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FBI Seeking Public's Help in Identifying Capitol Rioters.

 Reuters (1/7) reports, “The FBI sought the public’s help in identifying the pro-Trump rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol.” Additionally, “the FBI is taking the lead on an investigation into two pipe bombs that were recovered from the headquarters of the Republican and Democratic national committees.” Reuters adds, “The FBI has asked the public to submit tips, including images and videos, to help agents identify people who were ‘actively instigating violence.’” Similarly, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser “said police also intend to ask the public for help in identifying rioters.”

 US News & World Report (1/7, Hansen, 1.91M) reports the FBI tweeted it is “seeking to identify individuals instigating violence in Washington, D.C. We are accepting tips and digital media depicting rioting or violence in and around the U.S. Capitol on January 6” and provided a link for the public to “submit any images, videos, or other multimedia files you have related to possible violations of federal law committed.” The Hill (1/7, Gstalter, 5.69M) reports that the FBI said in a statement, “Our goal is to preserve the public’s constitutional right to protest by protecting everyone from violence and other criminal activity.”

 The AP (1/7, Eggert) reports US Attorney Matthew Schneider “urged people to give tips to the FBI if they are aware of people who joined a violent mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol.” He said, “I’m personally disgusted and horrified by this. It’s just nauseating to me. It’s sick what people did inside the Capitol.”

 NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports, “The FBI Washington Field Office has received more than 4,000 tips including digital media that are now being analyzed.”

 Additional coverage includes the Miami Herald (1/7, Kenney, 647K), TODAY (1/7, 2.24M), Fox
FBI Releases Photo, Offers Reward For Information On Pipe Bomb Suspect. ABC News (1/8, 2.44M) reports, "The FBI has shared a photo of the person responsible for placing the suspected explosive devices outside the Republican National Committee and Democratic National Committee Wednesday." The FBI tweeted the photo and "posted a reward of up to $50,000 for information leading to the location, arrest, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the suspected pipe bombs." ABC adds, "A federal law enforcement source told ABC News that the suspected pipe bombs were indeed active, and U.S. Capitol Police confirmed that the devices could have caused 'great harm.'" Additional coverage includes the New York Post (1/7, Moore, 7.45M), NBC News (1/8, 4.91M), WINK-TV Fort Myers, FL (1/7, 82K), and WRIC-TV Richmond, VA (1/7, 241K).

Lawmakers Seek FBI Briefing On Capitol Siege. The AP (1/7) reports, "Democratic leaders of five House committees are seeking an immediate briefing from the FBI on its investigation of Wednesday’s violent breach of the Capitol, which left four people dead and disrupted a congressional proceeding to confirm the results of the presidential election." According to the AP, "In a letter Thursday to FBI Director Christopher Wray, the lawmakers called the riot ‘a deadly terrorist attack’ incited by President Donald Trump and his supporters. The lawmakers wrote, ‘Given the incendiary environment caused and exacerbated by President Trump’s rhetoric, along with the upcoming inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden, it is imperative that the FBI leverage all available assets and resources to ensure that the perpetrators of this domestic terrorist attack and those who incited and conspired with them are brought to justice, and that this domestic terrorist group is disrupted from further actions against our government.’"

First Charges Brought Against Capitol Rioters, Wray, Other Law Enforcement Vow More Arrests To Come. The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports, "Several dozen people arrested in the violent chaos at the U.S. Capitol made their first appearances in court Thursday," and "authorities vowed to track down additional suspects." Meanwhile, "D.C. police chief Robert J. Contee III vowed that his department would arrest ‘each and every one of the violent mob,’ and said that investigators are circulating information publicly and to FBI offices nationwide." Similarly, acting Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen said, "The Department of Justice is committed to ensuring that those responsible for this attack on our Government and the rule of law face the full consequences of their actions under the law."

HuffPost (1/7, 363K) reports that FBI Director Christopher Wray said the attack "showed a blatant and appalling disregard for our institutions of government and the orderly administration of the democratic process," adding, "Make no mistake: With our partners, we will hold accountable those who participated in yesterday’s siege of the Capitol." US Attorney for the District of Columbia Michael Sherwin said the feds have a "good start," but charges are "just the beginning." He said the rioters "will be held accountable, both for what was done on the Capitol grounds and what happened within the Capitol." The Daily Caller (1/7, Datoc, 375K) reports Wray said, "We do not tolerate violent agitators and extremists who use the guise of First Amendment-protected activity to incite violence and wreak havoc. Such behavior betrays the very values of our democracy."

CNN (1/7, Perez, Herb, 89.21M) reports, "The FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies are planning a push to make arrests and bring charges against those who led the insurrection at the US Capitol." CNN adds, "FBI digital experts spent the night ingesting surveillance video from the Capitol buildings and the area around the complex and are using software to match images and faces with social media posts."
The AP (1/7, Richer, Balsamo, Whitehurst) reports acting US Attorney for DC Michael Sherwin said that “all options are on the table” for charging members of the violent pro-Trump mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol — including sedition charges. Experts say that other possible charges include civil disorder, destruction of property and rioting.

The Washington Post (1/7, Zapotosky, 10.52M) reports Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, in September, when he was Deputy Attorney General, urged in a memo that prosecutors “consider tough federal charges for those engaged in violent unrest,” including sedition conspiracy, damage to federal property, use of explosives, and crossing state lines to commit crimes. The memo was intended to address civil rights protests, but “law enforcement officials say Rosen’s memo is a blueprint for pursuing federal cases against Wednesday’s rioters.” Fox News (1/7, Fordham, 23.99M) reports that a Trump executive order from June, signed “after protesters targeted historic monuments and statues in the wake of George Floyd’s death,” authorizes up to 10 years in prison for “injury of federal property.”

Additional coverage includes Reuters (1/7), NBC News (1/7, 4.91M), the New York Daily News (1/7, Crane-Newman, 2.51M), the Los Angeles Times (1/7, 3.37M), NBC News (1/7, 4.91M), Fox News (1/7, Ruiz, 23.99M), and the Voice of America (1/7, Farivar, 85K), Fox News (1/7, Giang-Paunon, 23.99M), Fox News (1/7, Gibson, 23.99M), the Philly (PA) Voice (1/7, 170K), the Fairfield (CT) Daily Voice (1/7), WJAT- TV Birmingham, AL (1/7), NJ News (1/7, Shea, 1.47M), the West Hartford (CT) News (1/7, O’Neill, Yankowski, 28K),

Prosecutors Looking At Trump’s Role In Capitol Riot. The Washington Post (1/7, Barrett, 10.52M) reports acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin “said Thursday that President Trump was not off limits in his investigation of the events surrounding Wednesday’s riot at the U.S. Capitol.” When asked whether they will look at statements made at the Trump rally just before the riot, and by Trump specifically, Sherwin replied, “We are looking at all actors here, and anyone that had a role, if the evidence fits the element of a crime, they’re going to be charged.” However, Sherwin “said that the first priority of investigators are the individuals who personally engaged in destructive or violent acts at the Capitol, or what he called ‘the closest alligators to the boat,’ and ‘emphasiz[ing] that the Justice Department and FBI are rapidly pursuing cases against those who engaged in violence or other lawbreaking.” FBI Director Christopher A. Wray “said the FBI has deployed its ‘full investigative resources’ and will ‘hold accountable those who participated in yesterday’s siege of the Capitol.”

New York Times (1/7, Benner, 20.6M) reports that Sherwin’s “comments were an extraordinary invocation of the rule of law against a president who has counted on the Justice Department to advance his personal agenda.” Politico (1/7, Gerstein, 6.73M) reports prosecutors raised “the prospect that inflammatory statements President Donald Trump and Rudy Giuliani made to supporters shortly before the assault will be closely scrutinized for possible criminal charges.”

Additional coverage includes the Financial Times (1/7, Subscription Publication, 1.48M).

US Attorneys Promise Charges Against Any Who Traveled From Their Areas To Participate In Capitol Riot. The Houston Chronicle (1/7, Dellinger, 982K) reports, “More than a dozen U.S. attorneys from Texas, Ohio, Nebraska, South Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Connecticut, Virginia and Maryland” have made statements that they will “prosecute anyone from their regions who traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate” in the riot.

The Detroit Free Press (1/7, Boucher, 2.16M) reports US Attorney Matthew Schneider said, “We’re not looking at the people who were being peaceful. We are working with our partners in the FBI to determine whether or not people were committing acts of violence from Michigan, crossing a state line to do so. That’s really the focus.”

Boston (1/7, 538K) reports US Attorney Andrew Lelling said the Constitution does not protect “a violent assault on government institutions. Americans on the right and left must re-learn the difference. Anyone who traveled from Massachusetts with the intent to commit such crimes will be prosecuted in the District of Massachusetts.”

Additional coverage includes the Hartford (CT) Courant (1/7, Mahony, 438K).

Critics allege Racial Double Standard In Treatment Of Rioters. The Hill (1/7,
Johnson, 5.69M) reports, “Civil rights groups, NBA stars and many others are criticizing what they said was a glaring difference in how police treated Black Lives Matter protesters over the summer and their treatment of a predominantly white, pro-Trump crowd that assaulted the U.S. Capitol.” In particular, they point to a video in which “officers of the Capitol Police are shown offering no resistance to the rioters as they streamed into the building.” They argued “there was a difference between peaceful protests calling for the end to police brutality and systemic racism against Black Americans and what transpired at the Capitol Wednesday afternoon.” Rashad Robinson, President of Color Change, said, “In 2015, the FBI published a report about how police departments had been infiltrated with white nationalists and white supremacy, and we haven’t seen anything, in terms of legislation to deal with this.” He added that what happened is “a consequence of a whole set of enablers from those in government to those and social media platforms, to folks in mainstream media.”

The AP (1/7, Morrison) reports that while Black Lives Matter protests drew “overwhelming force from law enforcement in dozens of cities,” “chemical dispersants,” “rubber bullets and hand-to-hand combat with largely peaceful crowds and some unruly vandals and looters,” and “more than 14,000 arrests,” on Wednesday there were “barely more than a few dozen arrests,” with “several weapons seized [and] improvised explosive devices found. Members of a wilding mob [were] escorted from the premises, some not even in handcuffs. The key difference? The first set of protesters were overwhelmingly Black Americans and their allies. The second group was overwhelmingly white Americans who support” President Trump’s “baseless claims of election fraud.”

On ABC World News Tonight (1/7, story 5, 1:45, Muir, 7.47M), Rachel Scott said, “It’s being described as a double standard...[and] many are wondering, what if those rioters had been Black?... The size of the demonstration was similar to this one months earlier, but the response was not. This summer, when thousands took to the same streets in DC to peacefully protest racial inequality, law enforcement was out in full force – military helicopters flying low, tear gas and pepper balls deployed. ... The response was consistent with what they have ‘seen: a long pattern of society’s coddling of racists and downplaying of the violent white supremacist ideology that routinely places white people’s grievances above those of their Black, often disenfranchised and downtrodden, countrymen and women.”

The Dallas Morning News (1/7, 772K) reports, “Protesters and organizers said the police response was consistent with what they have seen: a long pattern of society’s coddling of racists and downplaying of the violent white supremacist ideology that routinely places white people’s grievances above those of their Black, often disenfranchised and downtrodden, countrymen and women.”

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (1/7, Rao, 855K) reports Arizona State University criminology professor Edward Maguire “said it was a ‘really reasonable concern’” that the law enforcement response to the Capitol riot “seemed so hands-off, especially in comparison to the unrest that erupted over the police killings of Black Americans.” NBC News (1/8, 4.91M) reports Cleveland State University Associate Professor of urban studies Ronnie Dunn said, “This is the epitome of white privilege or white supremacy – the notion that they have the right or dominion to go into the Capitol and overthrow the results of a fair and free election and the will of the people.”

Capitol Police Chief Resigns Amid Questions Over Security Failures. On ABC World News Tonight (1/7, story 4, 2:00, 7.47M), David Muir said, “There are still major questions tonight with the President calling for demonstrations for weeks, why wasn’t there more security [at the Capitol]? The President himself had said, ‘This will be wild.’” ABC’s Pierre Thomas: “We’re learning just how dangerous the situation was: more than 80 people arrested, [and] five firearms recovered, including a military-style assault rifle,” as well as “two powerful functioning pipe bombs and 11 Molotov cocktails.” On the CBS Evening News (1/7, story 6, 2:25, O’Donnell, 4.61M), Kris Van Cleave said, “Capitol Police appeared unprepared, despite warning signs online like this one calling for participants to come armed.”

The New York Times (1/7, Dewan, MacFarquhar, Eligon, Hill, 20.6M) reports that the Capitol Police, “which numbers about 2,000 officers and has sole jurisdiction over the Capitol’s buildings
and grounds, was clearly outnumbered and unprepared for the onslaught, even as it was openly
organized on social media sites like Gab and Parler. Reuters (1/7, Tanfani, Shiffman, Januta,
Hosenball) says that according to some law enforcement officials, "the siege of the
Capitol...represents one of the gravest security lapses in recent U.S. history."

The New York Times (1/7, Dewan, MacFarquhar, Eligon, Hill, 20.6M) reports, "Some law
enforcement experts were astonished by the sight of an officer cowering in the crush of pro-Trump
extremists and rioters using police shields and metal barricades as battering rams." USA Today
(1/7, Brooke, Phillips, 12.7M) reports, "Among the most striking images of law enforcement futility,
on a day when chaos convulsed the U.S. Capitol, was of a lone, shirt-sleeved officer in retreat
waving a baton at an advancing mob that had breached the Senate side of the building. Flag-
waveing rioters appeared to stalk the officer who bounded up one stairway after another — with no
immediate back-up to be found."

Tom Costello said on NBC Nightly News’ (1/7, story 5, 2:25, Holt, 5.91M), "Among the
charges prosecutors could press against the mob: trespassing, destruction of federal property,
mail theft, federal rioting, assault on a police officer, federal gun charges, and insurrection.” The
Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund "announced his
resignation effective Jan. 16, a decision that came hours after [House Speaker] Pelosi publicly
called on him to step down over the department’s handling of the violent pro-Trump siege.” Earlier
Thursday, the AP (1/7, Daly) reports that Sund “defended his department’s response to the
storming of the Capitol, saying that officers ‘acted valiantly when faced with thousands of
individuals involved in violent riotous actions.”

The Los Angeles Times (1/7, 3.37M) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer said
Thursday that he plans to fire Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger when Schumer becomes
majority leader later this month. Politico (1/7, Everett, Caygie, 6.73M) reports, “Stenger and
House Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving are both under pressure to step down after the deadly and
embarrassing breach of security.” Bloomberg (1/7, 3.57M) reports that Senate Judiciary Chairman
Lindsey Graham “called for a joint task force to investigate the response by authorities to the
violence on Wednesday.” Bloomberg adds that the House Appropriations Committee “separately
announced an investigation into the Capitol Police’s handling of the turmoil.”

Capitol Police Turned Down Offers Of Assistance Twice. The AP (1/7, Long, Baldor,
Balsamo, Merchant) reports, “Three days before supporters of the President “rioted at the
Capitol, the Pentagon asked the U.S Capitol Police if it needed National Guard manpower,” and
“and as the mob descended on the building Wednesday, Justice Department leaders reached out to
offer up FBI agents. The police turned them down both times, according to senior defense officials
and two people familiar with the matter. Despite plenty of warnings of a possible insurrection and
ample resources and time to prepare, the Capitol Police planned only for a free speech
demonstration.”

The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports, “The secretary of the Army and the chief of
D.C.’s police force acknowledged Thursday that they did not expect President Trump’s supporters
to try to enter the Capitol building, despite extensive online conversations in which far-right groups
publicly discussed their plans to do just that. When that breach did occur, the Capitol Police called
D.C. police to help, and eventually the D.C. National Guard moved in to help.”

Authorities Begin To Probe Security Failures. Reuters (1/7, Tanfani, Shiffman,
Hosenball) reports, "The bloody chaos inside the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday came after the police
force that protects the legislative complex was overrun by a mob of Trump supporters in what law
enforcement officials called a catastrophic failure to prepare.” Reuters adds, “The siege of the
Capitol, home to both the U.S Senate and the House of Representatives, represents one of the
gravest security lapses in recent U.S. history, current and former law enforcement officials said,
turning one of the most recognizable symbols of American power into a locus of political violence.”
According to Reuters, “That lapse came despite glaring warning signs of potential violence by
hardline supporters of President Donald Trump, who are inflamed by his baseless claims of a stolen
election and hope to block the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.”

NBC News (1/7, Dilanian, Ainsley, 4.91M) reports, "Amid growing evidence that pro-Trump
extremists were planning to target the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, the day Congress was set to certify
the election of Joe Biden as president, in recent days Congressman Tim Ryan had asked the people in charge of security whether they had everything they needed. 'I had conversations with the sergeant-at-arms and the chief of the Capitol Police, who gave me assurances that every precaution was being taken, that we had enough manpower, that we were going to keep people completely away from the Capitol,' Ryan, the Ohio Democrat who chairs the subcommittee that funds the Capitol complex, told reporters Thursday. NBC News adds, "What happened instead was a security failure that one federal law enforcement official described as the darkest day since 9/11,' and Ryan and other members of Congress are now seeking answers."

The Washington Post (1/7, Kornfield, 10.52M) reports, "Members of both political parties pointed to the destruction of government property, threats to law enforcement and two explosive devices found near the Capitol as acts of terrorism as far-right extremist groups rallied in the nation's capital to contest the results of the presidential election. In the media, CNN executives told the organization's journalists that they could refer to the siege as 'domestic terrorism.'

National security experts agreed with that assessment, comparing the aggressive takeover of the federal landmark to the FBI's definition of domestic terrorism: "Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature." The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Jones, Fuller, Grimaldi, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also reports.

Pentagon Limited Use Of DC National Guard Ahead Of Protests Due To Narrow Mission. The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports, "The Pentagon placed tight limits on the D.C. National Guard ahead of pro-Trump protests this week, trying to ensure the use of military force remained constrained, as the Guard carried out a narrow, unarmed mission requested by the city's mayor to help handle traffic ahead of planned protests." The Post adds, "In memos issued Monday and Tuesday in response to a request from the D.C. mayor, the Pentagon prohibited the District's guardsmen from receiving ammunition or riot gear, interacting with protesters unless necessary for self-defense, sharing equipment with local law enforcement, or using Guard surveillance and air assets without the defense secretary's explicit sign-off, according to officials familiar with the orders. The limits were established because the Guard hadn't been asked to assist with crowd or riot control."

Four Who Died Wednesday Have Been Identified. USA Today (1/7, Hauck, Wagner, 12.7M) reports, "Four people died Wednesday when a mob of pro-Trump supporters stormed the Capitol, including three who suffered medical emergencies on Capitol grounds." The police announced during a Thursday press conference that 50-year-old Benjamin Phillips of Pennsylvania, 34-year-old Rosanne Boylan of Georgia, and 55-year-old Kevin Greeson of Alabama died from medical emergencies.

The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports that 35-year-old Ashli Babbitt was killed by a Capitol police officer as she "tried to climb through a smashed glass pane in one of the doors" of the House chamber. The "California native and Air Force veteran was struck in the neck and later died. The two officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because an investigation into the incident is ongoing, said she was unarmed." The New York Times (1/7, Barry, Bogel-Burroughs, Philipp, 20.6M) reports, that Babbitt's "social media feed was a torrent of messages celebrating President Trump; QAnon conspiracy theories; and tirades against immigration, drugs and Democratic leaders in California." The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Duhren, Caldwell, Lubold, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also has a feature on Babbitt.

Documents Taken From Capitol May Contain National Security Risks. Newsweek (1/7, 2.67M) reports, "Acting U.S. Attorney Michael Sherwin has said that materials stolen during yesterday's coup attempt on the U.S. Capitol by rioters supporting President Donald Trump's attempts to overturn the election may constitute a breach of national security. 'Materials were stolen, and we have to identify what was done, mitigate that, and it could have potential national security equities,' Sherwin said. 'We just don't know the extent of that damage at this point - if there was damage, we don't know the extent of that.' Specifically, Sherwin said that rioters stole electronics from U.S. senators' offices that could've contained sensitive information relating to domestic and foreign intelligence and other sensitive matters, Reuters reports."

Right-Wing Extremist Groups To Use Capitol Attack As Recruitment Tool. USA
Today (1/7, Carless, 12.7M) reports, "Wednesday’s mob insurrection at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., is unlikely to be the last violent action from far-right extremists, who may also be using the week’s extraordinary events to recruit members for a swelling coalition around outgoing president Donald Trump, according to experts on extremism.” USA Today adds, "While this week’s attack was extraordinary in its brazenness, it was also a wake-up call to federal and local law enforcement that threats from far-right Trump supporters should be taken very seriously over the last two weeks of Trump’s presidency and beyond, said Mary McCord, legal director at the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

‘There’s a whole lot of talk about what happened in far-right extremist forums and chatrooms today, and about how the inauguration on January 20 will be the last stand and now is the time to recruit,’ McCord said.”

Trump Allies Suggest Far-Left Activists Were Behind Capitol Violence. The New York Times (1/7, Peters, 20.6M) reports many of President Trump’s “most vocal and visible allies in Congress, the media and conservative politics...could not bring themselves to fault him for the surreal and frightening attack carried out by people he had just urged to ‘fight like hell.’” They “downplayed the violence” and “deflected with false equivalencies about the Democratic Party’s embrace of the Black Lives Matter movement. Some even tried to dispute the fact that Trump supporters were actually the perpetrators, suggesting that far-left activists had infiltrated the crowd and posed as fans of the president.” Such claims “came from some of his highest-profile allies who helped enable his rise in the Republican Party,” including Sarah Palin, who wrote, "To any insincere, fake DC ‘patriots’ used as PLANTS – you will be found out.”

Curators Believe Capitol’s Art Treasures Didn’t Suffer Major Damage. The New York Times (1/7, Bahr, 20.6M) reports detailed damage assessments from the Architect of the Capitol and the U.S. Capitol Police on the art in the Capitol due to the riot “have yet to be released.” However, “the singular works of art that curators consider the treasures of the building did not appear to have suffered any major damage.”

However, NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said that rioters stole a tribute to the late civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis (D-GA).

Rep. Ryan: As Many As 60 Capitol Police Officers Injured. NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH) revealed "that as many as 60 Capitol Police officers were injured yesterday, including 15 hospitalized and one in critical condition.” He said that many were struck on the head with lead pipes.

GOP Legislators Identified As Participants At Events Surrounding Riot. One Identified As A RIoter. The Hill (1/7, Wilson, 5.69M) reports West Virginia Del. Derrick Evans (R) was identified as being “among the violent mob that broke into the Capitol building” – he “posted a video of himself entering the building.” At least nine other Republican state legislators “participated in events surrounding the attempted insurrection.” The AP (1/7, Dill) reports that the president of the national Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, Jessica Post, said "any Republican legislator who took part in yesterday’s insurrection, in Washington, D.C., or anywhere else in the country, should resign immediately.”

Rioters Came From A Number Of Backgrounds. USA Today (1/7, Voyles Pulver, Salman, 12.7M) reports, “Participants in the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday came from many backgrounds and across the country,” and despite claims of conservative pundits, including Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), “all of the people identified so far by USA TODAY who breached the U.S. Capitol or were arrested had professed their support for Trump through social media postings and conversations with family or friends.” USA Today publishes the names and profiles of a number of rioters.

Capitol Rioter Who Put Feet On Pelosi’s Desk Got PPP Loan. NBC News (1/7, 4.91M) reports, “The Capitol rioter photographed with his feet on a desk in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office,” Richard Barnett – an independent glass and glazing contractor in Gravette, Arkansas - “received a $9,300 forgivable loan under the Paycheck Protection Program last April.”

The Washington Times (1/7, Blake, 626K) reports, "Barnett said that he took a letter from Mrs. Pelosi’s office and left a note on her desk,” and he “identified himself to reporters after leaving the Capitol building.” The Daily Caller (1/7, Kerr, 375K) reports Barnett told a local news
station, "I didn’t mean to be there. Hell. I was walking around looking for a bathroom.”

**Man Photographed Taking House Lectern Identified.** The Miami Herald (1/7, Ballogg, DeLeon, 647K) reports that the “man seen in a viral photo taking a lectern from the U.S. House during Wednesday’s attack on the Capitol” has been identified as Adam Johnson of Parrish, Florida. “Numerous local residents quickly recognized and identified him.” Fox News (1/7, Sorce, 23.99M) reports, “Authorities have not officially identified the man in the photo or named Johnson as a person of interest.”

**Texas Sheriff Investigating Lieutenant Who Posted Photos Of Herself Among Mob.** The San Antonio Express-News (1/7, Pettaway, 685K) reports, “The Bexar County Sheriff’s Office is investigating whether” jail lieutenant Roxanne Mathai, “broke policy or any laws by attending a pro-Trump rally that turned into an angry mob storming the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.” Photos posted to the Facebook page “don’t show Mathai committing an unlawful act,” but Sheriff Javier Salazar “said some of the photos show the lieutenant in the middle of the crowd that assaulted law enforcement agents.” He added, “If she just stood by while first responders were assaulted, it would be more than just troubling, it would be downright infuriating” and he would have her investigated on administrative charges of conduct unbecoming. The sheriff also “sent the photos to the local FBI agency to see if Mathai participated in any illegal behavior during the incident.”

**Flight Attendants Union Urges Banning Rioters From Flights.** The Los Angeles Times (1/7, Martin, 3.37M) reports the Asso. of Flight Attendants-CWA, the nation’s largest flight attendants union, called for barring “members of the mob that stormed into the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday” from commercial flights out of Washington, DC, citing “several incidents of raucous, unruly behavior on flights into Washington in the days leading up to the riot, attributed to supporters of President Trump.” Association President Sara Nelson “urged the airlines to work in coordination with federal law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety and security of passengers and crews by keeping all problems on the ground.”

**Companies Firing Some Capitol Rioters After Identities Become Public.** Reuters (1/7, Bartz) reports some of the rioters at the Capitol “were fired from their jobs on Thursday after internet sleuths publicized their identities.”

**Kathy Griffin Takes Swipe At FBI Efforts.** Newsweek (1/7, Jackson, 2.67M) reports comedian Kathy Griffin “took a swipe directly at the FBI on Thursday,” tweeting back after the bureau said it is looking for the people who committed acts of violence at the US Capitol. She said, “With all due respect, you work for the Department of Justice. The DOJ contacted me within hours of posting an offensive photo of donald trump. Hours. There is ample evidence all over the Internet clearly identifying thousands of these actual terrorists.”

**The New York Daily News (1/7, Matthews, 2.51M) reports Griffin “said she was investigated by the Secret Service and FBI” after posing with a fake severed head of the president. “Griffin said she was investigated by the Secret Service and FBI regarding the photo, kicked off of CNN’s annual New Year’s Eve broadcast and received death threats because of the photo.”**

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**Continuing Coverage: Boston Bomber Sues Over Treatment In Prison.**

In continuing coverage, the AP (1/7) reports, “Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev has sued the federal government for $250,000 over his treatment” in prison. In particular he “cites the confiscation of a white baseball cap and bandana that he bought at the prison commissary and a limit of three showers per week.” Additional coverage includes the Washington Times (1/7, 626K).

**Panel To Review Nashville Police’s Handling Of Prior Tip On Christmas Day Bomber.**

The New York Post (1/7, Rhett Miller, 7.45M) reports Nashville Police Chief John Drake said that a five-member panel will review how the department “responded to a tip from the girlfriend of Christmas RV bomber Anthony Quinn Warner some 16 months earlier.” The woman told police he was making bombs in his RV trailer.

WKRN-TV Nashville, TN (1/7, Olmos, 172K) reports former federal prosecutor Alex Little said,
"Any prosecutor and I as well had gotten a tip like this, we would not have been satisfied with the agents telling us they went to his house, he didn’t want to talk and they walked away." He added, "he’s seen the same police department do much more in much less serious situations."

Bomber Victims May Have Better Situation If It Isn’t Labeled Terrorism. The Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (1/7, Rau, 168K) reports, "The FBI’s decision not to categorize the Christmas Day bombing in Nashville as an act of terrorism" could benefit the victims of the bombing, as many insurance “policies have specific exclusions for terrorism, and almost all property insurance policies have exclusions for acts of war.”

Former Neo-Nazi Apologizes.

KING-TV Seattle (1/8, 417K) reports that, prior to reporting to federal prison later this month, 21-year-old Johnny Roman Garza is seeking to apologize for his actions as part of "the Atomwaffen Division, a neo-Nazi group" the FBI says conspired "to threaten and cyberstalk persons of color and journalists who reported on the group’s activities." Garza also "revealed insights into how a sinister group such as Atomwaffen pulls what he calls 'despondent'; young people into its grip."

FBI Argues Twitter Can’t Publish Report On Its Cooperation With The Agency.

Law360 (1/7, Subscription Publication, 9K) reports the FBI argued before the Ninth Circuit that Twitter should not be allowed to release "a transparency report that details the instances in which the social media giant cooperated with the agency on national security matters." The FBI argued that the case is not a First Amendment issue and that Twitter’s proposed disclosures could do "serious damage to national security."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

FBI Pittsburgh Agents Arrest Man Accused Of Threatening Law Enforcement.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (1/7, Ove, 426K) reports Khaled Miah "has been charged with threatening and surveilling Pittsburgh FBI agents who were investigating him." An affidavit says that "Miah posted threats on Dec. 27 directed at agents and at the FBI in general." He is accused of using a Twitter account to harass FBI Pittsburgh agents and "repeatedly conducted surveillance on an agent’s home after the FBI questioned him about extremist views."

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (1/7, Ward, 245K) reports that the affidavit said that "FBI personnel uncovered hundreds of videos, images, documents, communications, and Internet activities dating back several years related to extremist content that advocated for and/or glorified gruesome violence against perceived ideological enemies."

Additional coverage includes KDKA-TV Pittsburgh (1/7, 144K).

Former Philly Cop Sentenced For Child Porn.

The Philadelphia Inquirer (1/7, Dean) reports US District Court Judge Gerald A. McHugh sentenced James Strohm, a 20-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department, to 12 months behind bars, 20 years of supervised release, and to pay $79,000 in restitution and more than $27,000 in special assessments "for viewing and distributing numerous images of child pornography, sometimes while on duty, according to federal officials." Michael J. Driscoll, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Philadelphia Division, said that the sentence "sends a message that, no matter who you are, if you’re perpetuating the exploitation of children by seeking and trading this horrific content, the FBI will step in, put a stop to it, and see you brought to justice."

Former Newark Cop Sentenced For Corruption.

NJ News (1/7, Atmonavage, 1.47M) reports US District Judge Susan D. Wigenton sentenced former Newark police officer Janell Robinson to nine years in prison for his role in "multi-million dollar corruption at the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation." Robinson also
received three years supervised release and must pay restitution of $288,950 to the watershed corporation.

Additional coverage includes the Daily Voice (1/7, 292K).

New Haven State’s Attorney Investigating FBI-Involved Fatal Shooting.
The Connecticut Post (1/7, 310K) reports, “The New Haven state’s attorney is investigating a fatal shooting in Connecticut that involved members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Safe Streets Task Force.” The Post adds, “City police departments typically assign a few officers to task forces with federal organizations such as the FBI and the DEA.

Additional coverage includes the Hartford (CT) Patch (1/7, 1.44M).

Attorneys Seek To Delay Trial In George Floyd Killing.
The Washington Post (1/7, Bailey, 10.52M) reports Hennepin County District Court Judge Peter A. Cahill, who is overseeing the criminal case into George Floyd’s killing, “heard arguments Thursday from prosecutors and defense attorneys, who have asked to postpone the March trial until summer.” The prosecution cited fears that expected protests during the trial could create a “superspreader event,” while the defense argues that “prosecutors had been slow to turn over key evidence.”

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (1/7, Xiong, 855K) reports defense attorneys allege prosecutors “mishandled sharing evidence with them, provided irrelevant materials and divulged information late.” They cited “thousands of pages of evidence shared as a single PDF that could not be searched without converting the file, and important evidence sandwiched in between irrelevant materials.”

FBI Searching For Ohio Bank Robber.
The Cleveland Plain Dealer (1/7, Pinckard, 1.22M) reports the FBI and police are searching for a man who robbed a US Bank in Richmond Heights, Ohio. “The suspect, who was heavy-set, was wearing a blue Nike hooded sweatshirt, a black knit hat and a black Adidas facemask.”

Officers Responding To Houston Bank Robbery May Have Been Exposed To Chemicals.
KPRC-TV Houston (1/8, Smith, 562K) reports Houston Police Department officers responding to a robbery at Chase Bank “may have experienced possible chemical exposure.” KRPC adds, “FBI Houston Division confirmed that members of the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force are on the scene in response to the incident.”

FBI Investigating Tennessee Bank Robber.
The Elizabethton (TN) Star (1/7, 27K) reports that FBI agents and East Ridge police officers “are searching for the suspect responsible for the robbery of the Regions Bank located at 4334 Ringgold Road, East Ridge.” The suspect “was wearing blue jeans, black shoes, a gray toboggan, and a black face mask.”

WDEF-TV Chattanooga, TN (1/7) reports that the suspect “fired a shot behind the counter, but no one was hurt.”

FBI Investigating Ohio Bank Robbery.
WKYC-TV Cleveland (1/7, 418K) reports that the FBI Cleveland field office “is seeking the public’s help locating a bank robbery suspect” in Richmond Heights. He “is described of a Black man standing 5’8” to 5’10” tall” and he “was wearing a blue Nike hooded sweatshirt, black knit had and a black Adidas face mask.”

FBI Investigating 2019 Triple Murder In Texas.
KSAT-TV San Antonio (1/7, Sabawi, 440K) reports that the FBI is continuing to support the Bexar County Sheriff’s investigation into the triple murder of Nichol Olsen, London Bribiescas and Alexa Montez. The investigation “has been ongoing with assistance from the FBI since Jan. 10, 2019.”
Arizona Man Charged After Discovery Of Human Skulls, Limbs.

WJAX-TV Jacksonville, FL (1/7, 138K) reports Walter Harold Mitchell, who is “described as a veteran body broker,” has “been arrested after a hunter last month stumbled upon the heads and limbs of at least five people scattered in a central Arizona forest.” He “is charged with 29 counts of abandonment or concealment of a dead body.”

Connecticut Man Sentenced Over Cocaine Trafficking.

The West Hartford (CT) Patch (1/7, 1.44M) reports United States attorney for the District of Connecticut John Durham said Manuel Santiago “was sentenced Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Jeffrey A. Meyer to 84 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release, for trafficking cocaine, and for violating the conditions of his supervised release from a prior federal conviction.” The FBI’s Northern Connecticut Gang Task Force started its investigation in August 2019, when they “received information that Santiago was distributing half-kilogram quantities of cocaine.”

California Real Estate Developer To Pay $1.2M To Settle Investigation.

KTIV-TV Los Angeles (1/7, 158K) reports that CP Employer Inc “has agreed to pay $1.2 million to resolve a federal criminal investigation that focused on the firm’s relationship with former Los Angeles City Councilmember José Huizar, who voted to approve its 35-story project in downtown’s Arts District.” “The US Attorney’s office agreed not to prosecute the company for three years, as long as it refrains from any criminal conduct, for a series of reasons detailed in the NPA.”

Nebraska Man Charged Over Threats To Game Keeper.

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (1/7, 519K) reports Cody Cape “faces several charges after threatening to kill a game warden who’d been investigating him for poaching.” The investigation began in October 2020, when a US Wildlife officer “was tasked with investigating Cape for his potential involvement in deer poaching incidents in Iowa and Nebraska.”

Washington State Man Pleads Guilty To Molotov Cocktail Possession.

The AP (1/7) reports Kelly Thomas Jackson “has pleaded guilty to possessing Molotov cocktail devices that he used to set fire to Seattle police vehicles during a May protest that turned violent.” He “faces up to 10 years in prison on each of the two felony counts of possession of a destructive device when he’s sentenced in U.S. District Court on March 29.” KCPQ-TV Seattle (1/6, 148K) reports Jackson “was an identified suspect following an anonymous tip.” Cellphone evidence “showed a white man in distinctive clothing with two bottles filled with flammable materials, Molotov cocktails, attempting to burn two police vehicles.”

FBI Searches Maine Home In Connection To Massachusetts Church Fires.

The Bangor (ME) Daily News (1/7, 178K) reports that FBI agents “surrounded a house located at 343 Court St. in Houlton Thursday morning that belongs to a man who recently was arrested on charges of arson at a church in Massachusetts.” Dushko Vulchev “emerged as a primary suspect in a series of arson fires at the Martin Luther King Community Presbyterian Church, a Black church located in Springfield, Massachusetts.”

Former NY School Treasurer Pleads Guilty To Theft.

The Oneonta (NY) Daily Star (1/7, 42K) reports former Morris Central School District treasurer Kristina Hand has “pledged guilty to two counts of federal program theft.” She “admitted that she stole about $24,000 by depositing checks payable to the school district into bank accounts that she controlled.” The FBI investigated the case.

Louisville Community Pushes Back Against New Police Chief.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (1/7, 554K) reports that the city of Louisville “learned Wednesday its next police chief led a department also embroiled in a controversial killing of a
Black American last year.” Mayor Greg Fischer announced the selection of former Atlanta police chief Erika Shields, who “was leading Atlanta Police in June when an officer shot and killed Rayshard Brooks following an altercation at a Wenday’s.” She “urged the community to look at her full track record with Atlanta, where she worked for 25 years, and to give her a chance to earn their trust” after community leaders criticized her selection.

**Imprisoned Serial Killer Connected To New Crimes.**

*ABC News (1/7, 2.44M)* reports imprisoned serial killer Rodney Alcala “has been connected to the murders of at least eight women” through the usage of DNA evidence. The article examines his criminal history.

**Indian Reservations Drug Probe Leads To Charges For 26 People.**

In online coverage, *KVRR-TV Fargo, ND (1/7, Quttaineh)* reports an investigation of an alleged illegal drug operation in North Dakota led to charges against 26 people. Commenting on Operation Blue Prairie was US Attorney Drew Wrigley, who stated, “It was the objective of this conspiracy to target and exploit the largely Native American population” of three reservations in North Dakota. The KVRR article highlights that Wrigley, “along with the agents from the FBI,” the DEA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the US Marshals Service, “say they pledge to continue addressing drug addiction and trafficking issues on reservations.” The DEA and the FBI are not directly mentioned in coverage of this story that is run by the AP (1/7), the KVLY-TV Fargo, ND (1/7, Hurley) website, the Bismarck (ND) Tribune (1/7, Svihocek, 29K), the WLNS-TV Lansing, MI (1/8, Darling, 94K) website, and the Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND) (1/7, 49K).

**FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS**

**Boeing To Pay $2.5B To Settle Criminal Charge Related To 737 Max.**

The *Dallas Morning News (1/7, 772K)* reports the Justice Department “has filed criminal fraud charges” against Boeing for “impairing, obstructing, defeating and interfering with’ U.S. regulators’ attempts to properly certify the 737 Max and its faulty software program before two fatal crashes.” The *New York Times (1/7, Chokshi, Schmidt, 20.6M)* says the company agreed to a deferred prosecution agreement under which it will “pay more than $2.5 billion” to resolve the charges. The *Wall Street Journal (1/7, Tangel, Michaels, Pasztor, Subscription Publication, 8.41M)* says the settlement includes a $243 million fine and $2.2 billion in compensation to airline customers and the families of people killed in two MAX crashes. *Reuters (1/7, Shepardson, Rucinski)* reports the Justice Department “said the $243.6 million fine was at ‘low end’ of the sentencing guidelines.”

*Barron’s (1/7, Root, 1.36M)* reports that Special Agent in Charge Emmerson Buie of the FBI’s Chicago Field Office said, “Today’s deferred prosecution agreement holds Boeing and its employees accountable for their lack of candor with the FAA regarding MCAS.”

*Politico (1/7, Mintz, 6.73M)* reports Boeing CEO David Calhoun in a statement, “I firmly believe that entering into this resolution is the right thing for us to do – a step that appropriately acknowledges how we fell short of our values and expectations.” Calhoun added that the resolution is “a serious reminder to all of us how critical our obligation of transparency to regulators is, and the consequences that our company can face if any one of us falls short of those expectations.”

*Bloomberg (1/7, Levin, 3.57M)* says this is “the latest to hit the planemaker’s bottom line. The company’s inability to deliver planes during the ground and cancellations of previous orders have cost the company billions of dollars.” The *Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M)*, the AP (1/7), and the Seattle Times (1/7, Gates, Kamb, 1.19M) provide similar coverage.

**Federal Agencies Investigating AmEx’s Business Card Sales Practices.**

The *Wall Street Journal (1/7, Andriotis, Subscription Publication, 8.41M)* cites people familiar who say the inspectors general offices of the Treasury Department, FDIC, and the Federal Reserve are investigating American Express Co.’s business-card sales practices. According to the people, the
IG’s are investigating whether the company employed aggressive and misleading sales practices and whether consumers were harmed. The Journal adds that people familiar with the matter said the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is also investigating AmEx’s business-card sales practices.

DOJ Indicts Surgical Care Affiliates Over Alleged “No-Poach” Agreements.
The Department of Justice announced Thursday that it has indicted Surgical Care Affiliates on two antitrust charges alleging that it “maintained yearslong agreements with rival health-care firms not to recruit each other’s senior-level employees,” the Wall Street Journal (1/7, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports. Surgical Care Affiliates spokeswoman Elizabeth Castro said, “The position taken by the government in this matter represents a novel application of the antitrust laws as they relate to employee recruitment, for which there is no precedent or foundation.”

The complaint claims that Surgical Care Affiliates had so-called “no-poach” agreements with “two other unnamed competitors,” Modern Healthcare (1/7, Kacik, Subscription Publication, 215K) reports. “SCA and its competitors would turn away otherwise qualified candidates, according to the indictment,” the article says. A statement from the company read: “This matter involves alleged conduct seven years before UnitedHealth Group acquired SCA and does not involve any SCA ambulatory surgery centers, their joint owners, physician partners, current leadership or any other UnitedHealth Group companies.”

Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim said in a statement, “The charges demonstrate the Antitrust Division’s continued commitment to criminally prosecute collusion in America’s labor markets,” the Minneapolis Star Tribune (1/7, 855K) reports.

Also reporting are Reuters (1/7, Pierson), Bloomberg Law (1/7, Subscription Publication, 4K), Law360 (1/7, Subscription Publication, 9K), Becker’s Hospital Review (1/7, Haeffner, 91K), the Becker’s ASC Review (1/7, Oliver), and the Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Business Journal (1/7, Subscription Publication, 848K).

DOJ Alleging That Walmart Violated The Controlled Substances Act.
Reuters (1/7) reports the Department of Justice (DOJ) “filed an enforcement action against Walmart in federal court in Delaware last December.” The DOJ is “alleging that the company violated the Controlled Substances Act by failing to police opioids prescriptions.”

Prosecutors Oppose Releasing Martin Shkreli Early.
The New York Post (1/7, Rosenberg, 7.45M) reports Assistant US Attorney Ailiana Smith filed a motion Thursday opposing “Pharma Bro” Martin Shkreli’s second bid for compassionate release. She cited his “demonstrated disdain for the criminal justice system, both in threats of violence made against women” and “his lack of remorse.”

Former New York Police Sargent Charged With 9/11 Compensation Fraud.
The AP (1/7) reports former New York Police Department sergeant Sally Spinosa was charged with submitting false claims, wire fraud, and aggravated identity theft “to cheat a fund set up to reimburse victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.” Authorities accuse her of falsely claiming “to have worked hundreds of hours from September 2001 and June 2002 in the recovery effort after the attacks.”

Hunter Biden Owed “Substantial Amount” To IRS, According To Email On Laptop Left In Delaware.
The Washington Times (1/7, Al, Scarborough, 626K) reports that Hunter Biden “owed a ‘substantial’ amount to the IRS in 2018, apparently for 2017 and prior years when he was receiving regular income from a Ukrainian oligarch and Chinese firms tied to the Communist Party, an email shows.” Hunter Biden is “now under investigation for suspected tax fraud.” The 2018 email “from his certified public accountant...showed there was miscommunication between the
Concerns Over Cybersecurity Abound After Capitol Breach Leaves Devices Vulnerable.

The Washington Post (1/7, Riley, 10.52M) reports yesterday’s breach of the Capitol “left many unanswered questions about security at the Capitol, including its cybersecurity,” as “the quick evacuation left computers and other device unattended as the mob ransacked offices. This is the stuff of cybersecurity pros’ nightmares.” Luta Security founder and CEO Katie Moussouris said, “There’s an old saying, if an attacker has physical access to your computer, it’s not your computer anymore.” A right-wing journalist tweeted a photo showing “rioters had access to at least one unlocked computer in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office, open to email appearing to belong to a staffer,” and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) “said a computer was stolen from his office.”

CNN (1/7, Fung, 89.21M) reports that in addition to Merkley’s laptop having been stolen, “US officials said multiple senators’ offices were hit.” Acting US attorney for the District of Columbia Michael Sherwin said, “This is probably going to take several days to flesh out exactly what happened, what was stolen, what wasn’t.” Sherwin added, “Documents, materials, were stolen, and we have to identify what was done, mitigate that, and it could have potential national security equities.” The event “highlights the grave cybersecurity risks that now face all lawmakers, congressional staff, and any outside parties they may have communicated with in the course of business, security professionals say.”

TechCrunch (1/7, Whittaker, 502K) reports that the “breach will likely present a major task for Congress’ IT departments, which will have to figure out what’s been stolen and what security risks could still pose a threat to the Capitol’s network.” However, the “classified computers are separate from the rest of the unclassified congressional network and in a designated sensitive compartmented information facility, or SCIFs, in locked-down areas of the Capitol building.” Former House Intelligence Committee staffer Mieke Eoyang said, “No indication those [classified systems] were breached.”

New Republic (1/7, Silverman, 192K) says the “Trumper riot exposed not just the grounds’ physical insecurity...but also its openness to electronic attack.” The outlet adds, “It would have been trivial for a tech-savvy MAGA head or QAnon cultist, or an agent of a criminal organization or foreign government, to abscond with a government computer or leave behind a small listening device.”

Also reporting is the Los Angeles Times (1/7, Masunaga, 3.37M).


The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Voiz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports federal judiciary officials say the SolarWinds hack likely compromised the electronic filing used by federal courts. The Administrative Office of the US Courts stated Wednesday that the judiciary was adding new security measures to protect “highly sensitive confidential documents filed with the courts.” It added, “An apparent compromise of the confidentiality of the [filing] system due to these discovered vulnerabilities currently is under investigation. ... Due to the nature of the attacks, the review of this matter and its impact is ongoing.”

The AP (1/7) reports that DOJ also “disclosed on Wednesday” it was “among the dozens of U.S. government agencies and private businesses compromised by a massive, monthslong cyberespionage campaign that U.S. officials have linked to elite Russian hackers.” DOJ “said that 3% of its Microsoft Office 365 email accounts were potentially affected, but did not say to whom those accounts belonged.” The federal judiciary “said on its website that ‘an apparent compromise’ of the U.S. judiciary’s case management and electronic case file system was under investigation.”
DHS "was scouring the system, it said, and cited a particular risk to sealed court filings, whose disclosure could jeopardize a lot more than active criminal investigations."

**SolarWinds Hackers Used Common Techniques To Guess Passwords, Says CISA Alert.** NextGov (1/7, Baksh) reports that a CISA updated found perpetrators "of a widespread, intelligence-gathering campaign used common hacker techniques to get through passwords in addition to more sophisticated methods." The alert, updated Wednesday, read, "CISA incident response investigations have identified that initial access in some cases was obtained by password guessing, password spraying, and inappropriately secured administrative credentials accessible via external remote access services." The agency "notes that the activity alert does not in any way supersede its emergency directive and is not formal guidance but the document provides additional context for remediation efforts." For example, the hackers behind the SolarWinds attack "injected malware into an update the company distributed to thousands of its customers which then established a command and control pathway to an external server."

**FedScoop (1/7, Wilson) reports, "Federal agencies that ran compromised SolarWinds Orion software must conduct a forensic analysis by the end of the month," according to the alert. The agencies "must look at system memory, host storage, network and third-party environments such as cloud services," as well as "hunt for indicators of compromise or 'other evidence of threat actor activity' and create or update a CISA incident report accordingly." Agencies that "accept the risk of running SolarWinds Orion" must meet certain 'hardening' requirements, depending on whether their networks ever utilized affected versions of the software."

**Consulting Firm Formed By Krebs, Others Hired By SolarWinds.** Reuters (1/7, Menn) reports that SolarWinds on Thursday "hired a new consulting business formed by" former CISA Director Chris Krebs, as well as former Facebook chief security officer Alex Stamos. The former CISA head "said he planned to fully devote himself to the new business, which will recommend security practices for multiple clients and also combat coordinated misinformation." SolarWinds CEO Sudhakar Ramakrishna "said in a blog post that hiring the experts was part of an effort to help transform the company, which has been criticized for poor security."

**Texas Security Bank Says It Revamped Cybersecurity System.**

The Dallas Business Journal (1/7, Leffert, Subscription Publication, 882K) reports, "Texas Security Bank has spent the past 18 months revamping its cybersecurity system as phishing attacks and network breaches pose a continued threat in efforts." The bank estimates "it has added 25 percent more cost for its networking system related to cybersecurity alone, in hardware, third-party vendors and an extra information technology employee." The bank’s IT director Scott Hester said "cybersecurity is one of the most important things in a bank." The IT director "said the bank does about five to six times what’s required" of banks to "keep in line with cybersecurity regulations."

**Dutch Consumer Advocacy Group Sues Privacy Regulator In Google Privacy Case.**

The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Stupp, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Consumentenbond, a Dutch consumer advocacy group, is suing the Netherlands’ privacy regulator after waiting two years “for action on a complaint against Google.” The group argues there are flaws in how the EU handles data privacy and "security cases involving multinationals that operate in many countries."

**Biden Tells AG Pick Garland: “You Don’t Work For Me.”**

ABC World News Tonight (1/7, story 7, 0:20, Muir, 7.47M) reported that Biden introduced “his nominee for attorney general, calling Judge Merrick Garland, quote, ‘a man of impeccable integrity.’” Biden “said [Garland] would be the people’s lawyer, whose loyalty would not be to the President, but to the Constitution and the nation.” Garland “had been former President Obama’s pick for the Supreme Court. Republicans had refused to consider him.”

On the CBS Evening News (1/7, story 5, 0:40, O’Donnell, 4.61M), Ed O’Keefe reported
Biden "named his pick for attorney general, federal judge Merrick Garland, and gave him clear
instructions." Biden said, "You are not the President or the Vice President's lawyer. Your loyalty is
not to me. It's to the law, the Constitution, the people of this nation, to guarantee justice."
Garland "said he's honored and eager to lead a department reeling after four years of interference
by President Trump."
Reuters (1/7) reports that on Thursday, Joe Biden introduced his picks to lead the Justice
Department, "including federal appeals court judge Merrick Garland to serve as the top law
enforcement officer, and vowed to restore faith in the rule of nation's law." Biden also confirmed
he has chosen "Lisa Monaco for deputy attorney general, Vanita Gupta for associate attorney
general and Kristen Clarke for assistant attorney general for the department's Civil Rights
Division." Reuters reports that in a statement, "Biden's transition team said the nominees reflected
his 'deeply held commitment to reaffirming the Department of Justice as a pillar of independence
and integrity, and ensuring that the Attorney General and his senior leadership team are the
American people's lawyers – not the president's law firm.'"
The AP (1/7, Tucker, Balsamo) says that in Garland, Biden is "turning to an experienced
judge to help de-politicize the Justice Department and restore the rule of law after what he
described as four years of lawlessness under President Donald Trump." The AP adds, "If confirmed
by the Senate, which is likely," Garland "would inherit immediate challenges related to civil rights,
an ongoing criminal tax investigation into Biden's son Hunter and calls from many Democrats to
pursue criminal inquiries into Trump after he leaves office." According to the AP, Biden "vowed that
Garland's loyalty would rest not with the president, but with the law and Constitution. 'You don't
work for me,' Biden charged as he introduced Garland."
The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) says "some Democrats were surprised to see Biden
nominate...Garland, a White man, to the top law enforcement position in the nation at a time of
racial reckoning. But Biden touted Garland as a beacon of judicial independence and pointed to his
work in the Justice Department under Democratic and Republican presidents."

Biden Picks Lisa Monaco As Deputy AG.
The Springfield (MA) Republican (1/7, Cote, 592K) reports Lisa Monaco "has been tapped to take
on the second-highest Justice Department position in the U.S.": Deputy Attorney General in the
U.S. Department of Justice. She "served as assistant to the president for homeland security and
counterterrorism from 2013 to 2017."

Trump Says "A New Administration Will Be Inaugurated On January 20."
The AP (1/7, Lemire, Miller) reports, "With 13 days left in his term," President Trump "finally bent
to reality Thursday amid growing talk of trying to force him out early, acknowledging he'll
peacefully leave after Congress affirmed his defeat." In a video shared online, Trump "admitted
his presidency would soon end – though he declined to mention President-elect Joe Biden by name
or explicitly state he had lost." Trump said, "A new Administration will be inaugurated on January
20. My focus now turns to ensuring a smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power. This
moment calls for healing and reconciliation."

The New York Times (1/7, Astor, 20.6M) reports Trump "came the closest he has so far to a concession
statement" in the video. The Times says the video "was vital in the sense that Mr. Trump's ardent
supporters will only accept his words, not anyone else's, and officials throughout government are
concerned about unrest for the next 13 days around the country. But the president has a long
CNN (1/7, 89.21M) reports on its website, "Earlier Thursday, Trump issued a dark-of-night statement vowing an 'orderly transition,' which came about in part to stanch a wave of resignations from within the West Wing and the broader administration, according to a person familiar with the matter."

**Democratic Leaders Call On Pence To Invoke 25th Amendment.** David Muir said in the lead story on *ABC World News Tonight* (1/7, lead story, 5:35, 7.47M), "After one of the darkest days in US history, there are calls for the President to be removed. Some lawmakers are demanding impeachment of use of the 25th Amendment, and ABC News has learned tonight that even some Republicans and key members of the President's inner circle have discussed this — though with 13 days left of the Administration, it is very unclear if any of that will happen." Kristen Welker said on *NBC Nightly News* (1/7, story 2, 1:25, Holt, 5.91M) that "top Democrats tonight are...demanding he be removed from office now through the 25th Amendment." House Speaker Pelosi: "If the Vice President and Cabinet do not act, the Congress may be prepared to move forward with impeachment."

Nancy Cordes said on the *CBS Evening News* (1/7, story 2, 3:15, O'Donnell, 4.61M) that Democrats "have been highly critical of this President for four years now, but this is the first time they have formally called on his Cabinet to declare him unfit for office and to replace him with Vice President Mike Pence for the final two weeks of his term. Top Democrats went public with a dramatic plea today after failing to reach the Vice President by phone." Senate Minority Leader Schumer: "I believe the President is dangerous and should not hold office one day longer." Cordes: "So far, just one Republican...is publicly backing the move." Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL): "It's time to invoke the 25th Amendment and to end this nightmare."

**The AP** (1/7, Miller, Jalonick) reports, "Lawmakers of both parties raised the prospect Thursday of ousting [Trump] from office. ... Though Trump has less than two weeks in office, lawmakers and even some in his administration began discussing the issue Wednesday afternoon as Trump first refused to forcefully condemn the violent assault on the U.S. Capitol by a mob of his supporters, and then appeared to excuse it." Bloomberg (1/7, 3.57M) reports that Pelosi and Schumer "accused Trump of inciting the mob that stormed the Capitol and called him a continuing threat to democracy in his waning days in the White House." The *San Francisco Chronicle* (1/7, 2.44M) reports Pelosi "has put a second impeachment of President Trump on the table, but that doesn't mean it's likely that Democrats will oust him from office before Joe Biden becomes president."

**Politico** (1/7, Ferris, Zanona, Caygle, 6.73M) reports that Pelosi "said the 'best route' would be for Pence to initiate the action himself, which would involve the vice president and a majority of either the Cabinet, or another body 'established by law' — which could include Congress." *CNBC* (1/7, Tausche, 7.34M) reports on its website that Secretary of State Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "held informal conversations within their own agencies about the contours of the 25th Amendment, the invocation of which would begin a process to remove Trump from office, according to three sources familiar with the matter." However, the *New York Times* (1/7, Haberman, 20.6M) reports that "a person close to" Pence said the Vice President "is opposed to a call by Democrats in Congress and some Republicans to invoke the 25th Amendment."

The *Washington Post* (1/7, 10.52M) reports, "One administration official described Trump's behavior Wednesday as that of 'a total monster,' while another said the situation was 'insane' and 'beyond the pale.' ... A former senior administration official briefed on the talks confirmed that preliminary discussions of the 25th Amendment were underway, although this person cautioned that they were informal and that there was no indication of an immediate plan of action. Both of these people, like some others interviewed for this story, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter."

*CNBC* (1/7, Pramuk, 7.34M) says on its website that "more than 100 lawmakers have called for the president's removal through the 25th Amendment, impeachment or resignation, according to an NBC News tally. " Though Kinzinger is the only Republican among them, *Politico* (1/7, Ferris, Zanona, Caygle, 6.73M) reports that "privately, multiple Democratic members and aides insist that there is a larger group of Republicans beyond Kinzinger who support the move and are in"
discussions about how to proceed." The Chicago Tribune (1/7, Pearson, Donovan, 2.03M) quotes Kinzinger saying, "All indications are that the President has become unmoored, not just from his duty or even his oath but reality itself. It is for this reason that I call on the Vice President and members of the Cabinet to ensure the next few weeks are safe for the American people and that we have a sane captain of the ship."

The Arizona Republic (1/7, 1.05M) reports Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ) said in a statement that Trump "violated his oath of office and Kelly is open to considering removal from office after the rioting Wednesday at the Capitol that many blame on Trump." Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) "had no comment on the growing calls from the Democratic Party, her spokeswoman said." The Philadelphia Inquirer (1/7, Seidman, Tamari) reports Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) "urged Pence to invoke the [25th] amendment...calling it "the quickest way to protect our domestic and national security."

The Detroit Free Press (1/7, 2.16M) reports that "every Democrat in Congress from Michigan" backs Trump's removal, and the Denver Post (1/7, 660K) reports that "all six Democratic members of Congress from Colorado said Thursday that the president should be removed from office." The Cleveland Plain Dealer (1/7, 1.22M) reports the only Democratic member of Ohio's delegation who has not publicly backed removal is Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH), who has been nominated for HUD secretary. The Miami Herald (1/7, 647K) reports, "South Florida's Democratic representatives in Congress [also] joined a growing number of their colleagues Thursday in calling for Trump to be removed. The Dallas Morning News (1/7, 772K) reports "at least five Texas Democratic lawmakers" are urging Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment.

Axios (1/7, Talev, 1.26M) reports, "Eight in 10 Republicans oppose removing President Trump from office for inciting his supporters to storm Congress in an effort to overturn his election loss, according to a new Ipsos poll for Axios. ... The stark finding underscores the degree to which the Republican Party has become the party of Trump" and "helps to explain GOP leaders' resistance to impeachment or invoking the 25th Amendment."

**Trump Said To Prepare Presidential Pardon List, Including Self-Pardon.**

Bloomberg (1/7, Jacobs, Sink, Wingrove, 3.57M) reports, "President Donald Trump has prepared a sweeping list of individuals he's hoping to pardon in the final days of his administration that includes senior White House officials, family members, prominent rappers - and possibly himself, according to people familiar with the matter." The sources said the President is planning the announcement for January 19 after vetting by senior advisers and the White House counsel. Bloomberg says, "The biggest question facing his legal team may be whether the president has the authority to pardon himself," a power "Trump has previously claimed...though it's a matter of legal dispute and has never before been attempted by a president." Other pardons reportedly under consideration include Ivanka Trump, White House Senior Adviser Jared Kushner, Chief of Staff Meadows, White House adviser Stephen Miller, and Rudy Giuliani.

The New York Times (1/7, Schmidt, Haberman, 20.6M) reports that the President "has suggested to aides he wants to pardon himself in the final days of his presidency, according to two people with knowledge of the discussions, a move that would mark one of the most extraordinary and untested uses of presidential power in American history." The Times says that "Trump has shown signs that his level of interest in pardoning himself goes beyond idle musings," and while "legal scholars are divided about whether the courts would recognize a self-pardon, "they agree [it] could create a dangerous new precedent for presidents to unilaterally declare they are above the law."

**Chao And DeVos Become First Cabinet Members To Resign Following Wednesday Violence.**

Lester Holt said on NBC Nightly News (1/7, lead story, 1:30, 5.91M), "We woke up to a different country today, one that can no longer easily turn its back to the poison that has seeped from the Oval Office, nor the radicalization it fomented, that exploded in fury in that stomach-turning assault on the US Capitol and on our Congress yesterday. And now the fallout: resignations from the President's inner circle, loyalties tested." WeiJia Jiang said on the CBS Evening News (1/7, 1/7,
story 3, 2:50, O'Donnell, 4.61M) that President Trump “is mainly talking to political allies who enable his wildest conspiracy theories about the election, and he’s isolated from White House advisors, including the Vice President, who he has not spoken to since Wednesday morning before the violence unfolded. ... At least eight Administration officials have resigned, including one Cabinet member, Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao.”

 Reuters (1/7, Shepardson, Spetlanick) reports, “Chao on Thursday became the first Cabinet member to join a list of officials...to leave in protest at the storming of the U.S. Capitol by his supporters.” Chao said in an email to staff that the mob attack “has deeply troubled me in a way that I simply cannot set aside. She said her resignation will take effect on Monday.” Bloomberg (1/7, Leing, Jacobs, 3.57M) reports Chao also said she will assist Transportation Secretary designate Pete Buttigieg in the transition. The Hill (1/7, Wilson, 5.69M) notes that Chao is married to Senate Majority Leader McConnell, “who spent much of Wednesday locked in an undisclosed and secure location under armed guard as Trump-backing rioters marauded through the Capitol.”

 Politico (1/7, 6.73M) reports Chao, “calling the riot a ‘traumatic and entirely avoidable event’...said it had ‘deeply troubled me in a way I simply cannot set aside.’” However, according to Politico, “some greeted her announcement with derision, suggesting that instead of resigning she should stay on and use her position to remove Trump from office.”

 The AP (1/7) reports Education Secretary DeVos late Thursday became “the second Cabinet secretary to resign a day after a pro-Trump insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.” In her resignation letter, DeVos “blamed [Trump] for inflaming tensions in the violent assault on the seat of the nation’s democracy.” DeVos wrote, “There is no mistaking the impact your rhetoric had on the situation, and it is the inflection point for me.” USA Today (1/7, Behrmann, Subramanian, 12.7M) says DeVos “had been one of Trump’s most loyal and longest-serving Cabinet secretaries. In recent days, though, even as Trump disputed the election results, she acknowledged that Joe Biden had defeated him.” The New York Times (1/7, Green, Cameron, 20.6M) reports DeVos said she would step down on Friday.

 The Detroit Free Press (1/7, 2.16M) reports DeVos “recapped what she saw as her accomplishments over her four years in office. ‘Leading the U.S. Department of Education has given me an exceptional opportunity to advocate on behalf of the forgotten students the traditional system leaves behind,’ [DeVos] wrote. She said she expanded school choice and ‘restored the proper federal role by returning to power to states, communities, educators and parents.’”

 US Special Envoy for Northern Ireland Mick Mulvaney, who also served as OMB director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director, and acting chief of staff for Trump, has also resigned. On its website, CNBC (1/7, 7.34M) quotes Mulvaney as saying, “I called Mike Pompeo last night to let him know I was resigning from that. I can’t do it. I can’t stay. Those who choose to stay, and I have talked with some of them, are choosing to stay because they’re worried the President might put someone worse in.” Bloomberg (1/7, Wingrove, Westin, 3.57M) reports Mulvaney said in an interview that Trump “bears some responsibility for the chaos, along with the rioters. ‘There’s plenty of it to go around,’ he said, adding that he hopes the people who invaded the Capitol are prosecuted for sedition.”

 Bloomberg (1/7, Wingrove, Mohsin, Wasson, 3.57M) reports that “others have said they’ll stay,” including Treasury Secretary Mnuchin. Citing “one person familiar with the matter,” Bloomberg says Mnuchin and his senior staff “have agreed they will remain in their jobs to ensure an orderly transition amid the pandemic-induced economic crisis.” The New York Times (1/7, 20.6M) has a full list of all those from within the Administration who have resigned so far over the events on Wednesday at the Capitol.

 Wolf Calls On Trump To “Strongly Condemn” Wednesday’s Violence. The Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) reports that on Thursday, Acting DHS Secretary Wolf “issued the strongest critique of Trump yet from within the Cabinet. Calling Wednesday’s events ‘tragic and sickening,’ Wolf wrote in a statement, ‘I implore the President and all elected officials to strongly condemn the violence that took place yesterday.’” The Post says Wolf “vowed to remain in his position to ensure an orderly transition to the Biden administration.” CNBC (1/7, Macias, 7.34M) reports on its website that Trump has since “withdrawn his nomination” of Wolf to head DHS permanently.
Barr: Trump’s Conduct A “Betrayal Of His Office.” The AP (1/7) reports former attorney general William Barr said Trump’s “conduct as a violent mob of his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol was a ‘betrayal of his office and supporters.’... Barr said Thursday that ‘orchestrating a mob to pressure Congress is inexcusable.’ Barr was one of Trump’s most loyal and ardent defenders in the Cabinet.” Politico (1/7, Forgey, 6.73M) and the Washington Post (1/7, 10.52M) also cover Barr’s statement.

Kelly Says He Would Vote To Remove Trump. Politico (1/7, Choi, 6.73M) reports former chief of staff and DHS secretary John Kelly “said on Thursday he would vote to remove [Trump] from office” in a 25th Amendment vote if he were still in the Cabinet. Kelly told CNN, “Toward the end of my time there, all I ever heard from these devotees in the White House is, you have to let Trump be Trump. Well, let me just say, this is what happens.”

Social Media Platforms Lock Down Trump’s Accounts. The AP (1/7, Klepper, O’Brien) reports Facebook and Instagram “said Thursday they will bar [President] Trump from posting at least until the inauguration. ... Twitter said Thursday that it’s still evaluating whether to lift or extend what started as a 12-hour lockdown of Trump’s account.” Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg “said the risk of allowing Trump to use the platform is too great following the president’s incitement of a mob on Wednesday. Zuckerberg said Trump’s account will be locked ‘for at least the next two weeks’ and possibly indefinitely.” CNBC (1/7, Palmer, 7.34M) says on its website that this is “Facebook’s most aggressive action yet against Trump during his four-year term,” while the CNN (1/7, Fung, 89.21M) website calls the move “marks a major escalation by Facebook as it and other platforms have come under intense pressure from advocacy groups and prominent figures to ban Trump following his inflammatory rhetoric encouraging insurrection.”

USA Today (1/7, Tyko, 12.7M) reports the video game streaming site Twitch “on Thursday disabled Trump’s channel ‘in light of yesterday’s shocking attack on the Capitol,’ the site told USA Today in a statement.” Snapchat “confirmed to USA Today that it locked Trump’s account on Wednesday but stopped promoting it in June on its Discover platform, where it curates content. Since June, Trump’s account has only been visible to users who chose to subscribe or search for him.”

The Los Angeles Times (1/7, 3.37M) reports critics “said the suspensions were overdue and insufficient.” In a statement, Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), incoming chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, “slammed the president” for his “sustained misuse of their platforms to sow discord and violence.” Warner said, “As I have continually said, these platforms have served as core organizing infrastructure for violent, far-right groups and militia movements for several years now — helping them to recruit, organize, coordinate and in many cases (particularly with respect to YouTube) generate profits from their violent, extremist content.”

McEnany Says “Entire White House” Condemns Capitol Hill Violence. The New York Post (1/7, Nelson, 7.45M) reports, “White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany on Thursday said that ‘the entire White House’ condemns the mob of President Trump supporters that stormed the Capitol on Wednesday.” McEnany said, “What we saw yesterday was a group of violent rioters undermining the legitimate First Amendment rights of the many thousands who came to peacefully have their voices heard at our Nation’s Capitol. Those who violently besiegled our Capitol are the opposite of everything this Administration stands for.”

Politico (1/7, Choi, 6.73M) reports McEnany “also said the president was committed to a safe and orderly transition of power. ... She did not take questions from reporters after her brief statement.” ABC World News Tonight (1/7, story 3, 5:35, Muir, 7.47M), the CBS Evening News (1/7, lead story, 4:20, O’Donnell, 4.61M), and NBC Nightly News (1/7, story 4, 2:50, Holt, 5.91M) all had reports detailing the events on Capitol Hill on Wednesday afternoon.

Shopify Closes Trump Organization, Trump Campaign Online Stores. Bloomberg (1/7, 3.57M) reports the e-commerce platform Shopify announced that it has closed...
online stores affiliated with the Trump Organization and the Trump campaign following violence at the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters on Wednesday. A company spokeswoman said the Shopify "does not tolerate actions that incite violence." The New York Times (1/7, Maheshwari, 20.6M), The Verge (1/7, Lyons, 1.54M), and the Wall Street Journal (1/7, Monga, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provide similar coverage.

**US COVID Deaths Hit Another New Record On Wednesday.**

*ABC World News Tonight* (1/7, story 6, 0:30, Muir, 7.47M) reported that "as the pandemic rages on," the US has seen "the deadliest 24 hours yet," with 4,279 lives lost in just 24 hours, more than 363,000 overall." According to a new model from the CDC "nearly 60% of COVID cases in the US are spread by people who don’t have any symptoms. They say that’s why you have to wear masks." The CDC also "says if there are unused doses of vaccine still in refrigeration, it is okay now to vaccinate people lower on the priority list."

*The CBS Evening News* (1/7, story 9, 1:40, O’Donnell, 4.61M) reported, "The COVID pandemic on Wednesday claimed the lives of nearly 4,000 Americans," the "most deaths we’ve seen in single day since the start of the outbreak," bringing the total US death toll to over 364,000. Jonathan Vigliotti reported that in southern California, hospitals are "on the verge of rationing care," as Los Angeles County’s Methodist Hospital "assembled a triage team that would ultimately decide the fate of those critically ill." Meanwhile, Vigliotti added, "A more infectious strain of the virus [has] spread to at least eight states," with "officials confirming the first known cases in Texas, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut."

On NBC Nightly News (1/7, story 11, 1:20, Holt, 5.91M), Miguel Almaguer reported, "As a record number of Americans remain hospitalized, tonight a new JAMA study finds 59% of all COVID transmission comes from asymptomatic individuals." Meanwhile, Almaguer added that San Diego County is seeing "an explosion of cases of the more contagious variant of the virus," and "with the National Guard deploying in hot spot states like Arizona and Mississippi to vaccinate healthcare workers, Los Angeles County remains the nation’s epicenter." Almaguer reported that Methodist Hospital is "activating crisis standards of care," but "likely won’t be the last," with California "in need of a lifeline."

The AP (1/7, Johnson, Pane) reports that on Wednesday, the US "registered more COVID-19 deaths in a single day than ever before – nearly 3,900." According to the AP, "The virus is surging in virtually every state, with California particularly hard hit. Skyrocketing deaths and infections there are threatening to force hospitals to ration care and essentially decide who lives and who dies." The AP adds that the US death toll is now more than 360,000, and December was "by far the nation’s deadflest month yet," but "health experts are warning that January could be more terrible still because of family gatherings and travel over the holidays." The Washington Post (1/7, Firosi, Dupree, Kornfield, 10.52M) says that also on Wednesday, a "record 251,646 new coronavirus cases were reported, about 16,000 more cases than the Wednesday before."

Reuters (1/7, Caspani, Mean) reports that "more than 4,000 people" died in the US on Wednesday, and "hospitalizations stood at 132,051, stetting a grim record for the fourth day in a row as of late Wednesday night." Reuters adds, "With the strain on stretched healthcare systems increasing across the country, federal and local officials announced steps to speed the sluggish pace of inoculating eligible residents with two authorized coronavirus vaccines. On Wednesday, top health officials announced plans to start distributing COVID-19 vaccines through pharmacies around the country earlier than expected this week as states have struggled to use up the supplies they have been allocated."

The Washington Post (1/7, Guarino, 10.52M) reports that as the US "marked another grim milestone," the CDC "said research suggests that people without symptoms transmit more than half of all cases of the novel coronavirus." The model demonstrates "the importance of following the agency’s guidelines about wearing a mask and maintaining social distance, officials said." The Post adds that "the emergence of a more contagious variant of the virus" in eight US states "places the federal agency’s conclusion about how the virus is spreading in even starker relief." The news comes as "the coronavirus is spreading with speed and ferocity," with the CDC’s most recent forecasts predicting "fatalities could stand between 405,000 and 438,000 by the end of
January."

**California Logs Two-Day Record Of COVID Deaths.** The AP (1/7, Thompson) reports that California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) and the California Hospital Association "are at odds over how best to create space for critically ill coronavirus patients" as "California health authorities reported Thursday 583 new deaths and a record two-day total of 1,042." Hospitalizations are near 22,000, with state models projecting "the number could reach 30,000 by Feb. 1." The AP says many hospitals are already "struggling to keep up and warned they may need to resort to rationing care as intensive care beds dwindle." Newsom’s office earlier this week issued new orders "requiring hospitals that have scarce ICU space to accept patients from those" with none. The CHA "said the orders don't go far enough to address the crisis."

**CDC Finds Asymptomatic Spread Drives Majority Of Cases.** The Washington Post (1/7, Guarino, 10.52M) reports, "People with no symptoms transmit more than half of all cases of the novel coronavirus, according to a model developed by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." The Post says the findings, published in the JAMA Network Open on Thursday, "reinforce the importance of following the agency’s guidelines: Regardless of whether you feel ill, wear a mask, wash your hands, stay socially distant and get a coronavirus test." The model reported 59% "of all transmission came from people without symptoms," including 35% of new cases "from people who infect others before they show symptoms" and 24% that "come from people who never develop symptoms at all."

**Fauci Predicts Toll Of Pandemic Will Continue To Rise In January.** The New York Times (1/7, Wee, 20.6M) reports that in an interview with NPR, NIAID Director Fauci "predicted on Thursday that the daily death toll from the coronavirus would continue to rise for weeks to come, and counseled patience with the vaccination program gearing up across the nation" as "officials across the United States reported yet another daily record for deaths." Fauci "said the high toll was likely to continue, and was probably a reflection of increased travel and gatherings over the holidays," and added that "now's not the time to pull back" on public health measures.

Fauci said on NPR (1/7, 3.69M), "As we get into the next couple of weeks in January, that likely will be a reflection of the holiday season travel and the congregate settings that usually take place socially during that period of time. ... Hopefully, if we really accelerate our public health measures during that period of time, we'll be able to blunt that acceleration, but that's going to really require people concentrating very, very intensively on doing...public health measures."

**Officials Look To Speed Up Pace Of Vaccinations.** Reuters (1/7, Caspani, Whitcomb) reports, "Federal, state and local officials sought to speed up slow-moving vaccinations on Thursday, a day after a record 4,000 Americans died and as employment statistics showed the pandemic and accompanying government lockdowns had slammed the job market." According to the CDC, about six million people have received the first injection and 21 million doses have been distributed nationally, "short of the 20 million vaccinations the U.S. government had vowed to administer by the end of 2020." With hospitalizations "at 132,041, according to a Reuters tally," health officials "announced steps to speed the sluggish pace," including "plans to start distributing...through pharmacies" and encouraging governors "to not let vaccines go unused" due to priority group guidelines.

In an appearance on the Dr. Oz Show (1/7, 837K), Surgeon General Adams was asked about the gap in vaccines delivered versus vaccines administered. Adams said, "Vaccine confidence is an important part of this," because "having the vaccine there and ready to be put in arms doesn’t matter if people aren’t willing to get it." Adams added that states are also seeing staffing shortages amid the current COVID surge, with "the nurses who would ordinarily be available to
help vaccinate on the state level...now being utilized to provide COVID care as we face record
hospitalizations.” However, Adams said, “The pace is rapidly ramping up, we’re increasing staffing
support to states, we’re sending more funding, we’re going to have more locations...and we’re
also looking at more priority groups.”

NIAID Director Fauci said on NPR’ (1/7, 3.69M), “I think it would be fair to just observe
what happens in the next couple of weeks. If we don’t catch up on what the original goal was, then
we really need to make some changes about what we’re doing.” Fauci made similar remarks on
BNN Bloomberg’ (1/7).

Adams: Dosing Delay Would Not Solve Vaccination Issues. Asked on the Dr. Oz
Show’ (1/7, 837K) about the possibility of delaying the second injection, Adams said, “These
medications were approved based on a schedule that says three weeks and four weeks, and we
are continuing to look to see if there’s a way we can expand supply.” However, Adams said, “Right
now, it isn’t a matter of doubling or tripling the supply, it’s a matter of making sure we’re closing
that gap between supply and actual vaccinations. And it’s incredibly important that we follow the
science so that people have trust in this process.”

Rick Scott Calls For Investigation Into Florida Vaccine Distribution.
Politico (1/7, Fineout, Sarkissian, 6.73M) reports that Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL) “on Thursday called
for a congressional investigation into what he called ‘vaccine distribution mismanagement,’
following multiple reports that” MorseLife Health System “steered highly sought after vaccine shots
to its board members and major donors.” The reports “broke amid vivid images of senior citizens
across the state waiting in long lines – sometimes over night – to get a vaccine.” Scott said, “It is
absolutely disgusting and immoral that anyone would take vaccines intended for nursing home
residents to distribute them to their friends. This type of gross mismanagement will not be
tolerated, and those responsible must be held accountable.” Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R)
“brushed aside Scott’s call...and disclosed that he has already ordered Chief Inspector General
Melinda Miguel to start an official probe.”

FDA Says Test Used In California At Risk For False Negatives.
The Los Angeles Times (1/7, Lau, Nelson, 3.37M) reports that a COVID test made by Silicon
Valley-based Curative used “in Los Angeles and other parts of California may be producing
inaccurate results, according to a warning” from the FDA issued Monday. The FDA’s guidance
“warns healthcare providers and patients that...the oral-swab tests...carries a ‘risk of false results,
particularly false negative results.’” The FDA advises the use of the test only on “symptomatic
individuals within 14 days of COVID-19 symptom onset.” The Times says the “warning appears to
sharply contradict” Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (D), who has disagreed with testing only
symptomatic individuals, and raises “new questions about the accuracy of the city’s reported
COVID-19 positivity rates.”

Private Healthcare Workers Face Difficulties In Receiving Vaccines.
The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Wernau, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that many privat
doctors and healthcare workers without hospital associations have yet to receive the COVID
vaccine, lacking information from authorities on how to find shots. According to the American
Medical Association, around 54% of US doctors work in a private practice.

Vaccine Distributors “Trying Not To Waste A Single Drop.”
The Washington Post (1/7, Fadulu, 10.52M) reports that the vaccine rollout “is bringing good
fortune to a few lucky souls...who find themselves serendipitously in the path of unused doses of
the vaccine,” with the workers responsible for distribution “trying not to waste a single drop.” Both
Pfizer and Moderna must be used within six hours of removal from storage, and “with little
guidance from the government, hospitals are working out their own policies” for distributing extra
doses. The FDA’s “formal policy remains to discard vaccine left over in vials,” but HHS Secretary
Azar “urged officials Wednesday not to be hamstrung by federal priorities that call for health

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workers and residents and employees of elder-care facilities to be first in line." Azar said, "It's more important to get people vaccinated than to perfectly march through each prioritized group."

**Study Finds COVID Immunity Remains Strong After Eight Months.**
The *Washington Post* (1/7, Achenbach, 10.52M) reports that about 90% of the participants in a study published in the journal Science retained "a robust immune response to the coronavirus for at least eight months after an infection." The Post says the question of "whether people can get reinfected, and if so, how quickly" has remained one of the biggest concerns over the virus, with "isolated reports" of second cases, "and the new study bolsters the case that immunity usually persists." The study, which included nearly 200 patients, "also saw that multiple elements of the immune system - not just antibodies - continued to be effective at recognizing and responding to the virus." The study’s authors "said they believe their findings would apply to the United Kingdom variant as well as the more common coronavirus."

**US Adversaries Capitalize On Violence.**
Margaret Brennan said on the *CBS Evening News* (1/7, story 8, 0:30, O'Donnell, 4.61M) that Wednesday's siege at the US Capitol is being viewed "with horror among our allies, and it's pleasing to our adversaries." On *NBC Nightly News* (1/7, story 8, 0:50, Holt, 5.91M), Richard Engel said the siege "was an absolute gift for dictators and strongmen around the world, a way for them to show that they're no worse than the United States. A militia leader in Iraq whose supporters in the past stormed Iraq's Parliament had his followers out on the streets, denouncing what happened." The President of Zimbabwe "said the US no longer has the moral authority to criticize him. Iran said that what happened showed that the US electoral system is flawed. Russia, which has a president-for-life, criticized what happened. So America's rivals saw an opportunity, and they're taking it."

*European Leaders Express Faith In American Democracy.* The *New York Times* (1/7, Eddy, 20.6M) reports German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday "placed the blame for the mob violence at the U.S. Capitol a day before squarely on President Trump," but "she and other leaders of the United State's strongest allies in Europe expressed faith in the strength of American democracy." Merkel said Trump "stoked uncertainties about the election outcome, and that created an atmosphere that made the events of last night possible." French President Emmanuel Macron said his country stood "strongly, fervently and resolutely with the American people and with all people who want to choose their leaders, determine their own destinies and their own lives through free and democratic elections." Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, "one of Mr. Trump's closest allies in Europe, expressed faith in the idea that U.S. democracy would triumph over forces trying to sabotage it." And Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez tweeted, "Yesterday's attack on Capitol Hill has only succeeded in reaffirming the principles we share."

*NYTimes Analysis: Violence Damaged Nation's Democratic Image.* A *New York Times* (1/7, Cohen, 20.6M) analysis says the United States' "identification with the global defense of democracy remains singular. So, when an angry horde, incited by President Trump himself, was seen taking over the Capitol...the fragility of freedom felt palpable...across the world." While "the institutions of democracy prevailed in the early hours of the following morning," the "images of mob rule in Washington touched a particular nerve in fractured Western societies. ... If it could happen at democracy's heart, it could happen anywhere." The Times adds, "The American Idea and American values...have suffered a sustained assault during Mr. Trump's presidency. ... For some time, the rest of the world will look on the United States with skepticism when it seeks to promote democratic values."

**After Capitol Siege, Chinese Propaganda Outlets Accuse US Officials Of Hypocrisy.**
The *Washington Post* (1/7, Dou, 10.52M) reports that "as democratic governments around the world reacted with horror to President Trump supporters' storming of the Capitol, China's official
propagandists could barely contain their schadenfreude. If you don’t allow the storming of your own legislature, they asked, how could you support it in Hong Kong?” According to the Post, China’s communist government “has found the chaos incited by Trump a convenient defense for its authoritarian policies and iron-fisted suppression of dissent.” The “nationalistic Chinese state-run tabloid Global Times” tweeted, “@SpeakerPelosi once referred to the Hong Kong riots as ‘a beautiful sight to behold’ – it remains yet to be seen whether she will say the same about the recent developments in Capitol Hill.”

Bloomberg (1/7, 3.57M) says China “quickly used the events in Washington to drive home a narrative of U.S. hypocrisy, with Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying drawing a direct comparison to the U.S. endorsement of pro-democracy protesters who stormed Hong Kong’s legislature in 2019.”

Brazilian Researchers Say Chinese Vaccine Is Effective In 78% Of Cases.
The New York Times (1/7, Wee, 20.6M) reports that on Thursday, researchers in Brazil “said...that a coronavirus vaccine made by a Chinese company was effective, bolstering the chances of approval for a second Chinese inoculation that could be rolled out in much of the developing world.” According to the Times, “Officials in the state of São Paulo, where a prominent medical research institute carried out a large study of the vaccine made by the Beijing-based Sinovac, said the inoculation had an efficacy rate of 78 percent.” In addition, “The vaccine prevented all participants from developing serious and mild complications from the virus, officials said.” The Times goes on to report that “in anticipation of approval, the vaccine, called CoronaVac, has already been shipped around the world as countries prepare for mass inoculation campaigns.” Sinovac already “has sold more than 300 million doses.”

The New York Times (1/7, Wee, Londono, 20.6M) says that “unlike players from the United States, Chinese vaccine makers had to think globally almost from the start...because the outbreak had been largely stamped out in China.” Chinese companies “have signed agreements with at least 15 countries and regions, providing early access to doses” in recent months, and “regulators in other countries that are conducting trials” for Sinovac have anticipated Brazil’s results “because it had the biggest number of volunteers, at 12,476.” Officials in Brazil “said they were hopeful” of emergency approval “within days,” as the country “approaches a grim milestone: 206,006 deaths from the virus.”

European Vaccine Rollouts Criticized On Slow Ramp-Up.
The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Dalton, Sylvers, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that critics are demanding COVID vaccination programs in Western Europe ramp up the pace, with several countries only beginning their rollouts this week, placing them behind countries like the US, the UK, and Germany. France, which has administered only 45,000 doses in the past two weeks, has said the delay is due in part to the need for a doctor’s consultation to receive the shot, while other countries were unprepared for the cold requirements of the Pfizer vaccine, anticipating earlier approval for the Oxford vaccine.

France Pledges To Speed Up Vaccinations. The New York Times (1/7, Breeden, 20.6M) reports, “French officials vowed to speed up their vaccination campaign on Thursday, but warned that restrictions and curfews would remain in place in order to halt a rise in infections and hospitalizations.” The country has administered 45,000 doses so far, but French Prime Minister Jean Castex said, “It is out of the question that we drop our guard in the coming weeks,” as the number of daily new cases remains around 20,000 and hospitalizations hit nearly 25,000. Castex acknowledged the country’s slow vaccine rollout and “vowed to speed things up, promising that at least 1 million people would be vaccinated by the end of the month and announcing that all people older than 75 would be eligible for vaccinations starting Jan. 18.”

UK Expands England Entry Ban To 11 African Countries.
Reuters (1/7) reports that the UK’s Department for Transport “said on Thursday it would extend a ban on travellers entering England to southern African countries in a measure to prevent the spread of a new COVID-19 variant identified in South Africa.” The expanded restriction, which “will
take effect on Saturday and remain in place for two weeks,” applies to anyone who has traveled from or through Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Eswatini, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola, Seychelles, or Mauritius within ten days of arrival. The department also said that Israel “would be removed from the list of travel corridors for England.”

**New Israel-Pfizer Agreement To Complete Inoculations By March.**

The *New York Times* (1/7, Rasgon, 20.6M) reports, “In a boost to Israel’s vaccination campaign, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Thursday that he had reached an agreement with Pfizer that will enable all Israelis above age 16 to be inoculated against Covid-19 by the end of March.” Netanyahu “made the remarks hours before Israel was set to tighten its current lockdown in hopes of staving off the new, highly transmissible variant of the coronavirus,” and said, “We are going to be the first country to beat the coronavirus.” The Times says, “The vow came after days in which health officials warned that Israel’s supply of vaccines was dwindling.” Over 18% “of Israel’s population has already received the first dose...a rate that has far outstripped the rest of the world and buoyed Mr. Netanyahu’s battered domestic image.”

Israel’s Vaccine Rollout Raises Questions Over Obligations To Palestinians. The *Wall Street Journal* (1/7, Schwartz, Lieber, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that experts are questioning whether Israel has an obligation to provide COVID vaccines to Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has projected that the country will immunize its entire adult population by the end of March, while the West Bank and Gaza, which rely on outside aid, are awaiting assistance from the World Health Organization’s Covax program, which is expected to launch in March at the earliest.

**Japan Declares State Of Emergency In Four Prefectures.**

The *New York Times* (1/7, Rich, Inoue, 20.6M) reports that Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga “declared a state of emergency in Tokyo and three surrounding prefectures on Thursday, the country’s first such declaration since April.” The Times says the announcement “came five days after governors from the affected prefectures had pleaded with the central government to act, and after his own coronavirus expert panel had recommended the emergency declaration.” COVID deaths in the country “have doubled in less than two months, passing 3,700,” but Suga “had hesitated to invoke the emergency measure, hoping to preserve economic activity.” The Times says Suga’s decision “illustrated the difficult choices many world leaders face nearly a year into the pandemic that is now entering a grueling new phase, with widespread vaccinations still months away.”

**South Korean Delegation Arrives In Tehran In Effort To Free Seized Oil Tanker.**

The *Wall Street Journal* (1/7, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports a South Korean delegation arrived in Tehran Thursday on a diplomatic mission to free and oil tanker seized by Iran amid a dispute over $7 billion from Iranian oil sales South Korean banks have been holding since 2019. The Journal says according to South Korea’s Foreign Ministry, the South Korean delegation is there in advance of a visit by the country’s vice foreign minister.

**Iraqi Court Issues Arrest Warrant For Trump.**

The *AP* (1/7) reports Iraq’s judiciary issued an arrest warrant Thursday for President Trump in connection with killing of Iranian Gen. Qassim Soleimani the “powerful Iraqi militia leader” Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis last year. The warrant “was issued by a judge in Baghdad’s investigative court tasked with probing the Washington-directed drone strike that” killed Soleimani and al-Muhandis. The AP adds that the warrant, which “was for a charge of premeditated murder, which carries the death penalty on conviction,” is “unlikely to be carried out” but is “symbolic in the waning days of Trump’s presidency.”

**Prominent Hong Kong Activist Faces New Charges; American Lawyer Granted Bail.**

The *AP* (1/7, Soo) reports that “jailed Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong was
arrested on a new charge under the national security law on Thursday while John Clancey, an American rights lawyer who was detained in a sweeping crackdown, was granted bail. According to the AP, "Friends and family of Wong, who is serving a 13 1/2-month prison sentence for organizing and participating in an unauthorized protest in 2019, were informed that he had been arrested on suspicion of violating the national security law." The AP says Clancey was among "53 activists arrested Wednesday under the national security law."

Reuters (1/7) describes Wong, 24, as "one of Hong Kong’s most prominent democracy activists," and says he "has been repeatedly detained for his role in organising pro-democracy rallies." According to Reuters, "Of Wednesday’s arrests, authorities cited the opposition’s campaign to win a majority in the legislative election with the view to pressure the government to enact democratic reforms by blocking its proposals in the city’s assembly."

The Wall Street Journal (1/7, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says the arrests of the pro-democracy activists will be an early test of Joe Biden’s promise to take a tough stance with China.

Cleric Who Inspired Bali Bombers Freed From Prison.

The AP (1/7, Karmini) reports Abu Bakar Bashir, the "convicted firebrand cleric who inspired the Bali bombers and other violent extremists walked free from an Indonesian prison Friday after completing his sentence for funding the training of Islamic militants." Police said they will continue to monitor the Bashir’s activities, and his son "said Bashir for now would be avoiding activities outside his family due to the coronavirus pandemic."

The New York Times (1/7, Paddock, Suhartono, 20.6M) says Bashir, who is "one of Indonesia’s most notorious terrorists," served "more than 10 years of a 15-year sentence for helping establish a terrorist training camp." The Times adds that "relatives and friends of the Bali bombing victims expressed disappointment over Mr. Bashir's release."

Ethiopian General Says Eritrean Troops Entered Country Uninvited.

Reuters (1/7) reports Ethiopian Major Gen. Belay Seyoum "said in a video clip posted on social media this week that Eritrean troops had entered the country uninvited while his soldiers were battling a rebellious force in the northern region of Tigray." The video shows Belay "addressing a meeting in the Tigrayan capital Mekelle in late December." He said, "An army that we don’t want has entered. Are we the one that invited them? No. ... They just entered by themselves, and this has to be made clear."

The comments "could alarm Western allies concerned that such an incursion might aggravate a conflict in Tigray that has already killed thousands." Reuters adds, “Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s spokeswoman, the head of Ethiopia’s emergency taskforce on Tigray and a military spokesman did not respond to questions about the footage. Neither did Eritrea’s information minister, Yemane Meskel."

**The Big Picture**

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

**Wall Street Journal:**
After Capitol Riot, Resignations And Calls For Trump’s Removal
‘In A Dark Place’: Before Condemning Violence, Trump Spent Day Increasingly Isolated And Angry
Some CEOs Fire Rioters, Call For President Trump’s Removal From Office
Actions By Police Before Trump Supporters Attacked Capitol Backfired Spectacularly
Federal Investigators Probing AmEx Card Sales Practices
Boeing Reaches $2.5 Billion Settlement Of US Probe Into 737 MAX Crashes

**New York Times:**
Capitol Attack Leads Democrats To Demand That Trump Leave Office
These Are The Rioters Who Stormed The Nation’s Capital
Police Failures Spur Resignations And Complaints Of Double Standard
With Democrats In Control, Biden Moves To Advance Agenda
Republicans Split Over Whether To Make A Full Break From Trump

*Washington Post:*
Calls Intensify To Remove President From Office Calls Intensify To Remove Trump From Office
Biden Says Racial Bias Is Clear In Handling Of Hill Mob
Daily Covid Deaths Top 4,000 In US For First Time
How Police Were Overrun In Slew Of Failures
Senate Losses, Trump’s Incitement Open Rifts In A Party Once In Thrall
At White House, A Retreat Into Rage Is Followed By Grudging Acceptance

*Financial Times:*
Democratic Leaders Call On Pence To Force Trump From Office
Activists Eye Targets In Weak And Vulnerable Corporate UK
Beijing Orders Chinese Media To Censor Coverage Of Alibaba Probe

*Washington Times:*
Republicans Rethink Trump Support Amid Capitol Siege Fallout, Administration Exodus
‘An Emergency Of The Highest Magnitude’: Dems, Some Republicans Push Immediate Trump Ouster
Trump’s Options To Reverse Election Dissolve After Electoral College Certification
Capitol Police Face Shake-Up After Failure To Fend Off Mob Of Protesters
Republicans Rip Democrats’ ‘Double Standards’ On Violence
Hunter Biden Owed Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars To IRS, Email Shows

*Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:*
**ABC:** 25th Amendment; Capitol Siege-Pence; Capitol Siege; Capitol Siege-Security; Policing Double Standards; COVID Surge; Biden-Garland For AG; Clean Up Crews In Capitol.
**CBS:** Capitol Siege; 25th Amendment; Resignations; Policing Double Standards; Biden-Garland For AG; Capitol Siege-Security; Capitol Siege-Trump; Capitol Siege-Worldwide Reaction; COVID Surge; End Thoughts.
**NBC:** Resignations; 25th Amendment; 25th Amendment-Likelihood; Capitol Siege; Capitol Siege-Security; Policing Double Standards; Capitol Siege-America’s Reaction; Capitol Siege-Worldwide Reaction; Capitol Siege-Causes; Capitol Siege-Extremists; COVID Surge; End Thoughts.

*Network TV At A Glance:*
Capitol Siege – 12 minutes, 45 seconds
25th Amendment – 10 minutes, 55 seconds
Capitol Siege-Security – 6 minutes, 50 seconds
Policing Double Standards – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
COVID Surge – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

*Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:*
**ABC:** Trump-Video; DeVos & Chao Resign; Capitol Police Chief Resigns; Schumer-Inaugural Security; Space Force-SpaceX Satellite Launch.
**CBS:** Trump-Video; Calls for Trump to Resign; Inauguration Fears; 25th Amendment; Rioters; Death at Capitol Siege; Trump-Social Media Ban.
**FOX:** DeVos & Chao Resign; Trump-Video; 25th Amendment.
**NPR:**
White House:
- President Trump — Will work from early in the morning until late in the evening. He will make many calls and have many meetings.
- Vice President Pence — Has no public events scheduled.

US Senate:
- Senate convenes for pro forma session
  Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 10:00 AM

US House:
- No public schedule released.

Cabinet Officers:
- No public schedule released.

Visitors:
- No scheduled visitors.

This Town:
- Federal Reserve Board Vice Chair Richard Clarida speaks at Council on Foreign Relations virtual event; 11:00 AM
- FCC Commissioner Pai delivers farewell address to Free State Foundation (virtual) — Free State Foundation hosts virtual farewell address by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, who leaves his role 20 Jan; 11:00 AM
- UK’s Prince of Wales delivers opening remarks at Atlantic Council Global Energy Forum (virtual) — Atlantic Council Global Energy Forum ‘Reaching Net Zero by 2050 is Attainable’, held virtually, with introductory remarks from Prince Charles and other speakers including NET Power CEO Bill Brown, Occidental Petroleum Corporation President and CEO Vicki Hollub, and Gasnova CEO Trude Sundset; 11:00 AM
- FDA commissioner discusses coronavirus response on Alliance for Health Policy event (virtual) — Alliance for Health Policy holds a virtual reporter briefing with Commissioner of Food and Drugs Dr Stephen Hahn, who discusses the agency’s response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; 9:00 PM
- U.S. Supreme Court meets in private conference to discuss cases and vote on petitions for review

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Inside the U.S. Capitol, the rioters were in charge.

Trump supporters were roaming freely, carrying off furniture. Capitol Police had not asked other law enforcement agencies for help until their building was surrounded by a mob seeking to overturn the election results. Now, their officers were exhausted and injured. Their chief was down the street, in the department command center, and a police commander on the scene was pacing in a circle. Top congressional leaders, hidden in secure rooms, were calling the governors of Maryland and Virginia directly to plead for help.

At last, reinforcements arrived: D.C. police officers, who wear an image of the Capitol building on their department’s official patch, but rarely enter the building itself.

“What we did do was restore democracy for all of America,” D.C. Police Chief Robert Contee III said.

On Thursday, a day after hundreds of President Trump’s supporters stormed and ransacked the Capitol, lawmakers and police officials were still trying to understand the cascade of failures that caused the Capitol Police force — a city-size police department focused on a single complex — to let that building fall.

Those failures began days before the attack, when law enforcement agencies across Washington failed to prepare for an assault on the Capitol — even as Trump supporters openly plotted one online. They were compounded by the slow response on the day of the siege, when Capitol Police and other federal agencies did not head off a mass of Trump supporters who descended on the Capitol, egged on by the president himself, and command within the complex broke down.

“How could they fail so miserably? [The mob] could have blown the building up. They could have killed us all,” said Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), a longtime Trump ally.

No lawmakers were hurt. But four people died during the Capitol breach, including one woman who was fatally shot by police as she tried to break through to a room next to the House chamber.

Late Thursday, a Capitol Police officer died of injuries he suffered in the attack. Officer Brian D. Sicknick, a 12-year veteran on the force, was “injured while physically engaging with protesters,” the department said in a statement, and collapsed after returning to his division headquarters. He later died at a hospital.

Pentagon put significant restrictions on D.C. Guard ahead of pro-Trump protests.
The recriminations were swift. On Thursday, three of Congress’s top security officials — Capitol Police Chief Steven A. Sund, House Sergeant at Arms Paul D. Irving and Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael C. Stenger — had resigned or were set to.

Neither Irving nor Stenger, both Secret Service veterans, nor Sund, who was previously a top District police official, responded to requests for comment.

Before the news broke Thursday that he will resign on Jan. 16, Sund said in a statement that the Capitol Police had prepared a “robust plan” for Wednesday.

But, Sund said, they had readied for a demonstration — and instead were confronted with “criminal riotous behavior.”

On Thursday, D.C. officials said that their department had brought order out of chaos — a striking reversal of roles for the federal government and the city that surrounds it. City officials — who have sometimes been treated with condescension by federal leaders — said they had saved the building when the feds had failed.

“There was no intelligence that suggested there would be a breach of the U.S. Capitol,” Contee said Thursday.

But law enforcement experts said they were stunned that the Capitol had been left so undefended, noting several factors that contributed to the mayhem.

While District police, major federal law enforcement agencies and neighboring police departments have agreements to assist each other in cases of emergencies, the Capitol Police did not make early requests for mutual aid with the D.C. National Guard or D.C. police, according to people familiar with the situation who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe security preparations.

And unlike other major government events like inaugurations, there was no large-scale frozen security zone around the building, and Justice Department officials did not create a multiagency command center. Instead, both federal law enforcement agencies and National Guard troops kept a low profile, scarred by criticism of their involvement in the response to protests after the death of George Floyd last summer.

And there appeared to be minimal efforts to build a secure perimeter around the Capitol. It wasn’t until Thursday morning that fencing went up around the complex.

“The police should have defined a hard line and there should have been consequences for crossing it,” said Frank Larkin, former Senate sergeant at arms who has planned for many security threats to the Capitol. “The fight should have been outside. Not inside. To have that confrontation at the door, that was a losing formula.”
There had been signs that Wednesday's protests could turn violent. Pro-Trump Internet forums had been full of posts promising violence. Trump had cast Congress — which was about to formalize his defeat in the 2020 election — as the target.

So why would an attack against Congress be out of the question?

"You didn't need intelligence. You just needed to read the newspaper," said Michael Chertoff, who served as Homeland Security secretary from 2005 to 2009 under President George W. Bush. "They were advertising, 'Let's go wild. Bring your guns.' You don't need to have an FBI investigation. You just need to be able to be able to read."

At the Capitol on Wednesday, by contrast, the grounds were guarded in some places only by low pieces of fencing and officers in street uniforms.

About 1 p.m., with crowds gathering outside the building, Sund requested
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: FW: Few Updates
To: Ritzman, Martin L. (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: January 8, 2021 11:34 AM (UTC-05:00)

FYI...

Regards,
John

From: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 7:18 PM

Subject: Few Updates

Boss,

Just two post close out updates worth passing now.... possibly more in the AM.

More in the AM if I have it.

Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
From: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)  
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Re: FBI background update  
To: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WE) (FBI); Shivers, Calvin A. (CID) (FBI)  
Cc: Winston, Albin M. (OPA) (FBI)  
Sent: January 8, 2021 12:50 PM (UTC-05:00)  

FYI

From: Volz, Dustin <dustin.volz@wsj.com>  
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 11:50 AM  
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Re: FBI background update  

Hey Brian -- Thanks again for this yesterday, which is very helpful as we try to understand how the response and coordination between agencies went down on Wednesday.

We have a few follow up and clarifying questions for you. Working on a story for today related to all this.

_ The MPD Citywide alert about the capitol breach went out at 1:33 pm on Wednesday. Was that how the FBI was activated, as you mention in your statement, or was there was a separate request directly from Capitol Police? If it was separate, what time did that come and what was the process that request came through? What time did that 50 minute clock start?

_ How big were the tactical teams? where were they on standby?

_ Can you give any more clarity on what discussions happened before Wednesday between FBI and Capitol Police about the potential for the building to be breached? We're trying to better understand why Capitol Police rejected the offers for assistance and what those offers looked like.

_ Similarly, did FBI offer help as soon as the breach started Wednesday, only to be told assistance was not necessary? If so, what kind of help did they offer and when was that offer made? And how did Capitol Police respond?

_ Our understanding is that the FBI and its partners had drafted an intelligence assessment about the possibility of the threat of violence at the Wednesday protest, but that it was never sent out. Why was it never sent out?

_ When did Deputy Director Bowdich head over to the Capitol on Wednesday and what was his message to lawmakers? Who did he meet with?

Happy to discuss any of this as you see fit. Thanks again.

Dustin

---

Dustin Volz  
CYBERSECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE REPORTER  
WASHINGTON BUREAU  

---
Attributed to senior FBI official:

"Prior to January 6th, the FBI and our federal, state and local partners collected and shared available intelligence in preparation for the various planned events. The FBI was prepared to adapt as needed to fluid events on the ground, including having rapid response teams in reserve. Throughout most of the day the crowd was peaceful and non-confrontational. However, when it became clear that some individuals were surging onto the Capitol grounds and entering the buildings, the U.S. Capitol Police requested assistance. Within 50 minutes of that request, three FBI tactical teams were on-scene to gain control of the area and offer protection to congressional members and staff. Over the course of the evening, the FBI presence ultimately grew to over 150 agents and other personnel.\"
From: Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Re: FB[背景下文更新]
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI); Shivers, Calvin A. (CID) (FBI)
Cc: Winston, Alvin M. (OPA) (FBI)
Sent: January 8, 2021 1:29 PM (UTC-05:00)

Brian,
I will defer to you and the DD on

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Bowdich, David L.; Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI)
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Happy to discuss any of this as you see fit. Thanks again.

Dustin

Dustin Volz
CYPHER SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE REPORTER
WASHINGTON BUREAU

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 11:11 PM Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI) wrote:
Attributed to senior FBI official:

"Prior to January 6th, the FBI and our federal, state and local partners collected and shared available intelligence in preparation for the various planned events. The FBI was prepared to adapt as needed to fluid events on the ground, including having rapid response teams in reserve. Throughout most of the day the crowd was peaceful and non-confrontational. However, when it became clear that some individuals were surging onto the Capitol grounds and entering the buildings, the U.S. Capitol Police requested assistance. Within 50 minutes of that request, three FBI tactical teams were on-scene to gain control of the area and offer protection to congressional members and staff. Over the course of the evening, the FBI presence ultimately grew to over 150 agents and other personnel."
From: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Re: FBI background update
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI); Shivers, Calvin A. (CID) (FBI); D’Antuono, Steven Michael (WE) (FBI); Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI); Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI); Winston, Alvin M. (OPA) (FBI)
Cc: Brian
Sent: January 8, 2021 1:43 PM (UTC-05:00)

Brian,

Come see me

DB

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Shivers, Calvin A. (CID) (FBI); D’Antuono, Steven Michael (WE) (FBI); Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI); Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Tyson, Jill C. (OCA) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI); Winston, Alvin M. (OPA) (FBI)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Re: FBI background update

Thanks.

On Jan 8, 2021 1:28 PM, "Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI)" wrote:

Brian,
I will defer to you and the DD on

Thanks.

On Jan 8, 2021 1:28 PM, "Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI)" wrote:

Brian,
I will defer to you and the DD on
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Subject:</strong></th>
<th>Inauguration Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start:</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday, January 20, 2021 8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End:</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday, January 20, 2021 8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recurrence:</strong></td>
<td>(none)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Status:</strong></td>
<td>No response required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organizer:</strong></td>
<td>Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here is what we came up with.

Jill
From: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Subject: OT request for PVCA
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Cc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Giasheen, Michael H. (CTD) (FBI); Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI); Otto, Caroline F. (RPO) (FBI)
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:03 PM (UTC-05:00)

Bosss

[
]

Thanks!

Thank you,

Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd: Re:
To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:05 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thank you...

Regards,
John

(Desk)

On Jan 8, 2021 21:56, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Here is what we came up with.

Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Onward message ------------

From: eee 4
Date: Jan 8, 2021 9:53 PM bIE -3,5

Brian Patrick (OPA)
Winston, Alvin M. (OPA)
Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)

To: Hale, Brian Patrick (OPA) (FBI)
Winston, Alvin M. (OPA)
Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)

Cc: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)

From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)

Subject: Fwd: Re:
To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:05 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thank you...

Regards,
John

(Desk)

On Jan 8, 2021 21:56, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Here is what we came up with.

Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
From: Brown, John A, (NSB) (FBI)  
Subject: OT request for PVCA  
To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)  
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:07 PM (UTC-05:00)

Do you need an answer tonight? I have the feeling that Paul was heading out tonight to celebrate. I was thinking of asking him tomorrow. Thoughts?

Regards,
John

---

On Jan 8, 2021 22:02, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

Thanks!

Thank you,

Jill

---

Jill Sanborn  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  

---
That is fine.

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 8, 2021 10:06 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Do you need an answer tonight? I have the feeling that Paul was heading out tonight to celebrate. I was thinking of asking him tomorrow. Thoughts?

Regards,
John

On Jan 8, 2021 22:02, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Boss

Thank you,
Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: OT request for PVCA
To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:10 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thank you...

Regards,
John

On Jan 8, 2021 22:07, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
That is fine.

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 8, 2021 10:06 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Do you need an answer tonight? I have the feeling that Paul was heading out tonight to celebrate. I was thinking of asking him tomorrow. Thoughts?

Regards,
John

On Jan 8, 2021 22:02, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Boss

Thanks!

Thank you,
Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation
From: Otto, Caroline F. (RPO) (FBI)
Subject: OT request for PVCA
To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Cc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Glasheen, Michael H. (CTD) (FBI); Holmgren, Hads O. (DN) (FBI)
Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:29 PM (UTC-05:00)

John and Jill,

I apologize for the confusion.

I emailed earlier and should have included

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks
Caroline

On Jan 8, 2021 10:02 PM, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

Boss


Thanks!

Thank you,

Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Thank you,

Jill
Caroline,

Thank you for the below. Can we start the discussion? I am happy to reach out to Paul and discuss. Let us know what you think....thank you.

Regards,
John

On Jan 8, 2021 22:29, "Otto, Caroline F. (RPO) (FBI)" wrote:

I apologize for the confusion. I emailed earlier and should have included

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks
Caroline

On Jan 8, 2021 10:02 PM, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

Boss

Thank you,
Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FBI(21cv1168)-360
I'm sorry.

Sorry,
Caroline

On Jan 8, 2021 10:33 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Caroline,

Thank you for the below. Can we start the... I am happy to reach out to Paul and discuss. Let us know what you think...thank you.

Regards,
John

On Jan 8, 2021 22:29, "Otto, Caroline F. (RPO) (FBI)" wrote:
John and Jill,

I apologize for the confusion.

I emailed earlier and should have included...

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks
Caroline

On Jan 8, 2021 10:02 PM, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Boss

Thanks!
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: OT request for PVCA
To: Otto, Caroline F. (RPO) (FBI); Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Cc: Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI); Glasheen, Michael H. (CTD) (FBI); Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI); Holmgren, Hads O. (DN)

Sent: January 8, 2021 10:47 PM (UTC-05:00)

Caroline,

Thank you....no worries. Starting _______ is better than not starting at all. Thank you again...have a good weekend.

Regards,
John

On Jan 8, 2021 22:43, "Otto, Caroline F. (RPO) (FBI)" wrote:

I'm sorry

Sorry,
Caroline

On Jan 8, 2021 10:33 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:

Caroline,

Thank you for the below. Can we start the _______ I am happy to reach out to Paul and discuss. Let us know what you think....thank you.

Regards,
John

On Jan 8, 2021 22:29, "Otto, Caroline F. (RPO) (FBI)" wrote:

John and Jill,

I apologize for the confusion.

I emailed _______ earlier and should have included _______.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks
Caroline
All information and inquiries should be directed to

[Redacted]
OPS DAD Brethren,

Happy Saturday! WFO SAC Alcoke has asked FBIHQ to

Anything I’m missing?

Thanks!

Best,
Kristyn

Kristyn E. Kelly
A/Deputy Assistant Director
Support Branch
Counterterrorism Division (CTD)

-
Thanks KK, we are happy to help. To whom should we send our names (and the inevitable questions that will follow ha)?

On Jan 9, 2021 1:39 PM, "Kelly, Kristyn E. (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

Happy Saturday! WFO SAC Alcoke has asked FBIHQ to

Anything I'm missing?

Thanks!

Best,

Kristyn

---------------------------------
Hi Everyone,

We can provide additional analytical personnel.

ASC Derek Fishel will reach out momentarily to help fill shifts. In the interim, please feel free to re-task the team already providing assistance; I will also advise the team at [redacted] to be on standby to assist, if needed today.

Thanks,
Brian

On Jan 9, 2021 1:39 PM, "Kelly, Kristyn E. (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
OPS DAD Brethren,

Happy Saturday! WFO SAC Alcoke has asked FBIHQ to

Anything I'm missing?

Thanks!

Best,
Kristyn

-----------------------------
Kristyn E. Kelly
A/Deputy Assistant Director
Support Branch
Counterterrorism Division (CTD)
JEH
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd [A Support
To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Sent: January 9, 2021 2:27 PM (UTC-05:00)

FYI...

Regards,
John

--------- Forwarded message ---------

From: "Kelly, Kristyn E. (CTD) (FBI)
Date: Jan 9, 2021 13:39
Subject Support BIE -3,5
To: "Floris, Nikki L. (CD) (FBI)" "Cohen, Brian M. (CID) (FBI)
"Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" Ugoretz, Tonya L. (CYD) (FBI)
Cc: "Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)" "Glasheen, Michael H. (CTD) (FBI)
"Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)" Gilhooly, Brian T. (CTD)

OPS DAD Brethren,

Happy Saturday! WFO SAC Alcock has asked FBIHQ to

Anything I'm missing

Thanks!

Best,
Kristyn

---------------------------------------------------

Kristyn E. Kelly
A/Deputy Assistant Director
Support Branch
Counterterrorism Division (CTD)

FBI(21cv1168)-372
Paul,

This is probably for you...

Regards,
John

--- Forwarded message ---

From: "Kelly, Kristyn E. (CTD) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 9, 2021 13:39
Subject: IA Support
To: "Floris, Nikki L. (CD) (FBI)" "Cohen, Brian M. (CID) (FBI)"
"Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" "Ugoricz, Tonya L. (CYD) (FBI)"
Cc: "Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)" "Glasbehn, Michael H. (CTD) (FBI)"
"Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)" "Gilhooly, Brian T. (CTD) (FBI)"

OPS DAD Brethren,

Happy Saturday! WFO SAC Alcoke has asked FBIHQ to

Anything I'm missing

Thanks!

Best,
Kristyn

Kristyn E. Kelly
A/Deputy Assistant Director
Support Branch
Counterterrorism Division (CTD)

--- End of forwarded message ---
Thank you, sir.
Paul

On Jan 9, 2021 2:27 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Paul,

This is probably for you...

Regards,
John

------------ Forwarded message ----------
From: "Kelly, Kristyn E. (CTD) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 9, 2021 13:39
Subject: IA Support
Cc: "Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)", "Glasheen, Michael H. (CTD) (FBI)", "Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)", "Gilhooley, Brian T. (CTD) (FBI)"

OPS DAD Brethren,
Happy Saturday! WFO SAC Alcoke has asked FBIHQ to identify

Anything I'm missing

Thanks!
Best,
Kristyn

Kristyn E. Kelly
A/Deputy Assistant Director
From: retz, Tonya L. (CYD) (FBI)
Subject: Support
To: Kelly, Kristyn E. (CTD) (FBI); Floris, Nikki L. (CD) (FBI); Cohen, Brian M. (CID) (FBI); Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Cc: Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI); Gilhooly, Brian T. (CTD) (FBI);
    Glasheen, Michael H. (CTD) (FBI); Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI);
Sent: January 9, 2021 2:38 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thanks,
Tonya

On Jan 9, 2021 1:39 PM, "Kelly, Kristyn E. (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
OPS DAD Brethren,

Happy Saturday! WFO SAC Alcove has asked FBIHQ to

Anything I'm missing

Thanks!

Best,
Kristyn

Kristyn E. Kelly
A/Deputy Assistant Director
Support Branch
Counterterrorism Division (CTD)
JEH
Hi everyone!

Thank you so much for your support. Apologies on the delay in responding...in the interim we have been flooded with emails offering support in different formats making it difficult to accept support.

In order to make sure we are getting the right people, we have provided a little more guidance below so please forward this information, and we can restart the process for volunteers.

Sorry to restart this process, but this will allow us to get names in a digestible manner.

And again thank you for your help and flexibility!

Happy Saturday! WFO SAC Alcoke has asked FBIHQ to identify
Thanks

Happy to loop in those DADs if needed.

On Jan 9, 2021 5:02 PM, wrote:

Hi everyone!

Thank you so much for your support. Apologies on the delay in responding...in the interim we have been flooded with emails offering support in different formats making it difficult to accept support.

In order to make sure we are getting the right people, we have provided a little more guidance below so please forward this information, and we can restart the process for volunteers.

Sorry to restart this process, but this will allow us to get names in a digestible manner.

And again thank you for your help and flexibility!
Sorry one more logistics item on OT since most folks on here are affected,

Best,
Kristyn

---

On Jan 9, 2021 5:02 PM, wrote:
Hi everyone!

Thank you so much for your support. Apologies on the delay in responding...in the interim we have been flooded with emails offering support in different formats making it difficult to accept support.

In order to make sure we are getting the right people, we have provided a little more guidance below so please forward this information, and we can restart the process for volunteers.

Sorry to restart this process, but this will allow us to get names in a digestible manner.

And again thank you for your help and flexibility!
Calling on this...need some help.

Jill Sanborn  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Good evening all,

Thank you for your help.
Confidentiality Statement: This message is transmitted to you by the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The message, along with any attachments, may be confidential and legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please destroy it promptly without further retention or dissemination (unless otherwise required by law). Please notify the sender of the error by a separate e-mail or by calling FBI(212)1168-385.
Hope hope you are well. Per chance, could we discuss t

Regards,

john

 cellul

Desk

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: b5 -1,2,3
Date: Jan 9, 2021 9:00 PM
Subject: DRAFT for review
To: "Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)" "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" "Gray, Edward J. (CIRG) (FBI)" "Downey, Jeffrey R. (CIRG) (FBI)" "Moore, Jennifer L. (W)
(FBI)" "Alcoke, Matthew R. (W) (FBI)
(FBI)" "Young, Ryan T. (DI) (FBI)" "Carlisle, Travis D. (DI)
Cc: "Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI)"

For review and concurrence:

For awareness:

Good evening all,

Thank you for your help.
From: 
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2021 7:32 AM 
To: 
Subject: January 10, 2021

All information and inquiries should be directed to

FBI(21cv1168)-400
Respectfully,
From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Subject: FW:
Attachments:

FYI...

Regards,
John

From: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI), Wade, Terry (CCRSB) (FBI), Cohen, Jodi (NSB) (FBI), Laycock, Stephen C. (IB) (FBI)
Cc: Meador, Stanley M. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: For review:

Hi all,

Please find attached

If you have any edits, questions, concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,
not the intended recipient of this message, please destroy it promptly without further retention or dissemination (unless otherwise required by law). Please notify the sender of the error by a separate e-mail or by calling [phone number]...
Attached is ________________ Your folks and mine have been working on it throughout weekend so it could go tomorrow. I think it is good.

Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

-------- Forwarded message --------

As we just discussed, I am sending over ________________ AD Sanborn.

Please let me know if there are any questions. Thank you for your continued coordination with us!
Hi again,

Thank you to all for your review and feedback. Please find attached the latest version which has been provided to the Deputy Director. I will make sure you and your teams have the final that he approves as well.

Thanks.

Hi all,

Please find attached

If you have any edits, questions, concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,
Confidentiality Statement: This message is transmitted to you by the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The message, along with any attachments, may be confidential and legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please destroy it promptly without further retention or dissemination (unless otherwise required by law). Please notify the sender of the error by a separate e-mail or by calling [Omitted Phone Number].
Below is pretty interesting. Just for you right now while we dig, you'll see my questions back...

Jill

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 10, 2021 5:47 PM
Subject: Interesting
To: "Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)"
Cc: "Vormdran, Kevin (CTD) (FBI)"
"Alcoke, Matthew R. (WF) (FBI)"
"Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)"
"Moore, Jennifer L. (WF) (FBI)"

Interesting.

Thanks Pat

On Jan 10, 2021 5:43 PM, "Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
On 1/10/2021, a concerned member of the public, who wishes to remain anonymous, contacted writer to advise the following:
Also, interesting the reaction! Thank you!

Regards,
John

On Jan 10, 2021 17:50, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

Below is pretty interesting. Just for you right now while we dig.... you'll see my questions back... 

Jill

On Jan 10, 2021 5:43 PM, "Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:

On 1/10/2021, a concerned member of the public, who wishes to remain anonymous, contacted writer to advise the following:
From: Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd: | b6 -3
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI) b7A -1
Sent: January 10, 2021 7:32 PM (UTC-05:00) b7C -3

Seems odd

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

On Jan 10, 2021 7:24 PM, "Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)" wrote:
Also, interesting the reaction
Thank you!

Regards,
John

On Jan 10, 2021 17:50, "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)" wrote:
Boss

Below is pretty interesting. Just for you right now while we dig... you'll see my questions back...

Jill

Jill Sanborn
Federal Bureau of Investigation

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI)"
Date: Jan 10, 2021 5:47 PM
Subject: ""23,5
To: "Reddan, Patrick E. Jr. (CTD) (FBI)" "Richards, Jason W. (WF) (FBI)"
"Jensen, Steven J. (CTD) (FBI)"
"Alcoke, Matthew R. (WF) (FBI)"
"Moore, Jennifer L. (WF) (FBI)"

Thanks Pat

Interesting.

Jill
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.
US Files Dozens Of Charges In Wake Of Capital Siege.

The New York Times (1/9, Wright, 20.6M) reports that the number of arrests “is expected to grow quickly as investigators scrutinize social media to identify the protesters, and some participants could face more serious charges.” CNN (1/8, Scannell, 89.21M) reports, “An Alabama man allegedly parked a pickup truck packed with 11 homemade bombs, an assault rifle and a handgun two blocks from the US Capitol building on Wednesday for hours before authorities ever noticed, according to federal prosecutors. Another man allegedly showed up in the nation’s capital with an assault rifle and hundreds of rounds of ammunition and told acquaintances that he wanted to shoot or run over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, prosecutors said.” CNN adds, “The revelations are some of the most unsettling details federal prosecutors have made public this week as they detail the extent of the arsenal available to aid pro-Trump rioters who stormed the Capitol. Other individuals have been arrested for taking guns and ammunition onto Capitol grounds and more charges are expected to come as a wide-ranging investigation unfurls.”

Bloomberg (1/10, 3.57M) reports Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), citing Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, said Sunday that “at least 25 domestic terrorism cases have been opened after Wednesday’s assault on the U.S. Capitol.” Reuters (1/10, Shalal) reports Crow said McCarthy told him the Pentagon was aware of ‘further possible threats posed by would-be terrorists in the days up to and including the inauguration of Democratic President-elect Joe Biden on Jan. 20. ‘Long guns, Molotov cocktails, explosive devices and zip ties were recovered, which suggests a greater disaster was narrowly averted,’ Crow, a former Army Ranger, said in a summary of his call with McCarthy. McCarthy assured him the Pentagon was working with local and federal law enforcement to coordinate security preparations after what he described as ‘deficient law enforcement threat reporting’ ahead of last Wednesday.”

The Wall Street Journal (1/8, A1, Gurman, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports on its front page that federal prosecutors on Friday announced charges against at least 13 “alleged members of the pro-Trump mob who stormed the halls of Congress.” The Washington Post (1/8, Hsu, 10.52M) reports the Justice Department and FBI “announced charges Friday against” Derrick Evans, “a freshman West Virginia lawmaker,” Richard Barnett, “an Arkansas man who told the media he posed for photos on a desk in House Speaker Pelosi’s office, and Lonnie Leroy Coffman, “an Alabama man whose truck allegedly stolen from the building. At least 58 people have been arrested and charged for incidents in or near the Capitol on Wednesday. Those arrested have come from 24 states and the District of Columbia.” The Justice Department “has filed more than 55 criminal cases related to the riot that left five dead.”

The New York Times (1/9, Wright, 20.6M) reports, “Federal authorities continued Sunday to round up people following a deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol this week — including two men accused of carrying plastic restraints and others who allegedly carried weapons or stole from the building. At least 58 people have been arrested and charged for incidents in or near the Capitol on Wednesday. Those arrested have come from 24 states and the District of Columbia.” The Justice Department “has filed more than 55 criminal cases related to the riot that left five dead.”

The New York Times (1/9, Wright, 20.6M) reports that the number of arrests “is expected to grow quickly as investigators scrutinize social media to identify the protesters, and some participants could face more serious charges.” CNN (1/8, Scannell, 89.21M) reports, “An Alabama man allegedly parked a pickup truck packed with 11 homemade bombs, an assault rifle and a handgun two blocks from the US Capitol building on Wednesday for hours before authorities ever noticed, according to federal prosecutors. Another man allegedly showed up in the nation’s capital with an assault rifle and hundreds of rounds of ammunition and told acquaintances that he wanted to shoot or run over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, prosecutors said.” CNN adds, “The revelations are some of the most unsettling details federal prosecutors have made public this week as they detail the extent of the arsenal available to aid pro-Trump rioters who stormed the Capitol. Other individuals have been arrested for taking guns and ammunition onto Capitol grounds and more charges are expected to come as a wide-ranging investigation unfurls.”

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The Chicago Sun-Times (1/8, Seidel, 970K) reports that Barnett “has become one of the most notorious figures among those who broke into the Capitol Wednesday, after photographs surfaced of him with his feet on Pelosi’s desk. Prosecutors cited those photographs in a statement of facts filed as part of the case against him. They said they also viewed video surveillance and
a video-recorded interview Barnett gave." Prosecutors "said Barnett was asked about an envelope he was holding featuring Pelosi's signature. Barnett allegedly said, 'I did not steal it. I bled on it because they were macing me and I couldn't f---ing see so I figured I am in her office. I got blood on her office. I put a quarter on her desk even though she ain't f---ing worth it. And I left her a note on her desk that says "Nancy, Bigo was here, you b---")." Barnett "is being held in the Washington County (Ark.) jail after he was charged by federal prosecutors with three counts for storming the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday."

The AP (1/8, Callahan) reports, "A Florida man accused of making off with Pelosi's lectern during the chaos was arrested Friday night on a federal warrant and was being held Saturday without bail in Pinellas County, Florida. Jail records do not show if Adam Johnson, 36, of Parrish, Florida, has an attorney. Johnson was charged Saturday with theft, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds."

The Miami Herald (1/9, DeLeon, 847K) reports from Bradenton, Florida, that Johnson "was arrested by Federal Marshals and booked into the Pinellas County jail shortly after 9 p.m. Friday. He has been charged with one count of knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority; one count of theft of government property, and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, according to a federal complaint. A warrant was issued on Friday and Johnson was charged in federal court in D.C. on Saturday." Pelosi's lectern "had been stored in her suite, under a staircase to the third floor on the House side of the Capitol building, before the Capitol was breached, her staff told FBI agents. The lectern — valued at more than $1,000 according to the House curator — was found by Senate staff on Thursday in the Red corridor of the Senate wing off the Rotunda in the Capitol."

On NBC Nightly News (1/8, story 3, 3:04, Holt, 5.57M), Tom Costello reported "some suspects have identified themselves, as well. Josiah Colt who climbed down from the Senate balcony then sat in Vice President Pence's chair says he was 'caught up in the moment.' In a statement to KBOI-TV, he says, 'My actions have brought shame upon myself, my family and friends and beautiful country. I beg for forgiveness from America and from my home state of Idaho.' Former Midland, Texas mayoral candidate Jenny Cudd posted her own video: 'We did break down the Nancy Pelosi's office door. And somebody stole her gavel."

Nationwide, hundreds of federal agents are pursuing riot suspects. Among the felony charges they could face, felony rioting, federal assault and murder charges, obstruction of Congress, destruction of congressional documents, conspiracy and insurrection."

The AP (1/8, Hollingsworth) reports, "An Iowa man was jailed early Saturday on charges accusing him of taking part in the riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump." The AP adds, "Des Moines Police Sgt. Paul Parizek said officers assisted the FBI in arresting 41-year-old Doug Jensen on Friday night at his home on the south side of the city. Jensen was booked into the Polk County Jail early Saturday on five federal charges, including trespassing and disorderly conduct counts, according to news releases from the FBI's field office in Omaha, Nebraska and the county sheriff's office."

According to the AP, "Video posted online during the storming of the Capitol on Wednesday showed a man who appears to be Jensen, who is white, pursuing a Black officer up an interior flight of stairs. A mob of people trails several steps behind. At several points, the officer says 'get back,' to no avail."

The New York Times (1/8, Goldman, 20.6M) reports prosecutors on Thursday "filed a criminal complaint accusing a man named Mark J. Leffingwell of punching a Capitol Police officer repeatedly in the head and chest, before apologizing," and they "unsealed charges against a Maryland resident, Christopher Alberis, accusing him of illegally carrying a 9-millimeter pistol at the riot." Meanwhile, Bloomberg (1/8, McGrath, 3.57M) reports Cogensia, a marketing firm near Chicago, has fired CEO Brad Rukstales, a Republican donor to President Trump, who "was arrested by U.S. Capitol Police on Wednesday" after "being part of the mob that broke into the U.S. Capitol."

In the lead story for NBC's Today (1/8, 2.96M), Savannah Guthrie said there have been "more than 80 arrests so far, and investigators this morning, they are poring through videos and images casting about for leads. They want to identify more suspects." On NBC Nightly News (1/8, story 9, 1:43, Holt, 5.57M), Gabe Gutierrez reported, "One pro-Trump rioter in face paint and a horned hat confronted law enforcement holding a spear. The man now identified as Jake Angeli told NBC News, 'The fact that he had a bunch of our traitors in office hunkered down put on their gas masks and retreat into the underground bunker, i consider that a win.' Police say Angeli is a known follower of QAnon, a far right extremist group."

On ABC World News Tonight (1/8, story 3, 2:05, Muir, 6.95M), Chief Justice Correspondent Pierre Thomas reported that federal authorities "are determined to leave no stone unturned, ramping up efforts to bring all the Trump supporters who desecrated the Capitol to justice." On ABC's Good Morning America (1/8, 3.14M), Martha Raddatz reported that on Wednesday, "despite the loss of life and the desecration of the Capitol, those rioters were allowed to just leave the building. They lingered on the plaza for hours triumphant, giving one another high-fives with no consequences. This morning the acting US attorney for the District of Columbia said the failure to arrest more people is making his job harder adding, 'I can't answer why the Capitol Police did not zip tie these people as they were leaving the Capitol." CBS This Morning (1/8, 2.28M) also covered the search for protesters accused of committing crimes on Wednesday.
On the lead NBC Nightly News (1/8, lead story, 3:46, Diaz-Balart, 5.98M) segment, Tom Costello reported on the arrests, while on the CBS Weekend News (1/9, story 4, 1:52, Diaz, 577K), Adriana Diaz reported, “Roughly 100 people have been arrested for Wednesday’s attack.”

The Washington Post (1/8, Weiner, Hs, 10.52M) reports 16 people “have been charged in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia with crimes related to the storming of the Capitol, including a man who admitted to stealing a document from Pelosi’s office. Forty others face charges in D.C. Superior Court.” The Post calls these federal cases “the low-hanging fruit of the investigation” since they are “people who either identified themselves in online postings or were quickly identified by others who saw the images and recognized the individuals.” The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), AP (1/9, Callahan), Reuters (1/9, McKay), Politico (1/9, Semones, 6.73M), and The Hill (1/9, Lonas, 5.69M), among other outlets, provide similar coverage of the new arrests.

President Could Be Investigated For “Inciting” Riot. On ABC World News Tonight (1/8, story 2, 2:31, Karl, 6.95M), Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl reported that DC Attorney General Karl Racine (D) has “said he’ll investigate whether the President is legally responsible for inciting the riot,” and he also “mentioned Rudy Giuliani who said this at the rally: ‘Let’s have trial by combat!’ And the President’s son, Don Jr, who posted a since-removed video taken backstage at the rally before the riot, the President’s children watching the crowds gather. Don Jr’s girlfriend Kimberly dancing as the Trumps celebrated. This was Don Jr’s message to Trump supporters before they stormed the Capitol. ‘If you’re going to be the zero and not the hero, we’re coming for you.’”

Pierre Thomas said on ABC World News Tonight (1/8, story 4, 0:35, Muir, 6.95M) that the DOJ’s current focus “is on the people who broke into the Capitol, but the investigation is in the early stages and questions about [Trump’s role in the] incitement will likely be for the incoming attorney general Merrick Garland.” On CBS This Morning (1/8, 2:37M), Ben Tracy said that Trump’s comments “before the assault on the Capitol may be investigated by US attorneys for leading to the violence.” However, on ABC World News Tonight (1/8, story 4, 2:31, Llamas, 839K), on Saturday night, Tom Llamas reported, “There is now a nationwide manhunt under way for every rioter breaching the Capitol building.” Kenneth Moton added a senior Justice Department official on Saturday said “no incitement charges are expected against any...speakers” at the rally prior to the unrest, including Trump.

DOJ Investigating Shooting Death Of Protester. Meanwhile, the New York Times (1/9, Benner, Schmitt, 20.6M) reports interim US Attorney Michael Sherwin on Saturday announced that his office “is leading investigations into the deaths of a woman who entered the Capitol building with a crowd of rioters on Jan. 6 and an officer who was killed while trying to police the violent mob.” The Times says prosecutors in the office’s Civil Rights division “opened a formal, federal excessive force case into the shooting death of Ashli Babbitt, who was shot by a Capitol Police officer as she and a group of President Trump’s supporters swarmed the building,” though “the investigation into Ms. Babbitt’s shooting is ‘routine, standard procedure whenever an officer deploys lethal force,’ a Justice Department spokeswoman said.” The Times adds the office “also opened a federal homicide investigation into the death of Brian D. Sicknick, a Capitol Hill police officer who died after pro-Trump rioters struck him with a fire extinguisher.”

The Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) reports it has obtained two video clips that “shed new light on the fatal shooting by police of Trump supporter and Air Force veteran Ashli Babbitt as she and other rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol.” The Post says Babbitt “and others were attempting to breach a barricaded door inside the Capitol building on Wednesday afternoon, angrily demanding that three U.S. Capitol Police officers who were guarding the door step aside, one of the clips shows.” The Post adds the officers “moved away as colleagues in tactical gear arrived behind the rioters, according to the clip and other video posted online. Roughly 35 seconds after the officers moved away, as she climbed up toward a broken section of the unguarded door, Babbitt was shot by an officer on the other side,” as she was “trying to get into the Speaker’s Lobby, a hallway that would have given them access to the House of Representatives chamber.” According to the Wall Street Journal (1/8, Saltar, Allworth, Seetharaman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), five people have died in connection to the “Capitol riot.”

Laptop Stolen From Pelosi’s Office, Aide Says. Reuters (1/8, Satter) reports a laptop was stolen from Pelosi’s office “during the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, one of her aides said on Friday.” Reuters adds Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) “said on Twitter that a laptop was taken from his office,” and Acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin on Thursday “said that some of the thefts might have potentially jeopardized what he described as ‘national security equities.’” According to Reuters, “The theft of electronic devices from congressional offices has been a persistent worry following the invasion by pro-Trump followers.”

NBC News (1/8, 4.91M) reports, “At least three Democrats in Congress said that the pro-Trump rioters who stormed the Capitol on Wednesday stole computers from their offices, raising cybersecurity concerns.” Speaker Pelosi “had a laptop stolen, as did Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., who tweeted about the theft. It wasn’t immediately clear what protections were on those devices, though Congress generally lags behind the federal government in implementing cybersecurity measures. Not all

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Senate computers automatically encrypt their hard drives or require a password to log in if they're unused for a few minutes. Emails were visible on a desktop computer left running in Pelosi's office.

**Prosecutors Seek To Revoke Ball For Vets for Trump Co-Founder.** The Washington Post (1/9, Jackman, 10.52M) reports Joshua Macias, 42, a co-founder of Vets for Trump who was “free on bail after appearing outside a Philadelphia election center with a concealed handgun,” was outside the Capitol during the siege by Trump supporters Wednesday and posted video of himself, leading Philadelphia prosecutors to request his bail be revoked. The Post says Macias “and Antonio LaMotta, 61, were arrested in Philadelphia on Nov. 5 near the Philadelphia Convention Center, where the presidential election vote was being counted,” because they were carrying firearms without permits.

**West Virginia Lawmaker Who Participated in Storming Capitol Resigns.** The New York Times (1/9, 20.6M) reports West Virginia state Del. Derrick Evans (R) “resigned on Saturday after participating in the storming of the United States Capitol.” The Times says the resignation, effective immediately, comes as he “faces two federal charges: one for knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority, and one for violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.” The Washington Post (1/9, Kornfield, 10.52M) reports Evans “chronicled the riot Wednesday on Facebook Live, capturing the moment the crowd cracked open the Capitol’s doors and he crossed the threshold.”

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**Pennsylvania Man Charged In Siege.** A number of local news outlets covered the arrests of those from their areas. For example, the Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (1/8, Bensoother, 1567K) reports, “A Pennsylvania man who was charged by Capitol Police for taking part in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday also was charged with federal offenses, officials at the U.S. Department of Justice announced Friday.” Terry Brown, of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, “was one of 13 people charged federally.” Brown “was charged with knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority; or knowingly, with intent to impede government business or official functions, engaging in disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.”

**Robert Keith Packer of Virginia, according to three sources. ... One Virginia resident, who spoke to CNN on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, described Packer as a long-time extremist who has had run-ins with the law.”**

**Man In “Camp Auschwitz” Sweatshirt Identified.** CNN (1/10, 89.21M) reports on its website, “A rioter who stormed the US Capitol Wednesday wearing a sweatshirt emblazoned with the phrase ‘Camp Auschwitz’ has been identified as Robert Keith Packer of Virginia, according to three sources. ... One Virginia resident, who spoke to CNN on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, described Packer as a long-time extremist who has had run-ins with the law.”

The New York Times (1/8, Eddy, 20.6M) reports on how the image from the day of “a bearded man wearing a black hoodie emblazoned with ‘Camp Auschwitz’” has had “particular resonance as anti-Semitism and far-right nationalism are on the rise worldwide. And for people who survived the Nazi death camp...there was added pain with the realization that later generations may not have learned the lessons of the Holocaust.”

**FBI Seeks Information On Capital Rioters.** The Hill (1/8, 9.69M) reports, “The FBI has put up what appear to be electronic posters in Washington, D.C., seeking information on anyone who participated in the Capitol breach on Wednesday.” The Hill adds, “Photos of bus stops shared by journalists on social media say, ‘Seeking Information’ and include pictures of some of rioters inside the U.S. Capitol. The posters also share a phone number to contact the FBI’s Washington, D.C., office. ‘DC bus stops now feature signs posted by the FBI seeking information about participants in the Capitol insurrection,’ CNN reporter Jim Acosta tweeted along with a photo of a poster taken at night.”
As part of the ongoing investigation to identify key perpetrators, the FBI shared a message online appealing for information on individuals who participated and instigated the violence. "We are accepting tips and digital media depicting rioting or violence in and around the U.S. Capitol on January 6," said the official Twitter account for the FBI. BuzzFeed News adds, "The callout for support was met with collective indignation, which quickly turned to trolling. Several people online pointed to the numerous social media posts, interviews, and open planning that had gone toward Wednesday's attack. It was suggested that there were more qualified figures who were up to the task."

As a riotous mob of Trump supporters filled the U.S. Capitol building Wednesday, many left plasma digital footprints federal law enforcement agencies can easily use to track them down and charge them. The FBI "has some of the most powerful facial recognition systems in the country, according to outside experts," and "because few arrests were made during the deadly unrest, law enforcement officials will now have to depend on that technology to spread up the process of tracking apparent criminals through the many videos, images and other digital "fingerprints" they left behind. Paired with the reams of open source information, the FBI has the technology to easily identify possible criminals, rather than having to manually connect the dots, a former FBI official told FedScoop. "For most people [that were] there, it is not going to be very hard to ID them," the official said.

FBI: No Evidence Of Antifa Participation In Siege. The AP (1/10, Biesecker, Kunzelman, Flaccus, Mustian) reports, "The insurrectionist mob that showed up at the president’s behest and stormed the U.S. Capitol was overwhelmingly made up of longtime Trump supporters, including Republican Party officials, GOP political donors, far-right militants, white supremacists, and adherents of the QAnon myth that the government is secretly controlled by a cabal of Satan-worshiping pedophile cannibals." The AP "reviewed social media posts, voter registrations, court files and other public records for more than 120 people either facing criminal charges related to the Jan. 6 unrest or who, going maskless amid the pandemic, were later identified through photographs and videos taken during the melee. Steven D’Antuono, "the assistant director in charge of the FBI’s Washington field office, told reporters that investigators had seen ‘no indication’ antifa activists were disguised as Trump supporters in Wednesday’s riot."

NBC News (1/8, 4.91M) reports, "Despite suggestions from conservative pundits and some Republican members of Congress, there is no evidence that anti-fascist activists were involved in the pro-Trump Capitol riots," D’Antuono "said on a call with reporters Friday. ‘We have no indication of that, at this time,’ D’Antuono said when asked whether antifa activists had disguised themselves as Trump supporters in an effort to frame them for the violent riots in which five people died, including Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick."

The Washington Post (1/8, Usero, 10.52M) reports, "To date, no evidence supports the claim that individuals with antifa connections formed part of the riots that took place on Capitol grounds. The FBI has said it does not believe antifa or any of its associates are responsible for the violence unleashed. Wednesday’s events were widely documented, via videos, tweets and live-streams from reporters already covering the day’s events. Video and photos confirm that many of the rioters were supporters, and individuals with right-wing and extremist beliefs. The usual antifa tactics such as wearing masks and face coverings to avoid detection were uncommon among rioters, making identification process an easier task."

The Washington Times (1/8, Mordock, 626K) reports that the FBI’s announcement “debunks claims pushed forward by some right-wing pundits and politicians that the anarchist movement’s supporters were part of the angry mob that stormed the Capitol.” D’Antuono’s statement “supports comments made Thursday by Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Michael Sherwin. Mr. Sherwin said he also saw no evidence Antifa was involved in the riot.”

The New York Times (1/8, Alba, 20.6M) reports, "Since Wednesday, far-right activists and allies of the president have made the claim, often while presenting easily disproved evidence, that the rioters were made up of antifa supporters, not backers of President Trump. Among those pushing the falsehood were Representative Matt Gaetz, a Florida Republican, who said while objecting to the electoral votes for Mr. Biden that people in the mob were ‘in fact members of the violent terrorist group antifa.’ Ken Paxton, the attorney general of Texas, also said antifa was involved. The Times adds, ‘an analysis by the media insights company Zignal Labs found that the unfounded rumor had been mentioned 411,099 times across cable television, social media, and in print and online news outlets on Wednesday and Thursday. It was by far the most widely shared false or misleading claim about the Capitol Hill mob, Zignal said.’"

BuzzFeed News (1/8, Silverman) reports, "Speaking in the House Wednesday night after the attempted coup, Gaetz cited a Washington Times article that claimed a facial recognition company had identified two antifa members among the crowd at the Capitol. That story was removed by the outlet after BuzzFeed News reported that the facial recognition company said it was ‘outright false.’ The paper later published a corrected version that acknowledged the firm had identified ‘neo-Nazis and other extremists’ – not antifa members."

Some Extremist Groups Pleased By Chaotic Siege. Reuters (1/8, Hesselon, Parker, Cooke, Harte) reports, "As the nation recoiled in horror at scenes of rioting and chaos in the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, some right-wing and anti-
government extremists saw the violence as the fulfillment of a patriotic duty or opportunity to advance their agenda. Among the inspired was Mike Dunn, a 20-year-old follower of the ‘boogaloo’ anti-government movement, whose adherents anticipate a revolution toppling the federal government or a second U.S. civil war. Dunn, who lives in Virginia, said three or four groups of loyalists under his command helped storm the Capitol this week amid a motley mix of rioters who supported President Donald Trump’s attempts to overturn the results of the November presidential election. While most ‘boogaloo’ are libertarians who largely oppose Trump, Dunn said the group embraced the moment to strike against the government.

The Washington Times (1/8, Blake, 626K) says Proud Boys Chairman Henry “Enrique” Tarrio on Thursday promised to raise money and secure legal representation for “supporters of...Trump facing charges for storming the Capitol building during the deadly insurrection the day before.” In addition, Reuters (1/8, Hesson, Parker, Cooke, Harte) reports Tarrio “would not broadly denounce people who entered the Capitol building during riots a day earlier, calling it a form of protest.” Reuters says that even as “most Americans recoiled in horror at scenes of rioting and chaos in the U.S. Capitol,” some right-wing and anti-government extremists “saw the violence as the fulfillment of a patriotic duty or opportunity to advance their agenda.”

On NBC’s Today (1/8, 2.86M), Gabe Gutierrez said, “Wednesday’s storming of the Capitol by Trump supporters included many followers of conspiracy theory groups like QAnon. Now there are growing concerns about the President’s connections to these groups and their plans to continue inciting chaos in the wake of his election defeat.” According to Gutierrez, “QAnon is a far-right extremist group that among other outlandish things believed Democrats are running a satanic pedophile ring out of a DC pizza parlor.”

“Internet Sleuths” Identifying “Pro-Trump Rioters.” The Washington Post (1/8, Peiser, 10.52M) reports that since “pro-Trump rioters” stormed the Capitol on Wednesday without masks, “Internet sleuths” have “had a unique opportunity to easily identify them. And many made it even easier – they live-streamed their participation and later bragged about their escapades.” According to the Post, an “untold” number of Twitter users and Instagram accounts are “feverishly working...to ID and name the participants who stormed down the halls of the Capitol, ransacking lawmakers’ offices and occupying the House Chamber.”

The Washington Post (1/8, Timberg, Harwell, Hsu, 10.52M) also reports federal officials “looking to prosecute the mob of Trump supporters who overran the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday to get powerful help from cellphone records, facial recognition tools and other technologies to assist in the identification of anyone who was there that day.” The Post highlights that the Capitol “has a vast cellular and wireless data infrastructure of its own to make communications efficient in a building made largely of stone and that extends deep underground and has pockets of shielded areas,” and as such “phone records make determining the owners of these devices trivially easy.”

The Washington Post (1/10, Klemko, 10.52M) reports, “Before a mob of Trump supporters staged a riot in the U.S. Capitol and thousands of Americans became amateur detectives working to identify the culprits, a loosely connected group of seasoned online sleuths were ringing alarm bells and picking off extremists online, one by one.” The Post adds, “For a nationwide network of left-wing activists who seek out and publish the identities of those they believe to be violent ‘fascists,’ some investigations can take months, years even. Or it can take 10 minutes,” and “that’s how much time Molly Conger spent on her laptop last month searching for the man who used the right-wing social media site Parler to share that he was a police officer and pledge support to a member of the Proud Boys extremist group, advocating violence against Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. Turns out the man was a Prince William County sheriff’s deputy.”

More Coverage. The Washington Post (1/10, 10.52M) runs a feature titled “The Capitol Mob: A Raging Collection Of Grievances And Disillusionment” about some of those involved in the riot and their motivations.

FBI Offers $50K Reward For Information On DC Pipe Bombs. Reuters (1/8) reported, “The FBI is offering a reward of up to $50,000 for information on the individuals responsible for placing pipe bombs in the committee headquarters of the key U.S. political parties in the capital, the agency said.” CBS News (1/8, Siese, 5.39M) reports the FBI “released photos via social media of what appears to be someone in a gray hooded jacket, black gloves, and black pants, clutching an object in one hand.” McClatchy (1/8, Kenney, 29K) reports, “Authorities didn’t say how the person in the photo is connected to the pipe bomb incidents.”

Also reporting are CNN (1/8, Walton, 89.21M) and the Daily Caller (1/8, Nieto, 375K).

Pipe Bombs At RNC, DNC Headquarters Had Timers, Official Says. The New York Times (1/8, Ismay, 20.6M) reports the pipe bombs “found on Wednesday afternoon outside the Democratic and Republican party headquarters, blocks from the Capitol, contained crude mechanical timing devices, according to an official familiar with their initial examination, suggesting they were intended to be detonated.” However, the Times adds it “was not clear when they were meant to explode, but thousands of people were in the area that afternoon as a mob encouraged by...Trump stormed the Capitol, where lawmakers had convened to certify...Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s election, leaving five people dead. It was also not clear whether the bombs were connected to the siege.”
The Washington Examiner (1/8, Giaritelli, 888K) reported, "The bombs were each about 12 inches long by an inch and a half wide." The devices were "made with a battery, steel wool, and an unknown explosive powder. One of them was found with a cellphone that may have been meant to detonate it."

Schumer Urges FBI To Be Vigilant Of Further Threats Of Violence. Newsday (NY) (1/10, Coburn, Hernandez, 776K) reports, "Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) on Sunday expressed concern more political violence could follow the mob attack Wednesday on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., by supporters of President Donald Trump." Schumer "said he pressed" FBI Director Wray "in a conversation Saturday to track down those involved in Wednesday's siege on Congress, in which five people died, and to be on the alert for further violence. The threat of violent extremist groups remains high and the next few weeks are critical in our democratic process," Schumer said in a statement, noting President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated Jan. 20. "Given that the same incendiary, dangerous rhetoric online that occurred before January 6, which proved to be a warning of the insurrectionist attack, has only escalated since, I impressed upon Director Wray the vitals of the FBI to work with other federal and state agencies to remain highly proactive and extremely vigilant to defend our democracy."

Trump Supporters Reportedly Planning More Unrest For Jan. 16-20. The Washington Post (1/9, Timberg, Harwell, Lang, 10.52M) reports the planning "for Wednesday's assault on the U.S. Capitol happened largely in plain view, with chatter in far-right forums explicitly discussing how to storm the building, handcuff lawmakers with zip ties and disrupt the certification of Joe Biden's election -- in what they portrayed as responding to orders from President Trump," and Twitter on Friday "said it was particularly concerned about contributing to a possible 'secondary attack' on the U.S. Capitol and state government facilities the weekend of Jan. 16-17." According to the Post, "Concerns about more violent incidents appear to be well-founded."

In a more than 2,200-word front-page article, the Washington Post (1/9, A1, Miller, Jaffe, Nakhlawi, 10.52M) says "the temporary seizure of a global seat of power was, at its core, an outgrowth of delusional and destructive forces cultivated online and unleashed by the president." In a nearly 3,100-word front-page article, the New York Times (1/9, A1, Barry, McIntire, Rosenberg, 20.6M) casts the unsuccessful "insurrection" as "the culmination of a sustained assault by the president and his enablers on fact-based reality, one that began long before the November election but took on a fevered urgency as the certainty of Mr. Trump's defeat solidified." A Wall Street Journal (1/8, Ballhaus, Palazzolo, Restuccia, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) article headlined "Trump And His Allies Set The Stage For Riot Well Before January 6" provides similar coverage, while an AP (1/9, Woodward, Riechmann) analysis states that the occupation of the Capitol came as "no surprise" as Trump "left many clues he wouldn't go quietly."

In his Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) column, David Von Drehle also asserted that "a collection of distortions, delusions and outright lies galvanized a mob of thousands to storm the Capitol in a brief but deadly insurrection." Von Drehle added, "This unprecedented event was fomented inside a digitally networked community in which extraordinary claims are widely accepted on the basis of the wispiest nonsense."

DC Mayor Calls For Immediate Increase In Pre-Inaugural Security. The New York Times (1/10, Feuer, 20.6M) reports that in the wake of Wednesday's violence, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) "issued an urgent appeal to start preparing immediately for more potential violence before, during and after" next week's presidential inauguration. Bowser called on DHS "to move up to Monday the implementation of heightened security measures that are otherwise set to begin on Jan. 19." Bowser told CBS' Face The Nation (1/10, 2.91M), "Given the events of last week, that this inauguration preparation has to be different than any other inauguration with only 10 days to go."

Kenneth Moton said on ABC World News Tonight (1/10, story 2, 3:00, Llamas, 4.76M) that "a senior official tells ABC News there's a very serious national security concern for more domestic terrorism for the inauguration, possibly bringing extensive violence." The Wall Street Journal (1/10, Levy, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports law enforcement agencies are preparing for more marches by Trump supporters in Washington and elsewhere. The Seattle Times (1/10, 1.19M) reports Trump supporters rallied in Olympia, Washington, on Sunday under heavy security.

Experts Caution Rioters To Assume More Hostile Position On Police. The Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) reports that in a "crowd where some carried flags bearing a thin blue line — a pro-police symbol that critics claim also stands for white supremacy and opposition to the Black Lives Matter movement — and shirts adorned with 'Blue Lives Matter,' a tide of anger and frustration rose as officers pushed them back" from the Capitol, and "nearly three hours after the building was breached, police cleared the grounds and used batons and chemical munitions to confront the mob." The Post adds "some promised to return with
weapons, ready to fight if necessary,” while one man “repeatedly announced he would be back with his rifle for the inauguration of...Biden.” According to the Post, “Police experts worry this souring sentiment may lead to more violence in the months ahead.”

**Pelosi Says Trump’s Supporters Who Stormed Capitol Chose Their “Whiteness” Over Democracy.** The Hill (1/9, Williams, 5.69M) reports House Speaker Pelosi “said Saturday that the rioters who took part in the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday chose their ‘whiteness over democracy.’” The Hill adds her remark “came after Pelosi acknowledged the number of people who died of COVID-19 on Wednesday and Thursday, both of which were records for single-day coronavirus deaths in the United States.”

However, Brent Staples, a member of the New York Times editorial board, writes at the New York Times (1/9, 20.6M) that US history “is rife with episodes of political violence far bloodier and more destructive than the one... Trump incited at the Capitol,” and remarks by public officials and commentators to “tell the country again and again that the carnage was an aberration and ‘not who we are’ as a people,” are “dangerous on a variety of counts. For starters, it allowed many Americans to view the president’s insistence that he had won an election in which he was actually trounced, and his simultaneous embrace of right-wing extremism, as political theater that will pass uneventfully from the stage when...Biden is inaugurated.” He concludes, “The mob assault on the Capitol was an outgrowth of what came before.”

**FBI Probing Whether Some Rioters Intended Harm To Legislators.** The Washington Post (1/8, Barrett, Hsu, Zapotosky, 10.52M) reports, “FBI agents are trying to determine whether some who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday intended to do more than cause havoc and disrupt the certification of President-elect Joe Biden’s victory, and are sifting through evidence to see whether anyone wanted to kill or capture lawmakers or their staffers, according to people familiar with the investigation.” The Post adds that “investigators also are working to determine the motivations and larger goals, if any, of those who had weapons or other gear suggesting they planned to do physical harm. Some rioters, for instance, were photographed carrying zip ties, a plastic version of handcuffs, and one man was arrested allegedly carrying a pistol on the Capitol grounds. ‘We’re not looking at this as a grand conspiracy, but we are interested in learning what people would do with things like zip ties,’ said a law enforcement official, who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the investigation.”

The New York Times (1/9, Levenson, 20.6M) reports, “A man who had an assault rifle was charged with threatening Nancy Pelosi, the House speaker, after he traveled to Washington for the pro-Trump rally on Wednesday and sent a text message saying he would put ‘a bullet in her noggin on Live TV,’ the federal authorities said.” The Times adds, “Federal agents said the man, Cleveland Grover Meredith Jr., had been staying at a Holiday Inn in Washington and had weapons in his camper-style trailer, including a Glock handgun, a pistol, a Tavor X95 assault rifle and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. Meredith was charged with transmitting a threat in interstate commerce, possession of an unregistered firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition, according to court records.”

NBC Nightly News (1/10, story 2, 2:25, Snow, 3.76M) reported that “at least two more allegedly involved in the attack on the Capitol were arrested” on Sunday. NBC’s Ron Allen said Larry Randy Gavelek Brock of Texas and Eric Gavelek Munchel of Tennessee are “both charged with violently entering the Capitol and disorderly conduct.”

The Washington Post (1/10, Hsu, 10.52M) reports that Brock, “a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, was arrested in Texas and charged with one count of knowingly entering a restricted building and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct, prosecutors said. Brock identified himself to the New Yorker last week as the man photographed in the well of the Senate chamber wearing a green combat helmet, tactical vest, and black and camo jacket. The photo shows the man holding a white flex cuff, used by law enforcement to restrain and/or detain subjects.”

USA Today (1/10, Connolly, Macareeg, Stephenson, Dorman, Wegen, 12.7M) reports, “Munchel, 30, was being held in a Nashville jail Sunday on a federal warrant, online records show. An FBI spokesperson, Samantha Shero, confirmed the arrest. The federal prosecutor’s office in Washington is handling the case. Photos depicting his presence show a person who appears to be Munchel carrying plastic restraints, an item in a holster on his right hip, and a cell phone mounted on his chest with the camera facing outward, ostensibly to record events that day, the office said in a news release.”

The New York Times (1/10, Goldman, Benner, 20.6M) reports the Justice Department “said that photographs of a person who appeared to be Mr. Munchel showed him carrying plastic restraints, an item in a holster on his right hip, and a cell phone mounted on his chest with the camera facing outward, ostensibly to record events that day.” DOJ said images of a person who appeared to be Brock showed him “clad in a green helmet, green tactical vest with patches, black and camo jacket, and beige pants holding a white flex cuff, which is used by law enforcement to restrain and/or detain subjects.” The Dallas Morning News (1/10, 772K) reports Brock, “a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, confirmed to The New Yorker magazine that he was involved in Wednesday’s breach of the Capitol.” The CRS Weekend News (1/10, story 2, 1:45, Duncan, 13.72M) also covers the arrests.

HuffPost (1/10, 353K) reports, “Official’s also arrested” Brock, “who lives in Texas, saying he appeared to be holding a white flex cuff, which is used by law enforcement to restrain and/or detain subjects.” The FBI “also said the photos of...
him appeared to show 'an item in a holster on his right hip, and a cell phone mounted on his chest with the camera facing outward, ostensibly to record events that day.' Both men are charged with one count of knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or ground without lawful authority, and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds."

ABC News reports, "Federal agents and detectives from the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department have launched a broad and multipart investigation into the mayhem and death Wednesday at the United States Capitol, that sources tell ABC News includes an effort to determine the motives of a paramilitary faction of the mob that invaded the heart of American government. 'We're talking about a very complex investigation,' said Robert Byce, a 35-year veteran and former chief of detectives of the NYPD. That effort involves scanning volumes of social media posts, reviewing hours of security camera footage, and combing through mountains of cellphone data to determine exactly what occurred, investigators told ABC News."

Daily Beast: Lengthy Process To Determine If Booby Traps Were Left Behind. The Daily Beast (1/8, Shannon, 333K) reports that "there are innumerable potential hiding places" in the Capitol "for lethal devices that can be activated later, by a remote trigger such as a cell phone, or by a vibration-sensitive device like the one that sets off a car alarm when a vehicle rumbles by or honks. Or somebody could have stuck a handgun inside a vase or hollow lamp or behind a toilet, à la Michael Corleone's first hit, intending to return later as a tourist, reclaim the gun and assassinate some lawmaker. To clear a 15-by-15 foot office, would take four bomb techs all day,' Dave Williams, a former FBI bomb tech who investigated the Oklahoma City bombing, the World Trade Center bombing and other attacks, told SpyTalk. 'They'd have to look under carpets, at all the fire alarms, light switches, lamps, even light bulbs. A light bulb can be modified so when you turn it on, it explodes. If you have a five-drawer file cabinet, each drawer should be opened remotely.'"

FBI Warned Capitol Police Of Possibility Of Violence Before Riot. NBC News (1/10, Dilanian, 4.91M) reports, "The FBI and the New York City Police Department passed information to U.S. Capitol Police about the possibility of violence during the protests Wednesday against the counting of the Electoral College vote, and the FBI even visited more than a dozen extremists already under investigation to urge them not to travel to Washington, senior law enforcement officials said." NBC News adds, "The previously unreported details undercut the assertion by a top FBI official that officials had no indication that violence was a possibility, and they add to questions about what intelligence authorities had reviewed before the Capitol riot, which led to the death of an officer and four other people, including a rioter who was shot and killed by police. 'Social media is just part of a full intelligence picture, and while there was First Amendment-protected activity on social media to include some people making threats, to this point, investigators have not found that there was an organized plot to access the Capitol,' a senior FBI official said."

The AP (1/10, Long, Balsamo, Mascaro) reports, "Despite ample warnings about pro-Trump demonstrations in Washington, D.C., Capitol Police did not bolster staffing on Wednesday and made no preparations for the possibility that the planned protests could escalate into massive violent riots, according to several people briefed on law enforcement's response." According to the AP, "The revelations shed new light on why Capitol Police were so quickly overrun by rioters. The department had the same number of officers in place as on a routine day. While some of those officers were outfitted with equipment for a protest, they were not staffed or equipped for a riot. 'They were left naked,' Re. Maxine Waters, D-California, said of the police in an interview with AP. She had raised security concerns in a Dec. 28 meeting of House Democrats and grilled Steven Sund, the Capitol Police chief, during an hourlong private call on New Year's Eve. 'It turns out it was the worst kind of non-security anybody could ever imagine.'"

The Los Angeles Times (1/8, Zou, 3.37M) reports, "Officers at a U.S. Capitol perimeter fence tried to hold their line but failed as intruders overturned the barrier. Officers at another gate, seemingly overwhelmed, appeared to walk off as the intruders passed by. Another lone officer tried to hold back an advancing group before fleeing through the halls of Congress. In many cases, the officers were in normal uniform. NOWHERE were there the skirmish lines of officers in riot gear seen during other recent events, including Black Lives Matter protests." The Times adds, "The stunning collapse of national security left many of the nation's leaders cowering behind benches and fearing for their lives," but "by Thursday, much of their shock had been supplanted by anger — with leading lawmakers demanding resignations from the Capitol's top security officials and calling for broad investigations into the array of tactical failures under their watch."

The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Calvert, Youssef, Gurman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that uneven communications between local and federal agencies hindered a forceful response to the riot.

Pete Williams reported on NBC Nightly News (1/10, story 3, 1:10, Snow, 3.76M) that the New York Police Department "notified the US Capitol Police about the possibility of violence during last week's electoral vote count. Law enforcement officials say the NYPD's intelligence unit sent a packet of information to police agencies nationwide describing the violent rhetoric and the threats of social media, with a separate report sent directly to Capitol Police. And a senior FBI official says agents contacted
more than a dozen suspected extremists. These are people who were already under FBI surveillance, and who indicated a desire to come to Washington last week. These disclosures add to the questions about why the Capitol Police were not better prepared when the rioters stormed in, and why there wasn't a greater sense of urgency throughout the federal government about the possibility that the Capitol was a target." The Washington Post (1/10, Tan, 10.52M) reports "embattled" Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund "stepped down from his post on Friday, days earlier than he said he would." On Thursday, Sund said his resignation would be effective January 16.

USA Today (1/10, Bohan, Fritze, Brook, 12.7M) reports Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) "said Sunday it took nearly two hours for the Pentagon to give authorization for his state to send its National Guard into Washington to help protect the U.S. Capitol as it came under attack." Hogan said on CNN's State Of The Union (1/10, 1.21M), "Our Guard mobilized and was ready, but we couldn't actually cross over the border into DC without the okay. And that was quite some time. ... I can't speak as to what was going on the other end of the line back at the Pentagon or in the White House. ... All I know is that we were trying to get answers and we weren't getting answers.*

Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) on MSNBC's Politics Nation (1/10, 825K) said, "One thing that I think is particularly striking is the low number of arrests. Here you have videos of folks engaged in criminal behavior, and the number of arrests is very small. That's unacceptable." Peters added, "We have to send a strong signal to those folks who were engaged in this action, that they will be sought out, they will be punished, and anyone else who tries to do this in the future is going to certainly face a very different result than what we saw this last week."

Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA) on MSNBC's Politics Nation (1/10, 825K) said, "Had it not been for the gunshot of the one shot fired by that plainclothes officer in the Speaker's Lobby right behind the House gallery, right there, if those people had been able to get through, they would have had us who were in the gallery up on the third floor trapped...and I have no doubt some of us who look like me would have been hanging from the railings of the third floor onto the House floor swinging like fruit."

Lawmakers Investigating Police Preparation Ahead Of Capitol Occupation. Reuters (1/8, Cornell, So, Berens, Januta, Tanfani) reports that following "the historic security breach of the iconic domed building that houses the U.S. House and Senate, lawmakers told harrowing tales of their escapes from grave danger in the deadly mob assault that many say was incited by Trump," and "several told Reuters that top Capitol security officials had assured them they would be safe ahead of the planned protests and that everything was under control." In interviews with Reuters "and in public statements, lawmakers fumed over the failure of the Capitol Police — a 2,000-member force dedicated to guarding the Capitol Grounds — and other agencies. The Hill (1/8, Marcos, 5.69M) reports Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), the chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees Capitol Police funding, "said Friday he's asked the police chief to provide all communications during the pro-Trump riots that unfolded this week and will investigate whether any officers assisted rioters."

Meanwhile, Bloomberg (1/8, A1, Holder, Flatow, 3.57M) interviewed several current and former police leaders about "the logistics of how preparation for a major rally or protest typically works — and why Wednesday's preparation was such a dismaying contrast to typical practice." In a nearly 2,000-word article, Politico (1/8, 6.73M) says "the successful storming of the U.S. Capitol by pro-Trump rioters...represents perhaps the greatest policing failure in American history." According to Politico, "Minute by minute, individual officers sometimes acted bravely, but hour by hour, Wednesday's events demonstrated a top-to-bottom failure by a key federal law-enforcement agency. The crisis can't even be called a failure of imagination, as 9/11 is sometimes seen, because in many ways the idea that the pro-Trump mob might march on the Capitol to disrupt the proceedings inside seemed all but obvious. Nor was this an incident that just slipped under the radar. The joint session inside was the single biggest news event in the United States that day, and the rioters had been planning disruptive protest for weeks, in the open."

The Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) says in an editorial, "Top law enforcement officials and key members of Congress have said plainly what Americans could see — that the events Wednesday were enabled by a failure of law enforcement and a collapse of security." The Post adds, "To prevent another such failure, on Inauguration Day and subsequently, there must be a robust investigation of the causes for evident shortcomings in leadership, planning, intelligence, cooperation and tactics." The Post calls for the implementation of long-term security measures, concluding the Capitol building "must remain the people's house — but one that is secure from insurrection."

McCarthy Says National Guard Could Be Permitted To Carry Guns In DC Ahead Of Inauguration. Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy on Friday told the AP (1/8, Saldor) that Defense Department officials "are reviewing restrictions on the use of force by National Guard members and could allow troops to carry batons or guns in Washington, D.C., as they brace for more protests and possible violence around the Jan. 20 inaugural." In particular, McCarthy "told The AP...that any changes will be determined by the intelligence gathered in the coming days about potential threats. But he said they are looking at allowing troops to carry their M-4 rifles or 9 mm Berettas, and he will know more in a day or two."

Pentagon Officials: Quick-Reaction Force Was Not Deployed When Capitol Was Stormed Due To Lack Of Planning. The Washington Post (1/9, 10.52M) reports, "A small quick-reaction force assembled by the Defense Department to
assist if needed during protests in Washington on Wednesday did not immediately respond when a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol because of a lack of a prior planning with Capitol Police over how it might be deployed, Pentagon officials said. A "timeline of events that the Pentagon released Friday night" indicates that the force was at "Joint Base Andrews in Maryland and authorized for use by acting defense secretary Christopher C. Miller if additional support is requested by civil authorities." The Post adds, "But a senior defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said the Defense Department and Capitol Police hadn't reached an agreement or settled on a concept of operation ahead of time."

Meanwhile, a nearly 3,700-word front-page Washington Post (1/9, A1, Demirjian, Leonnig, Kane, Davis, 10.52M) article chronicles how Capitol police "lost control" of the situation even though Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund had previously "assured members of Congress that his force of 2,000 officers could handle the large expected crowds, according to multiple people who spoke with Sund in the days leading up to the siege."

However, the Los Angeles Times (1/9, 3.37M) reports the attack on the US Capitol "has spurred congressional leaders to demand a 'robust' inquiry into the 'mind-boggling' failure of national security," but they don't have to "look far for accountability. Congress itself is both client and overseer of the U.S. Capitol Police — a secretive agency whose procedures and actions have been kept under wraps for decades by lawmakers themselves." Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs Executive Director Jonathan Smith said, "The Capitol Police is uniquely opaque, even among federal law enforcement." The Times adds that not much is known regarding "how the Capitol Police operate." Congress "has exempted the agency from the Freedom of Information Act, preventing the public from requesting records — unlike with other agencies, such as the FBI."

House Democrats Bring Up Possibility Capitol Rioters Received Internal Aid. Politico (1/8, Cheney, Ferris, Barron-Lopez, 6.73M) reports more House Democrats "say they're concerned that tactical decisions by some Capitol Police officers worsened Wednesday's riots and have raised the possibility that the pro-Trump mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol might have had outside help." Videos have come to light "showing a small number of officers pulling down barricades for the rioters and, in another instance, stopping for a photo with one of them." Politico adds, "Some of those incidents were raised on a 3.5-hour caucus call by House Democrats on Friday, demanding an investigation not only into the decisions by the Capitol Police leadership but by some rank-and-file officers caught on camera." However, the legislators additionally brought up "general concerns that the rioters had some sort of outside help not necessarily attributable to the Capitol's police corps." Rep. Steve Horsford (D-SC) "told his colleagues he thought the riots were 'an inside job,' according to two lawmakers on the call."

Statehouses Nationwide Heighten Security After US Capitol "Overspill." According to the AP (1/8, Lieb), "The insurrection by supporters of...Trump at the U.S. Capitol this week has prompted governors and lawmakers in several states to heighten security at their own capitol buildings as they gather amid a pandemic for legislative sessions and inaugural ceremonies." The AP reports that state legislatures are concerned that if "the U.S. Capitol — a shining symbol of democracy with a dedicated police force — can be overrun by a violent mob, could state capitols be next?"

Armed Protestors Used Michigan State Capitol Siege Like A Dry Run For Wednesday Attack. The New York Times (1/9, Gray, 20.9M) says protestors with guns rushed Michigan's State Capitol in April and "demanded entry into the House of Representatives' chamber, chanting 'Let Us In.'" Some of the protestors, "wearing camouflage fatigues with semiautomatic rifles slung over their shoulders, watched ominously from the gallery above the Senate chamber as the elected officials did their work." On Wednesday, as the US Capitol was breached, Michigan State Sen. Sylvia Santana (D) said, "Michigan was the precursor for what happened." A Washington Post (1/9, 10.52M) article headlined "After Trial Runs At Statehouses Last Year, The Far-right's Violent Tactics Erupted At The Capitol" provides similar coverage.

More Commentary. In a piece for MSNBC (1/9, 8.11M), Frank Figliuzzi, who was the assistant director for counterintelligence at the FBI, writes, "In the aftermath of the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 7, there will be resignations, hearings and inquiries at the Capitol Police department, the respective House and Senate sergeant-at-arms offices, and other law enforcement or military entities. The warning signs and intelligence were there — they were just ignored. But let's be clear — what happened to our democracy that day was not an intelligence failure; it was a failure to act upon available intelligence." Figliuzzi adds, "The lights are blinking red, and they will continue to signal our vulnerability for the final two weeks of this leaderless administration. Our adversaries are watching. Whether or not they act on the available intelligence depends on our capacity to see what they see: a soft target that needs to secure far more than the building on Capitol Hill."

In a piece for USA Today (1/8, 12.7M), Todd Gitlin writes, "For months, supporters of President Donald Trump have mounted acts and threats of violent insurrection against federal and state governments. In September, FBI and Homeland Security officials warned a Senate committee of the "high lethality" of white supremacist groups." Gitlin adds, "Insurrectionary activity has taken place nationwide. Congress must quickly convene an investigative commission to get answers to questions including...which officials in the FBI, Homeland Security, and other agencies were aware of violent preparations in the run-up to the congressional vote yesterday to count and affirm the states' election results," and "which white supremacist groups were under surveillance after the FBI and Homeland Security warned of "high lethality.""
rioters on Wednesday represents perhaps the greatest policing failure in American history, a catastrophic collapse that may well end up costing one Capitol Police officer his life and the entire security leadership of the Capitol their jobs.” Politico adds, “With both houses of Congress in a crucial joint session, the crowds that first approached the Capitol’s outer fence were no larger than the department deals with routinely. Yet within minutes, the outer fence lines had collapsed and officers were in full-blown retreat.” Graff adds, “Through the afternoon Wednesday and through Thursday, current and former major city police chiefs traded puzzled and worried calls, all amazed at the assault on – and stunningly easy fall of – one of the world’s supposedly most secure buildings.”

**US Officials Reportedly Open Murder Probe Into Death Of Capitol Police Officer.** The AP (1/8, Mascaro, Daly) reports Capitol Police Officer Brian D. Sicknick “has died from injuries suffered as President Donald Trump’s supporters stormed the Capitol.” The US Capitol Police “said in a statement that...Sicknick was injured ‘while physically engaging with protesters’ during the Wednesday riot,” making him “the fifth person to die because of the Capitol protest and violence.” Sicknick’s family released a statement reading: “Many details regarding Wednesday’s events and the direct causes of Brian’s injuries remain unknown, and our family asks the public and the press to respect our wishes in not making Brian’s passing a political issue.” On CBS This Morning (1/8, 2.37M), Jeff Pegues said Sicknick, was “a 12-year veteran who served in the first responders unit.”

Reuters (1/8, Singh, Heavey, Holland) reports a law enforcement official told CNN that federal prosecutors "are opening a murder investigation" into Sicknick’s death. On the CBS Evening News (1/8, story 4, 2:11, O’Donnell, 4.08M), Jeff Pegues said investigators are "still at the beginning of this investigation, but, obviously, they’re going to use cell phone data and video from inside the Capitol to try to get the person or persons...responsible.” On ABC’s Good Morning America (1/8, 3.14M), Pierre Thomas said police “want to know if he was assaulted and if that mob played a role in his death. Was it murder?”

The New York Times (1/8, Santora, Specia, 20.6M) reports that “it was unclear where Mr. Sicknick’s encounter with the rioters took place, but photos and a video posted by a local reporter during the night of chaos showed a man spraying a fire extinguisher outside the Senate chamber, with a small number of police officers overlooking the area on a nearby stairway.” Reuters (1/8, Lynch, Brice) has more on the investigation into Sicknick’s death.

A front-page Washington Post (1/8, A1, Hermann, Weiner, Helm, Jackman, 10.52M) article reports a White House spokesman "said Trump and his administration extend our prayers to Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick’s family as we all grieve the loss of this American hero," while House Speaker Pelosi "ordered flags at the U.S. Capitol be flown at half-staff,” and "Thursday night, officers lined up in front of the Capitol in silence to honor their fallen colleague.” On the lead ABC World News Tonight (1/8, lead story, 4.22, Muir, 6.95M) segment, Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl said Vice President Pence “offered his condolences, and the White House put out a statement from a deputy press secretary, but nothing from the President himself. Trump, more isolated than ever, remained behind closed doors at the White House today, amidst growing calls for him to resign.” Meanwhile, Reuters (1/8, Hunnicutt) reports Joe Biden on Friday “expressed sympathy to the family of the U.S. Capitol Police officer killed in Wednesday's invasion of Congress by pro-Trump supporters, and said those responsible would be held accountable.” Biden said, "The people responsible should be held accountable, and they will be.”

Bloomberg (1/8, Natter, Laing, 3.57M) reports that aside from Sicknick and Babbitt, three others "died Wednesday when thousands of pro-Trump supporters forced their way into the U.S. Capitol in Washington, smashing windows and ransacking offices.” Meanwhile, a front-page Washington Post (1/9, A1, Jamison, Natanson, Woodrow Cox, Horton, 10.52M) article chronicles “Babbitt’s journey from capital ‘guardian’ to invader.”

**Officer Held Back Rioters For Nearly One Minute.** Reuters (1/10, Hals) reports Capitol Police officer Eugene Goodman “is being hailed for his role steering an angry mob away from the Senate chambers in Wednesday’s deadly storming” of the Capitol. Goodman can be seen in a video “getting rioters to move away from the Senate as police raced to secure the chamber.” The New York Post (1/10, Brown, 7.45M) reports analysis of the video “shows that he held them back for almost a minute – at the exact time as a half-dozen armed officers were inside the chamber desperately trying to secure it.”

**Officer Who Was On Duty Wednesday Dies In Apparent Suicide.** The New York Daily News (1/10, Sblendorio, 2.51M) reports Howard Liebengood, “a longtime officer with U.S. Capitol Police,” died Saturday while off duty “in what’s being described as an apparent suicide. Capitol Police did not reveal a cause of death for Liebengood in its announcement Sunday,” but two sources said it was suicide, and “a colleague with Capitol Police also referred to Liebengood’s death as a suicide in a Facebook post Sunday.”

CNN (1/10, 89.21M) reports on its website that President Trump “ordered that the flag flying above the White House be lowered to half-staff on Sunday to honor US Capitol Police officers Brian Sicknick and [Liebengood], who were both on duty when a mob of Trump’s supporters stormed the US Capitol on Wednesday.”
Pro-Trump Police Unions “Angry” With President Over Call For Supporters To March On Capitol. In an exclusive, the Washington Times (1/8, Mordock, 626K) reports police unions nationwide “mobilized like never before to support Mr. Trump ahead of the presidential election,” but “police unions that once blasted Mr. Biden for his tepid denunciation of rioters, say they are angry that Mr. Trump urged his supporters to march to the Capitol.”

Police Departments Nationwide Investigating If Their Officers Stormed Capitol. The New York Times (1/9, MacFarquhar, 20.6M) reports police departments nationwide have “suspended officers or referred them to internal reviews for attending the events on Jan. 6 in Washington that devolved into an assault on the U.S. Capitol.” According to the Times, “The commanding officers or officials involved in the cases in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington State stressed that while the officers attended as private citizens, the question of whether they broke the law would be investigated.”

Reuters (1/10, Caspani) reports that “police departments in Virginia and Washington state have placed officers on leave as authorities examine whether they took part in unlawful acts while off-duty.” Reuters adds, “Fire departments in Florida and New York City have also said they reported to federal authorities allegations that some of their members may have been present when the mob broke into the Capitol as Congress met to certify the results of the Nov. 3 presidential election. The police department in the small town of Rocky Mount, Virginia, said on Sunday it had placed two officers on administrative leave after it learned they attended an ‘event’ in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday while off-duty.”

The New York Post (1/9, Edelman, 7.45M) reports, “The FBI is investigating whether active or retired FDNY firefighters took part in the siege at the US Capitol, The Post has learned. The department issued a statement Saturday in response to questions about a photo posted to Twitter of a man wearing a jacket marked ‘FDNY Squad 252’ on the back, standing near the entrance to the Capitol and carrying an American flag. The department received anonymous allegations that active or retired members were present at the events at the United States Capitol on January 6 and, as required, has provided that information to the FBI,” the statement said.

Experts: Foreign Intelligence Officials Likely Entered Capitol Building. Government Matters (DC) (1/10, Haddon) reports that former ODNI National Security Policy Analyst Katrina Mulligan “said the possibility that a bad actor could have gotten into the Capitol building” during its assault last week “is more than plausible and has almost certainly occurred.” Mulligan estimates there to be “over 100,000 foreign intelligence officials believed to be living in the Washington, D.C. area.” Mulligan said last week’s events are “exactly the kind of situation that a foreign intelligence official would be seeking to exploit for these sorts of purposes.” Former Deputy Assistant DHS Secretary for Counterterrorism Policy Tom Warrick said foreign adversaries “don’t have to go after the most classified secrets — they can go after cell phones, laptops, papers left on desks as people are evacuated.”

Three Sri Lankan Nationals Charged in Federal Court With Aiding 2019 Bombings. The Los Angeles Times (1/8, Ormseth, 3.37M) reports, “Three Sri Lankan nationals were charged Friday in federal court in Los Angeles with supporting an ISIS cell that killed hundreds of people in a string of coordinated suicide bombings that shook Sri Lanka in 2019.” Mohamed Naufar, Mohamed Anwar Mohamed Riskan and Ahamed Milhan Hayathu Moahmed are “accused of conspiring to provide material support to ISIS.” Naufar and Milhan are “also charged with aiding and abetting the receipt of military training from ISIS.”

The AP (1/8) reports, “The men have no California connection but the FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force that headed the investigation is based in Los Angeles, according to the U.S. attorney’s office.” They were “being held in Sri Lanka and it wasn’t immediately clear whether they had attorneys who could speak for them.” Nick Hanna, U.S. attorney for the Central District of California, said in a statement, “This case clearly demonstrates that the United States will take decisive action to ensure terrorists face justice when they target Americans anywhere in the world. This complaint makes clear that we stand ready with these charges in the event the defendants attempt to evade justice.”

Dominion Voting Systems Sues Ex-Trump Lawyer Sidney Powell For $1.3B. USA Today (1/8, Cummings, 12.7M) reports, “Dominion Voting Systems filed a defamation lawsuit against attorney Sidney Powell over claims relating to the 2020 election. Powell has “variously implicated Dominion, deceased Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez, the CIA and Chinese communists in a plot to rig the election against Trump.” The lawsuit says, “Dominion was founded in Toronto for the purpose of creating a fully auditable paper-based vote system that would empower people with disabilities to vote independently on verifiable paper ballots.” The company “says her claims are not rooted in any factual basis but instead rely on ‘declarations from a motley crew of conspiracy theorists, con artists, armchair ‘experts,’ and anonymous sources who were...”
similar coverage. The Wall Street Journal (1/8, Corse, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Trump Faces Calls To Pardon WikiLeaks’ Assange. The New York Times (1/10, Vogel, 20.6M) reports WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange’s allies “have ramped up a push for a last-minute pardon from President Trump, enlisting a lobbyist with connections to the administration, trying to rally supporters across the political spectrum and filing a clemency petition with the White House.” However, the Times says the initiative “comes at a delicate moment for Mr. Assange and during a period of tension between the United States and Britain over a case that his supporters say has substantial implications for press freedoms.”

FBI Raids Homes, Offices Of Tennessee State Lawmakers. NBC News (1/8, 4.91M) reported, “Federal authorities raided homes and offices of several Tennessee lawmakers on Friday, including the property of former state House Speaker Glen Casada, officials said.” FBI agents searched properties with “addresses associated with Casada, fellow GOP state Reps. Robin Smith and Todd Warner and Casada’s former chief of staff, Cade Cothren, said David Boling, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Nashville.” Casada resigned from “his leadership role in summer 2019, after he admitted to sending a series of sexually inappropriate and racist text messages.”

The AP (1/8, Kruesi, Mattise) reports U.S. Attorney’s Office for Middle Tennessee spokesman David Boling “said FBI agents searched the homes and offices of state lawmakers” on Friday. The searches “included the homes of former GOP House Speaker Glen Casada and state Rep. Robin Smith,” but Boling “declined to provide any further information regarding the nature of the searches and how many lawmakrs were involved.”

WSMN-TV, Nashville, TN (1/8, Sulek, Wenzel, 230K) reports Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton said in a statement, “I have been, and I will continue to be in full cooperation with the authorities as their investigation continues. On the advice of both Ethics and Legal Counsel, I am placing everyone that was subject to the execution of today’s search warrants on administrative leave until further notice.” CBS News (1/8, 5.39M) reports Republican Governor Bill Lee “told reporters Friday that he had spoken to current House Speaker Cameron Sexton about the searches, describing them as ‘FBI raids.’”

WSMN-TV, Nashville, TN (1/8, Sulek, Wenzel, 230K) reports Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton said in a statement, “I have been, and I will continue to be in full cooperation with the authorities as their investigation continues. On the advice of both Ethics and Legal Counsel, I am placing everyone that was subject to the execution of today’s search warrants on administrative leave until further notice.” CBS News (1/8, 5.39M) reports Republican Governor Bill Lee “told reporters Friday that he had spoken to current House Speaker Cameron Sexton about the searches, describing them as ‘FBI raids.’”

The Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (1/10, 168K) reports that Tennessee legislators believe that the raids focus “could be on the controversial 2019 passage of Gov. Bill Lee’s school voucher bill.” Critics “charged at the time that various promises to fund pet projects and take other actions were extended by GOP lawmakers to pass fellow Republican Lee’s voucher bill.”

Also reporting are Tennesseean (1/10, 645K), Tennesseean (1/10, 645K), Tennesseean (1/8, 645K), and WSMN-TV, Nashville, TN (1/8, Sulek, Wenzel, 230K).

SolarWinds Taps Krebs, Stamos To Look Into Company’s Practices Following Hack. Bloomberg (1/8, Sebenius, 3.57M) reports SolarWinds “has tapped prominent security experts Chris Krebs and Alex Stamos to review its practices after suspected Russian hackers compromised the company’s software and conducted a sprawling hack across the U.S. government and private sector.” Krebs previously headed the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency “and was known for instilling confidence in the integrity of the 2020 elections until he was fired by President Donald Trump in November.” Bloomberg adds that Stamos “served as chief security officer at Facebook until 2018 and is currently director of the Stanford Internet Observatory.”

The Washington Times (1/8, Blake, 626K) reports that Stamos said, “We have already engaged in helping understand and recover from what looks to be one of the most serious foreign intrusion campaigns in history, and we will be helping others learn from this attack.” Meanwhile, Krebs “worked as Microsoft’s director for cybersecurity policy before joining CISA, a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as the agency’s first director beginning in late 2018.” The agency was “charge of securing the nation’s election infrastructure when millions of Americans voted in the recent White House race decisively won by President-elect Joseph R. Biden.”

Reporting similarly are Law360 (1/8, Subscription Publication, 9K) and TechCrunch (1/8, Whittaker, 502K).

DHS Advisory Explains How Attackers Hid In Plain Sight. CNN (1/8, Fung, 89.21M) reports that on Friday a DHS bulletin found the Russian-linked hackers behind the SolarWinds breach “gave themselves top administrative privileges, allowing them to spy on their targets with impunity.” The DHS advisory “represents the agency’s most detailed explanation yet of how the attackers were able to monitor high-value intelligence targets undetected for months,” revealing “that
investigators are increasingly focused on the attackers' use of Microsoft products to hide in plain sight. Experts and officials have said for weeks that the attackers likely abused credentials and impersonated legitimate users to conduct their spying campaign. Now CISA has confirmed that happened, describing step-by-step how the attackers hid their tracks.

Federal Cyber Group Announces SolarWinds Hack Affected Fewer Than 10 Agencies. The Washington Examiner reports that the US Cyber Unified Coordination Group (UCG) announced on Jan. 5 that it had identified fewer than 10 agencies affected by the [SolarWinds] cyberattack, though "investigators are still working to determine the scope of the damage." The group "did not list the affected agencies, but news reports have suggested the U.S. departments of Treasury, Commerce, State, Energy, and Homeland Security were victims of the attack." It said the attack originated from an advanced attacker, likely Russian in origin. UCG includes agencies such as the FBI and CISA.

Federal Courts' Filing System Likely Breached By SolarWinds Hack. The Washington Examiner reports, "The online filing system used by the federal court system was likely breached in the SolarWinds hack, suspected to be orchestrated by Russia." The Administrative Office of the US Courts "revealed an 'apparent compromise of the confidentiality' of its case management and electronic case files system 'due to these discovered vulnerabilities' and said this week that it was 'under investigation.'" The agency is working with DHS on a 'security audit' related to the cyberattacks that 'greatly risk compromising highly sensitive non-public documents ... particularly sealed filings' stored on the online system, adding that 'due to the nature of the attacks, the review of this matter and its impact is ongoing.'

FBI Alert Warns Of Growing Egregor Ransomware Threat. Gov Info Security reports, "The FBI issued a private industry warning this week over the growing threat from the operators behind the Egregor ransomware variant and other cybercriminal gangs affiliated with the group." Since September, the group and its affiliates "claim to have compromised approximately 150 corporate networks both in the U.S. and other countries." They have demanded as much as $4 million, according to a Group-IB report. The group "operates in a service model, which includes the operators of the actual ransomware as well as affiliated cybercriminals that carry out their own attacks and receive a percentage of the ransom if the money is paid by the victim," according to the FBI. The FBI alert says, "Egregor ransomware utilizes multiple mechanisms to compromise business networks, including targeting business network and employee personal accounts that share access with business networks or devices."

Barrett: FBI Continues To Set The Standard For Government Transparency. In a piece for the Washington Post, Devin Barrett argues that while recent books authored by former FBI officials "have tended to be about hard men in dark suits, whispering worriedly about Russians, President Trump and existential threats to democracy," the FBI "still sets a gold standard for excellence and ethics that should be followed more widely." Barrett examines Frank Figliuzzi's new book, "The FBI Way: Inside the Bureau's Code of Excellence," which "is in the spirit of earlier tomes that combine federal-agent tradecraft with a dash of self-improvement advice."

Democrats Move Toward Second Trump Impeachment. Tom Llamas said in the lead story on ABC World News Tonight that in "fallout from the deadly siege on the Capitol," House Democrats are "on the path to impeach President Trump for a second time though he has just 10 days left in office. Democrats say he must be held accountable for his words. The charge: incitement of insurrection. ... As Congress heads towards impeachment, a growing number of Republicans are calling for the President to resign." ABC's Rachel Scott reported House Speaker Pelosi is "telling her party to get ready to come back to Washington, the single [impeachment] article charging Trump with incitement of insurrection. He predicted the day would 'be wild,' pressuring his loyal Vice President to undo the will of the people."Trump: "Mike Pence is going to have to come through for us." Scott: "But when he didn't, rioters were later heard chanting, 'Hang Mike Pence.' ... With his inner circle now shrinking, the President is hunkered down inside the White House, trying to assemble a defense team...as a growing number of Republicans and former allies condemn him." Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie: "What we had was an incitement to riot at the United States Capitol." ABC’s George Stephanopoulos: "So you think it was an impeachable offense?" Christie: "Oh, sure. Yeah. I think if inciting to insurrection isn't, then I don't know what is."

Jericka Duncan said in opening the CBS Weekend News that in "Tonight, President Trump faces a hard reckoning with history. In the wake of the assault on the US Capitol that he incited, Mr. Trump faces a second impeachment, perhaps even criminal charges." CBS' Nicole Killion: "As he enters his final full week in office, President Trump will try to shore up his legacy. Senior advisors tell CBS News he is expected to deliver remarks Monday and make a trip to the border Tuesday. But calls for the President to resign now are growing from within his own party." Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA): "The best way for our country to heal is for the President to resign and go away, as soon as possible."
Kate Snow opened NBC Nightly News (1/10, lead story, 3:10, 3.76M) with the “growing calls for the President of the United States to either resign or be impeached by Congress -- and not just from Democrats, but some Republicans now calling on him to step aside. The President is not even speaking to his own Vice President at this point. We're also seeing new video tonight of just what happened on Wednesday at the Capitol. And we're learning security warnings ahead of that day were ignored.”

NBC's Kelly O'Donnell: “With Joe Biden soon to take office, senior Democrats suggest Speaker Pelosi could complete House impeachment but delay sending the article to the Senate for trial, giving the new Administration breathing room.” House Majority Whip Clyburn: “One hundred days he needs to get his agenda off and running, and maybe we'll send the articles some time after that.” Clyburn said on Fox News Sunday (1/10, 1.08M), “The Senate determines guilt or innocence and that has to do with the Senate schedule. Now, the House has to do its business. We call ourselves the people's house, the vast majority of the American people -- I saw the poll results this morning -- say this man should be removed from office.”

Toomey, on CNN's State of the Union (1/10, 1.21M), said, “I think the President did commit impeachable offenses. There is little doubt in my mind about that. I don't know as a practical matter if it is actually possible to do an impeachment in the handful of days that are left. ... I am also not at all clear that it is constitutionally permissible to impeach someone after they have left office. So there may not be a viable impeachment route at this point. But certainly, he could resign and that would be a very good outcome.” On NBC's Meet the Press (1/10, 2.9M), Toomey said, “The President has disqualified himself. I don't think he's a viable candidate for office ever again because of the outrageous behavior in the post-election period.”

The Philadelphia Inquirer (1/10, Madej) reports Toomey “remarked that he doesn't think the 'unbelievable behavior of Wednesday...could've been reasonably expected,' and that Trump's actions are 'wildly different from the offensive tweets that were common during his presidency.'”

On CBS' Face the Nation (1/10, 2.91M), Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) said, “I understand the concerns that just as President Biden takes over responsibility for leading our nation through this tragic pandemic, that we might be distracted by weeks in the Senate by a Senate trial. That's why I've called for President Trump to do the right thing finally and resign or for Vice President Pence to secure the next 10 days through the 25th Amendment.”

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), on CNN's State of the Union (1/10, 1.23M), said, “There is no doubt about it: He should be impeached. But you have to be practical about what we are doing. We have two paths to go. We are ready to install a new government. If I was Joe Biden, I'd want to put my government together and put confidence back into the American people that we can govern ourselves and be the beacon of light for the whole country and the whole world.”

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), on NBC's Meet the Press (1/10, 2.9M), said, “The assault on the capitol was a violent insurrection that was incited and encouraged by Donald Trump. It was an attack on the Congress, an attack on the country, and an attack on the Constitution. ... That's why House Democrats are united in demanding and seeking his immediate removal.” On CNN's Inside Politics (1/10, 812K), Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-NY) said, “This President must be impeached and removed, and anything less than that is an abdication of Congress' constitutional responsibility to be a check on the executive branch and to protect the American people from a very dangerous, unhinged, lawless chief executive.” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), on ABC's This Week (1/10, 2.99M), said, “Our main priority is to ensure the removal of Donald Trump as President of the United States. Every minute and every hour that he's in office represents a clear and present danger, not just to the United States Congress, but frankly to the country.”

However, some Republicans expressed skepticism. Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), on CBS' Face the Nation (1/10, 2.91M), said, “To remove him from office clearly is not going to happen between now and the last day he's in office.” Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), on Fox News Sunday Morning Futures (1/10), said, “It's unfortunate that instead of unifying us right now, Biden, the Democrats, have chosen to use this to talk about ridiculous things about impeaching a President who isn't going to be in office in about nine days.” Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), on Fox News Sunday Morning Futures (1/10, 1.38M), said, “The Democrats are going to try to remove the President from office just seven days before he is set to leave anyway. I do not see how that unifies the country.”

The AP (1/10, Superville, Fram, Jalonick) reports Pelosi said Sunday that the House will proceed with impeachment "as she pushes the House and Cabinet to invoke constitutional authority to force him out, warning that Trump is a threat to democracy after the deadly assault on the Capitol." CBS' 60 Minutes (1/10, 9.8M) showed Pelosi saying, "I like the 25th Amendment because it gets rid of him. He's out of office. But there is strong suit in the Congress for impeaching the President a second time. This President is guilty of inciting insurrection." The Wall Street Journal (1/10, Restuccia, Kendall, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Vice President Pence "isn't expected to move forward with a 25th Amendment process, people familiar with his thinking said."

The New York Times (1/10, Levin, 20.6M) reports, "Momentum for impeaching Trump a second time was growing rapidly over the weekend among rank-and-file Democrats and some Republicans, setting the stage for a final showdown that would test the boundaries of politics, accountability and the Constitution." In addition to Toomey, Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) has expressed openness to impeachment and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) has called on Trump to resign.
USA Today (1/10, Fritze, 12.7M) reports Trump “begins one of the most perilous weeks of his presidency Monday as momentum for a second impeachment soared over the weekend and a growing number of Republicans broke ranks to openly call for his removal.” Trump “has only days remaining in his term – a point supporters noted – but the debate over how Congress should respond is focused largely on his legacy and his ability to control the GOP after leaving office.

The Washington Post (1/10, 10.52M) reports, “Tensions are breaking out among Democrats over how aggressively to push” for impeachment, “aware that many voters hope Congress will prevent Trump from provoking further violence, but also wanting Biden to be free to take immediate action on the coronavirus pandemic and a faltering economy. Some Democrats said privately that they are wary of impeachment but unsure how to slow its momentum given the intensifying passions against Trump.”

Fox News (1/10, Blitzer, 23.99M) reports on its website that Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) said Sunday that the article of impeachment has 195 cosponsors. The Los Angeles Times (1/10, 3.37M) says being impeached twice would make Trump “the first U.S. president to hold that unwelcome distinction.” Reuters (1/10, Cornwell, Chiaucu, Psaledakis), Bloomberg (1/10, 3.57M), Politico (1/10, McCaskill, 6.73M), and The Hill (1/10, 5.69M) also cover the moves toward impeachment.

Polls Show Majority Support For Trump’s Removal Or Early Exit. CNN (1/10, 89.21M) reports on its website that the potential second impeachment “starts out more popular than any other removal process of a president in recent American history. Removing Trump from office remains quite unpopular among Republicans, however. A look across polls conducted since riots at the Capitol on Wednesday shows that a clear plurality of Americans overall want Trump out of office. ... An average across polls since Wednesday (in which no pollster is counted more than once) shows that 50% of Americans want Trump to either be impeached, for the 25th Amendment to be invoked or for Trump to resign from office.”

The Hill (1/10, Mastrangelo, 5.66M) reports that an ABC News/Ipsos poll of 570 adults (1/8-1/9) found that 57% want Trump removed from office, with 67% saying Trump “deserves a ‘good amount’ of the blame for the riots in Washington, D.C. last week.”

Trump Plans “Defiant” Final Week. The AP (1/10, Colvin) reports Trump “enters the last days of his presidency isolated and shunned by former allies and members of his own party as he faces a second impeachment and growing calls for his resignation.” But Trump, “cut off from the social media channels that have been the lifeblood of his presidency,” will “nonetheless try to go on offense in his last 10 days, with no plans of resigning.” Bloomberg (1/10, 3.57M) reports Trump “and a dwindling circle of advisers plan a defiant final week in office, according to people familiar with the matter.” The President is “preparing at least one more round of pardons, and will try a final time to advance his administration's effort to bring Big Tech to heel, the people said, though it isn't clear what he may do.”

The New York Times (1/10, Haberman, 20.6M) writes that “even without Twitter, and even under a new threat of impeachment, Mr. Trump remains until Jan. 20 the most powerful man in the world, with access to the White House briefing room, the East Room and the Oval Office to communicate his thoughts. He has a press office devoted to issuing his statements and a cadre of reporters assigned to cover what he says and does.” Still, the Washington Post (1/10, Rucker, 10.52M) writes, Trump “is now destined to slink out of the White House considerably diminished from the strapping, fearsome force he and his advisers imagined he would be in his post-presidency.”

The Dallas Morning News (1/10, 772K) reports, “Eight days before reluctantly leaving office, [Trump] will visit the border in South Texas on Tuesday to tout partial construction of the massive wall he promised to deliver – far more than critics wanted, far less than he wanted, and none it funded by Mexico.” Meanwhile, Reuters (1/10, Mason) reports, “his White House is in ‘meltdown’ as it lurches through his final days, current and former officials said,” and many White House staffers "are upset and embarrassed by the turn of events, and are eager to move on."

CBS’ Schieffer: Trump’s “Reign Mirrored His Own Chaotic Life.” Bob Schieffer said on the CBS Weekend News (1/10, story 11, 1:50, Duncan, 13.72M), "It is ending as it began: in chaos, controversy, and confusion. ... His reign mirrored his own chaotic life. He lurched from one crisis to another, from financial windfalls to bankruptcies, from tabloid scandals to audacious lies. He introduced us to a bizarre cast of characters, from porn stars to the crackpots and clowns who inhabit the dark fringes of American politics. ... As we saw in those awful scenes unfolding in the Capitol, we came to understand that the man who had a manic desire for power had no real understanding of the power he possessed or what happens when it is misused. He will be gone soon. But he showed us America was not broken. He was.”

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Used Violent Imagery In Speech To Followers Before Capitol Violence. The New York Times (1/10, Savage, 20.6M) reports, “The speech that President Trump delivered just before they attacked the Capitol last week is a central focus as House Democrats prepare an article of impeachment against him for inciting the deadly riot.” In the speech, the Times says, Trump “repeated many of his falsehoods about how the election was stolen, then dispatched the marchers to the Capitol.” The Times also says it was “riddled with violent imagery and calls to fight harder than before,” while “he made only a passing suggestion that the protest should be nonviolent.”
All information and inquiries should be directed to: BIE -1,3,5
US Files Dozens Of Charges In Wake Of Capital Siege.

FBI Seeks Information On Capital Rioters.
- FBI Offers $50K Reward For Information On DC Pipe Bombs.
- Schumer Urges FBI To Be Vigilant Of Further Threats Of Violence.
- FBI Probing Whether Some Rioters Intended Harm To Legislators.
- FBI Warned Capitol Police Of Possibility Of Violence Before Riot.
- US Officials Reportedly Open Murder Probe Into Death Of Capitol Police Officer.
- Police Departments Nationwide Investigating If Their Officers Stormed Capitol.
- While Bulk Of Americans Feel Attack On Capitol Was Unacceptable, "Large Portion Of The County At Least Empathizes With What Occurred."

**COUNTER-TERRORISM**

- Three Sri Lankan Nationals Charged In Federal Court With Aiding 2019 Bombings.
- Jacobsen: Biometric Evidence Used In Fight Against Terrorism May Not Be Reliable.
- Boston Marathon Bomber Sues Over Treatment In Prison.
- FAA Chief Issues Statement Warning Public Not To Disrupt Flights With "Unruly Passenger Behavior."
- Pompeo To Designate Yemen's Houthis A Foreign Terrorist Organization.

**COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE**

- Experts: Foreign Intelligence Officials Likely Entered Capitol Building.
- DNI Ombudsman: Administration Politicized Some Intelligence Regarding Foreign Interference In 2020 Elections.
- Dominion Voting Systems Sues Ex-Trump Lawyer Sidney Powell For $1.3B.
- Trump Faces Calls To Pardon WikiLeaks' Assange.
- Nunes Asks Ratcliffe To Look Into Coronavirus Origins, Wuhan Lab Theory.
- Intel Agencies Directed In Spending Bill To Reveal Knowledge Of UFOs.
- CIA Redesigns Website With New, Modern Images.
- Kim Jong Un Threatens To Expand Nuclear Arsenal.
- Chinese State Media Denounce Pompeo's Lifting Of Restrictions On Contact Between US And Taiwan Officials.

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**

- Fort Bliss Soldier Charged Over Alleged Sexual Assault Of Private First Class Subsequently Discovered Dead.
- FBI Releases Video Of Armored Car Courier Being Robbed At North Miami Beach ATM.
- Former Michigan Police Officer Pleads Guilty To Civil Rights Charge Of Excessive Force.
- Texas Man Pleads Sentenced In Fake ID Scheme To Get Free Flights.
- Fugitive Convicted Of Chicago Murder Captured After More Than 20 Years At Large
- Ohio Resident Facing Drug, Firearm Charges.
- FBI Raids Homes, Offices Of Tennessee State Lawmakers.
- Investigation In Georgia Leads To Meth Seizure.
- Pennsylvania Judge Orders Detention Of Former University Of Pittsburgh Student Over FBI Threats.
- Texas Man Suspected Of Murder Commits Suicide.
- Former Federal Agent One Of Four Indicted In Painkillers Case.
- Convicted Sex Offender Arrested In Utah.
- Arizona Identifies Body.
- DOL Sues To Void Local 98 Leadership Election In Pennsylvania.

**FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS**

- Deutsche Bank Agrees To Pay $125 Million To Settle Foreign Bribery Violations.
- Former Iowa Public Official Sentenced For Mail Fraud.
- US Charges Two Oregonians With COVID-19 Loan Fraud.
FBI Alert Warns Of Growing Egregor Ransomware Threat.
New Zealand Central Bank Reports Data System Was Hacked.
Experts: US Government's Ability To Protect Against Russian Hackers Has Gotten Worse.
US Government Spent Billions To Stop Cyberattacks In FY20.
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US Government Spent Billions To Stop Cyberattacks In FY20.
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Kim Elected General Secretary Of North Korea's Workers' Party.

Indonesia Says It Has Located Black Boxes Of Jetliner That Crashed Saturday.

Japarov Elected President Of Kyrgyzstan.

Egypt, Ethiopia, And Sudan Fail To Progress During Negotiations On Blue Nile Dam.

Honduran President Accused Of Drug Trafficking To US.

**THE BIG PICTURE**

* Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

**WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE**

* Today's Events In Washington.

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**CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS**

**US Files Dozens Of Charges In Wake Of Capital Siege.**

*USA Today* (1/10, Penzenstadler, Phillips, Voyles Pulver, 12.7M) reports, "Federal authorities continued Sunday to round up people following a deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol this week— including two men accused of carrying plastic restraints and others who allegedly carried weapons or stole from the building. At least 58 people have been arrested and charged for incidents in or near the Capitol on Wednesday. Those arrested have come from 24 states and the District of Columbia." The Justice Department "has filed more than 55 criminal cases related to the riot that left five dead."

The *New York Times* (1/9, Wright, 20.6M) reports that the number of arrests "is expected to grow quickly as investigators scrutinize social media to identify the protesters, and some participants could face more serious charges."

CNN (1/8, Scannell, 89.21M) reports, "An Alabama man allegedly parked a pickup truck packed with 11 homemade bombs, an assault rifle and a handgun two blocks from the US Capitol building on Wednesday for hours before authorities ever noticed, according to federal prosecutors. Another man allegedly showed up in the nation's capital with an assault rifle and hundreds of rounds of ammunition and told acquaintances that he wanted to shoot or run over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, prosecutors said." CNN adds, "The revelations are some of the most unsettling details federal prosecutors have made public this week as they detail the extent of the arsenal available to pro-Trump rioters who stormed the Capitol. Other individuals have been accused of taking guns and ammunition onto Capitol grounds and more charges are expected to come as a wide-ranging investigation unfolds."

Bloomberg (1/10, 3.57M) reports Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), citing Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, said Sunday that "at least 25 domestic terrorism cases have been opened after Wednesday's assault on the U.S. Capitol." *Reuters* (1/10, Shalaal) reports Crow said McCarthy told him the Pentagon was aware of "further possible threats posed by would-be terrorists" in the days up to and including the inauguration of Democratic President-elect Joe Biden on Jan. 20. 'Long guns, Molotov cocktails, explosive devices and zip ties were recovered, which suggests a greater disaster was narrowly averted,' Crow, a former Army Ranger, said in a summary of his call with McCarthy. McCarthy assured him the Pentagon was working with local and federal law enforcement to coordinate security preparations after what he described as "deficient law enforcement threat reporting" ahead of last Wednesday."

*Reuters* (1/8, Brice) reports, "Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen announced the FBI would team up with Washington's police department to jointly investigate the death of Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, who was injured while defending the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday. 'Just because you've left the D.C. region, you can still expect a knock on the door if we find out you were part of the criminal activity at the Capitol,' Steven D'antuone, the FBI Washington Field Office's assistant director in charge, told reporters in a telephone news briefing."

The *New York Times* (1/8, Goldman, Ismay, Fuchs, 20.6M) reports, "The sweeping investigation took shape after a security breakdown two days earlier allowed hundreds of people backing President Trump's efforts to overturn the election results to rush into the Capitol in a"
The deadly rampage. The debacle prompted sharp recriminations and the firings of top officials who were entrusted with protecting lawmakers. Dozens have been arrested, including 13 who face federal charges. “The Times adds, “Law enforcement officials also backed off a suggestion that Mr. Trump could face criminal charges for inciting the riot after a top prosecutor had said a day earlier that investigators were examining anyone involved, ‘not only’ the rioters. ‘Don’t expect any charges of that nature,’ Ken Kohl, a top prosecutor in the U.S. attorney’s office in Washington, told reporters in a telephone briefing on Friday.”

The Wall Street Journal (1/8, A1, Gurman, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports on its front page that federal prosecutors on Friday announced charges against at least 13 "alleged members of the pro-Trump mob who stormed the halls of Congress." The Washington Post (1/8, Hsu, 10.52M) reports the Justice Department and FBI "announced charges Friday against" Derrick Evans, "a freshman West Virginia lawmaker," Richard Barnett, "an Arkansas man who told the media he posed for photos on a desk in” House Speaker Pelosi’s office, and Lonnie Leroy Coffman, "an Alabama man whose truck allegedly carried 11 molotov cocktails and a semiautomatic rifle to this week’s U.S. Capitol riots." The Post adds that "also charged with unlawful entry was Hawaii Proud Boys founder and unsuccessful state house candidate Nicholas Robert Ochs, who gave media interviews saying he participated in the break-in, an FBI arrest affidavit unsealed Friday alleged.”

The Chicago Sun-Times (1/8, Seidel, 970K) reports that Barnett "has become one of the most notorious figures among those who broke into the Capitol Wednesday, after photographs surfaced of him with his feet on Pelosi’s desk. Prosecutors cited those photographs in a statement of facts filed as part of the case against him. They said they also viewed video surveillance and a video-recorded interview Barnett gave.” Prosecutors "said Barnett was asked about an envelope he was holding featuring Pelosi’s signature. Barnett allegedly said, “I did not steal it. I bled on it because they were macing me and I couldn’t f---ing see so I figured I am in her office. I got blood on her office. I put a quarter on her desk even though she ain’t f---ing worth it. And I left her a note on her desk that says “Nancy, Bigo was here, you b----.”” Barnett “is being held in the Washington County (Ark.) jail after he was charged by federal prosecutors with three counts for storming the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.”

The AP (1/9, Callahan) reports, “A Florida man accused of making off with Pelosi’s lectern during the chaos was arrested Friday night on a federal warrant and was being held Saturday without bail in Pinellas County, Florida. Jail records do not show if Adam Johnson, 36, of Parrish, Florida, has an attorney. Johnson was charged Saturday with theft, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.”

The Miami Herald (1/8, DeLeon, 647K) reports from Bradenton, Florida, that Johnson “was arrested by Federal Marshals and booked into the Pinellas County jail shortly after 9 p.m. Friday. He has been charged with one count of knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority; one count of theft of government property; and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, according to a federal complaint. A warrant was issued on Friday and Johnson was charged in federal court in D.C. on Saturday." Pelosi’s lectern "had been stored in her suite, under a staircase to the third floor on the House side of the Capitol building, before the Capitol was breached, her staff told FBI agents. The lectern — valued at more than $1,000 according to the House curator — was found by Senate staff on Thursday in the Red corridor of the Senate wing off the Rotunda in the Capitol.”

On NBC Nightly News (1/8, story 3, 3:04, Holt, 5.57M), Tom Costello reported “some suspects have identified themselves, as well. Josiah Colt who climbed down from the Senate balcony then sat in Vice President Pence’s chair says he was ‘caught up in the moment.’ In a statement to KBOI-TV, he says, ‘My actions have brought shame upon myself, my family and friends and beautiful country. I beg for forgiveness from America and from my home state of Idaho.’ Former Midland, Texas mayoral candidate Jenny Cudd posted her own video: ‘We did break down the Nancy Pelosi’s office door. And somebody stole her gavel.’ Nationwide, hundreds of federal agents are pursuing riot suspects. Among the felony charges they could face, felony rioting, federal assault and murder charges, obstruction of Congress, destruction of congressional documents, conspiracy and insurrection.”
The AP (1/9, Hollingsworth) reports, "An Iowa man was jailed early Saturday on charges accusing him of taking part in the riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump." The AP adds, "Des Moines Police Sgt. Paul Parizek said officers assisted the FBI in arresting 41-year-old Doug Jensen on Friday night at his home on the south side of the city. Jensen was booked into the Polk County Jail early Saturday on five federal charges, including trespassing and disorderly conduct counts, according to news releases from the FBI's field office in Omaha, Nebraska and the county sheriff's office." According to the AP, "Video posted online during the storming of the Capitol on Wednesday showed a man who appears to be Jensen, who is white, pursuing a Black officer up an interior flight of stairs. A mob of people trails several steps behind. At several points, the officer says 'get back,' to no avail."

The New York Times (1/8, Goldman, 20.6M) reports prosecutors on Thursday "filed a criminal complaint accusing a man named Mark J. Leffingwell of punching a Capitol Police officer repeatedly in the head and chest, before apologizing," and they "unsealed charges against a Maryland resident, Christopher Albrecht, accusing him of illegally carrying a 9-millimeter pistol at the riot." Meanwhile, Bloomberg (1/8, McGrath, 3.57M) reports Cogensia, a marketing firm near Chicago, has fired CEO Brad Rukstales, a Republican donor to President Trump, who "was arrested by U.S. Capitol Police on Wednesday" after "being part of the mob that broke into the U.S. Capitol."

In the lead story for NBC's Today (1/8, 2.86M), Savannah Guthrie said there have been "more than 80 arrests so far, and investigators this morning, they are poring through videos and images casting about for leads. They want to identify more suspects." On NBC Nightly News (1/8, story 9, 1:43, Holt, 5.57M), Gabe Gutierrez reported, "One pro-Trump rioter in face paint and a horned hat confronted law enforcement holding a spear. The man now identified as Jake Angeli told NBC News, 'The fact that he had a bunch of our traitors in office hunkered down putting on their gas masks and retreat into the underground bunker, I consider that a win.' Police say Angeli is a known follower of QAnon, a far right extremist group."

On ABC World News Tonight (1/8, story 3, 2:05, Muir, 6.95M), Chief Justice Correspondent Pierre Thomas reported that federal authorities "are determined to leave no stone unturned, ramping up efforts to bring all the Trump supporters who desecrated the Capitol to justice." On ABC's Good Morning America (1/8, 3.14M), Martha Raddatz reported that on Wednesday, "despite the loss of life and the desecration of the Capitol, those rioters were allowed to just leave the building. They lingered on the plaza for hours triumphant, giving one another high-fives with no consequences. This morning the acting US attorney for the District of Columbia said the failure to arrest more people is making his job harder adding, 'I can't answer why the Capitol Police did not zip tie these people as they were leaving the Capitol.' CBS This Morning (1/8, 2.28M) also covered the search for protesters accused of committing crimes on Wednesday.

On the lead NBC Nightly News (1/9, lead story, 3:46, Díaz-Balart, 5.98M) segment, Tom Costello reported on the arrests, while on the CBS Weekend News (1/9, story 4, 1:52, Díaz, 577K), Adriana Diaz reported, "Roughly 100 people have been arrested for Wednesday's attack.

The Washington Post (1/9, Weiner, Hsu, 10.52M) reports 16 people "have been charged in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia with crimes related to the storming of the Capitol, including a man who admitted to stealing a document from Pelosi's office. Forty others face charges in D.C. Superior Court." The Post calls these federal cases "the low-hanging fruit of the investigation" since they are "people who either identified themselves in online postings or were quickly identified by others who saw the images and recognized the individuals." The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), AP (1/9, Callahan), Reuters (1/9, McKay), Politico (1/9, Semones, 6.73M), and The Hill (1/9, Lonas, 5.69M), among other outlets, provide similar coverage of the new arrests.

President Could Be Investigated For "Inciting" Riot. On ABC World News Tonight (1/8, story 2, 2:31, Karl, 6.95M), Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl reported that DC Attorney General Karl Racine (D) has "said he'll investigate whether the President is legally responsible for inciting the riot," and he also "mentioned Rudy Giuliani who said this at the rally: 'Let's have trial by combat!' And the President's son, Don Jr, who posted a since-removed video taken backstage at the rally before the riot. The President and his children watching the crowds
gather. Don Jr’s girlfriend Kimberly dancing as the Trumps celebrated. This was Don Jr’s message to Trump supporters before they stormed the capital: "If you’re going to be the zero and not the hero, we’re coming for you.”

Pierre Thomas said on ABC World News Tonight (1/8, story 4, 0:35, Muir, 6.95M) that the DOJ’s current focus “is on the people who broke into the Capitol, but the investigation is in the early stages and questions about [Trump’s role in the] incitement will likely be for the incoming attorney general Merrick Garland.” On CBS This Morning (1/8, 2.37M), Ben Tracy said that Trump’s comments “before the assault on the Capitol may be investigated by US attorneys for leading to the violence.”

However, on ABC World News Tonight (1/9, story 4, 2:31, Llamas, 839K), on Saturday night, Tom Llamas reported, “There is now a nationwide manhunt under way for every rioter breaching the Capitol building.” Kenneth Moton added a senior Justice Department official on Saturday said “no incitement charges are expected against any...speakers” at the rally prior to the unrest, including Trump.

DOJ Investigating Shooting Death Of Protester. Meanwhile, the New York Times (1/9, Benner, Schmitt, 20.6M) reports Interim US Attorney Michael Sherwin on Saturday announced that his office “is leading investigations into the deaths of a woman who entered the Capitol building with a crowd of rioters on Jan. 6 and an officer who was killed while trying to police the violent mob.” The Times says prosecutors in the office’s Civil Rights division “opened a formal, federal excessive force case into the shooting death of Ashli Babbitt, who was shot by a Capitol Police officer as she and a group of President Trump’s supporters swarmed the building,” though “the investigation into Ms. Babbitt’s shooting is ‘routine, standard procedure whenever an officer deploys lethal force,’ a Justice Department spokesman said.” The Times adds the office “also opened a federal homicide investigation into the death of Brian D. Sicknick, a Capitol Hill police officer who died after pro-Trump rioters struck him with a fire extinguisher.”

The Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) reports it has obtained two video clips that “shed new light on the fatal shooting by police of Trump supporter and Air Force veteran Ashli Babbitt as she and other rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol.” The Post says Babbitt “and others were attempting to breach a barricaded door inside the Capitol building on Wednesday afternoon, angrily demanding that three U.S. Capitol Police officers who were guarding the door step aside, one of the clips shows.” The Post adds the officers “moved away as colleagues in tactical gear arrived behind the rioters, according to the clip and other video posted online. Roughly 35 seconds after the officers moved away, as she climbed up toward a broken section of the unguarded door, Babbitt was shot by an officer on the other side,” as she was “trying to get into the Speaker’s Lobby, a hallway that would have given them access to the House of Representatives chamber.” According to the Wall Street Journal (1/8, Safran, Ailworth, Seetharaman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), five people have died in connection to the “Capitol riot.”

Laptop Stolen From Pelosi’s Office, Aides Says. Reuters (1/8, Satter) reports a laptop was stolen from Pelosi’s office “during the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, one of her aides said on Friday.” Reuters adds Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) “said on Twitter that a laptop was taken from his office,” and Acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin on Thursday “said that some of the thefts might have potentially jeopardized what he described as ‘national security equities.’” According to Reuters, “The theft of electronic devices from congressional offices has been a persistent worry following the invasion by pro-Trump followers.”

NBC News (1/8, 4.91M) reports, “At least three Democrats in Congress said that the pro-Trump rioters who stormed the Capitol on Wednesday stole computers from their offices, raising cybersecurity concerns.” Speaker Pelosi “had a laptop stolen, as did Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., who tweeted about the theft: It wasn’t immediately clear what protections were on those devices, though Congress generally lags behind the federal government in implementing cybersecurity measures. Not all Senate computers automatically encrypt their hard drives or require a password to log in if they’re unused for a few minutes. Emails were visible on a desktop computer left running in Pelosi’s office.”

Prosecutors Seek To Revoke Bail For Vets for Trump Co-Founder. The Washington Post (1/9, Jackman, 10.52M) reports Joshua Macias, 42, a co-founder of Vets for Trump who was
free on bail after appearing outside a Philadelphia election center with a concealed handgun, was outside the Capitol during the siege by Trump supporters Wednesday and posted video of himself, leading Philadelphia prosecutors to request his bail be revoked." The Post says Macias "and Antonio LaMotta, 61, were arrested in Philadelphia on Nov. 5 near the Philadelphia Convention Center, where the presidential election vote was being counted," because they were carrying firearms without permits.

West Virginia Lawmaker Who Participated In Storming Capital Resigns. The New York Times (1/9, 20.6M) reports West Virginia state Del. Derrick Evans (R) "resigned on Saturday after participating in the storming of the United States Capitol." The Times says the resignation, effective immediately, comes as he "faces two federal charges: one for knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority, and one for violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds." The Washington Post (1/9, Kornfield, 10.52M) reports Evans "chronicled the riot Wednesday on Facebook Live, capturing the moment the crowd cracked open the Capitol’s doors and he crossed the threshold."

CBS News (1/8, Donagheue, 5.39M) reports, "Evans is charged with entering a restricted area, Ken Kohl, principal assistant U.S. Attorney for D.C., said on a press call." CBS News adds, "In a criminal complaint released Friday, an FBI agent wrote he identified Evans as the person in the live-streamed video by comparing the voice to the lawmaker’s voice in a campaign video. In addition, the agent wrote, ‘Evans identifies himself by first and last name in the video recording the offense.’"

Pennsylvania Man Charged In Siege. A number of local news outlets covered the arrests of those from their areas. For example, the Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (1/8, Benscoter, 567K) reports, "A Pennsylvania man who was charged by Capitol Police for taking part in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday also was charged with federal offenses, officials at the U.S. Department of Justice announced Friday." Terry Brown, of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, "was one of 13 people charged federally." Brown "was charged with knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority; or knowingly, with intent to impede government business or official functions, engaging in disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds." FBI Director Wray said in a statement, "To be clear, what took place that day was not First Amendment-protected activity, but rather an affront on our democracy. The FBI, along with our local, state, and federal partners, is committed to ensuring that justice is served. We will continue to aggressively investigate each and every individual who chose to ignore the law and instead incite violence, destroy property, and injure others."

Similarly, the Cleveland Plain Dealer (1/9, Heisig, 1.22M) reports from Cleveland, Ohio, "FBI agents late Friday raided the home of a former Cleveland Metropolitan School District employee. The move came a day after she submitted a conspiracy theory-referencing resignation letter to the district, and after authorities posted a picture that raised questions as to whether she participated in a riot at the U.S. Capitol led by supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump." Agents "were present for several hours at a house on East 365th Street in suburban Willoughby. The 49-year-old former Cleveland schools employee, who worked for the district as an occupational therapist, is listed as the home’s owner. Cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer are not identifying her because she has not been charged with a crime."

Man In “Camp Auschwitz” Sweatshirt Identified. CNN (1/10, 89.21M) reports on its website, "A rioter who stormed the US Capitol Wednesday wearing a sweatshirt emblazoned with the phrase ‘Camp Auschwitz’ has been identified as Robert Keith Packer of Virginia, according to three sources. ... One Virginia resident, who spoke to CNN on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, described Packer as a long-time extremist who has had run-ins with the law."

The New York Times (1/8, Eddy, 20.6M) reports on how the image from the day of “a bearded man wearing a black hoodie emblazoned with ‘Camp Auschwitz’” has had “particular
resonance as anti-Semitism and far-right nationalism are on the rise worldwide. And for people who survived the Nazi death camp...there was added pain with the realization that later generations may not have learned the lessons of the Holocaust.”

FBI Seeks Information On Capital Rioters.
The Hill (1/9, 5.69M) reports, "The FBI has put up what appear to be electronic posters in Washington, D.C., seeking information on anyone who participated in the Capitol breach on Wednesday." The Hill adds, "Photos of bus stops shared by journalists on social media say 'Seeking Information' and include pictures of some of rioters inside the U.S. Capitol. The posters also share a phone number to contact the FBI's Washington, D.C., office. 'DC bus stops now feature signs posted by the FBI seeking information about participants in the Capitol insurrection,' CNN reporter Jim Acosta tweeted along with a photo of a poster taken at night."

BuzzFeed News (1/8, Onibada) reports, "As part of the ongoing investigation to identify key perpetrators, the FBI shared a message online appealing for information on individuals who participated and instigated the violence. 'We are accepting tips and digital media depicting rioting or violence in and around the U.S. Capitol on January 6,' said the official Twitter account for the FBI." BuzzFeed News adds, "The callout for support was met with collective indignation, which quickly turned to trolling. Several people online pointed to the numerous social media posts, interviews, and open planning that had gone toward Wednesday’s attack. It was suggested that there were more qualified figures who were up to the task."

FedScoop (1/8, Barnett) reports, "As a riotous mob of Trump supporters filled the U.S. Capitol building Wednesday, many left plum digital footprints federal law enforcement agencies can easily use to track them down and charge them." The FBI "has some of the most powerful facial recognition systems in the country, according to outside experts," and "because few arrests were made during the deadly unrest, law enforcement officials will now have to depend on that technology to speed up the process of tracking apparent criminals through the many videos, images and other digital "fingerprints" they left behind. Paired with the reams of open source information, the FBI has the technology to easily identify possible criminals, rather than having to manually connect the dots, a former FBI official told FedScoop. ‘For most people [that were] there, it is not going to be very hard to ID them,’ the official said."

FBI; No Evidence Of Antifa Participation In Siege. The AP (1/10, Biesecker, Kunzelman, Flacco, Mustian) reports, "The insurrectionist mob that showed up at the president’s behest and stormed the U.S. Capitol was overwhelmingly made up of longtime Trump supporters, including Republican Party officials, GOP political donors, far-right militants, white supremacists, and adherents of the QAnon myth that the government is secretly controlled by a cabal of Satan-worshiping pedophile cannibals." The AP "reviewed social media posts, voter registrations, court files and other public records for more than 120 people either facing criminal charges related to the Jan. 6 unrest or who, going maskless amid the pandemic, were later identified through photographs and videos taken during the melee." Steven D'Antuono, "the assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington field office, told reporters that investigators had seen ‘no indication’ antifa activists were disguised as Trump supporters in Wednesday's riot."

NBC News (1/8, 4.91M) reports, "Despite suggestions from conservative pundits and some Republican members of Congress, there is no evidence that anti-fascist activists were involved in the pro-Trump Capitol riots," D'Antuono "said on a call with reporters Friday. 'We have no indication of that, at this time,' D'Antuono said when asked whether antifa activists had disguised themselves as Trump supporters in an effort to frame them for the violent riots in which five people died, including Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick."

The Washington Post (1/9, Usero, 10.52M) reports, "To date, no evidence supports the claim that individuals with antifa connections formed part of the riots that took place on Capitol grounds. The FBI has said it does not believe antifa or any of its associates are responsible for the violence unleashed. Wednesday's events were widely documented, via videos, tweets and live-streams from reporters already covering the day's events. Video and photos confirm that many of the rioters were supporters, and individuals with right-wing and extremist beliefs. The usual antifa tactics such as wearing masks and face coverings to avoid detection were uncommon among..."
The Washington Times (1/8, Mordock, 526K) reports that the FBI’s announcement “debunks claims pushed forward by some right-wing pundits and politicians that the anarchist movement’s supporters were part of the angry mob that stormed the Capitol.” D’Antuono’s statement “supports comments made Thursday by Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Michael Sherwin. Mr. Sherwin said he also saw no evidence Antifa was involved in the riot.”

The New York Times (1/9, Alba, 20.6M) reports, “Since Wednesday, far-right activists and allies of the president have made the claim, often while presenting easily disproved evidence, that the rioters were made up of antifa supporters, not backers of President Trump. Among those pushing the falsehood were Representative Matt Gaetz, a Florida Republican, who said while objecting to the electoral votes for Mr. Biden that people in the mob were ‘in fact members of the violent terrorist group antifa.’ Ken Paxton, the attorney general of Texas, also said antifa was involved.” The Times adds, “an analysis by the media insights company Zignal Labs found that the unfounded rumor had been mentioned 411,099 times across cable television, social media, and in print and online news outlets on Wednesday and Thursday. It was by far the most widely shared false or misleading claim about the Capitol Hill mob, Zignal said.”

BuzzFeed News (1/9, Silverman) reports, “Speaking in the House Wednesday night after the attempted coup, Gaetz cited a Washington Times article that claimed a facial recognition company had identified two antifa members among the crowd at the Capitol. That story was removed by the outlet after BuzzFeed News reported that the facial recognition company said it was ’outright false.’ The paper later published a corrected version that acknowledged the firm had identified ‘neo-Nazis and other extremists’ – not antifa members.”

Some Extremist Groups Pleased By Chaotic Siege. Reuters (1/8, Hesson, Parker, Cooke, Harte) reports, “As the nation recoiled in horror at scenes of rioting and chaos in the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, some right-wing and anti-government extremists saw the violence as the fulfillment of a patriotic duty or opportunity to advance their agenda. Among the inspired was Mike Dunn, a 20-year-old follower of the ’boogaloo’ anti-government movement, whose adherents anticipate a revolution toppling the federal government or a second U.S. civil war.” Dunn, who lives in Virginia, said three or four groups of loyalists under his command helped storm the Capitol this week amid a motley mix of rioters who supported President Donald Trump’s attempts to overturn the results of the November presidential election. While most ’boogaloos’ are libertarians who largely oppose Trump, Dunn said the group embraced the moment to strike against the government.”

The Washington Times (1/8, Blake, 626K) says Proud Boys Chairman Henry “Enrique” Tarrio on Thursday promised to raise money and secure legal representation for “supporters of…Trump facing charges for storming the Capitol building during the deadly insurrection the day before.” In addition, Reuters (1/8, Hesson, Parker, Cooke, Harte) reports Tarrio “would not broadly denounce people who entered the Capitol building during riots a day earlier, calling it a form of protest.” Reuters says that even as “most Americans recoiled in horror at scenes of rioting and chaos in the U.S. Capitol,” some right-wing and anti-government extremists “saw the violence as the fulfillment of a patriotic duty or opportunity to advance their agenda.”

On NBC’s Today (1/8, 2.86M), Gabe Gutierrez said, “Wednesday’s storming of the Capitol by Trump supporters included many followers of conspiracy theory groups like QAnon. Now there are growing concerns about the President’s connections to these groups and their plans to continue inciting chaos in the wake of his election defeat.” According to Gutierrez, “QAnon is a far-right extremist group that among other outlandish things believed Democrats are running a satanic pedophile ring out of a DC pizza parlor.”

“Internet Sleuths” Identifying “Pro-Trump Rioters.” The Washington Post (1/8, Peiser, 10.52M) reports that since “pro-Trump rioters” stormed the Capitol on Wednesday without masks, “Internet sleuths” have “had a unique opportunity to easily identify them. And many made it even easier – they live-streamed their participation and later bragged about their escapades.” According to the Post, an “untold” number of Twitter users and Instagram accounts are “feverishly working…to ID and name the participants who stormed down the halls of the Capitol, ransacking lawmakers’ offices and occupying the House Chamber.”

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The Washington Post (1/8, Timberg, Harwell, Hsu, 16.52M) also reports federal officials "looking to prosecute the mob of Trump supporters who overran the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday stand to get powerful help from cellphone records, facial recognition tools and other technologies to assist in the identification of anyone who was there that day." The Post highlights that the Capitol "has a vast cellular and wireless data infrastructure of its own to make communications efficient in a building made largely of stone and that extends deep underground and has pockets of shielded areas," and as such "phone records make determining the owners of these devices trivially easy."

The Washington Post (1/10, Klemko, 10.52M) reports, "Before a mob of Trump supporters staged a riot in the U.S. Capitol and thousands of Americans became amateur detectives working to identify the culprits, a loosely connected group of seasoned online sleuths were ringing alarm bells and picking off extremists online, one by one." The Post adds, "For a nationwide network of left-wing activists who seek out and publish the identities of those they believe to be violent "fascists," some investigations can take months, years even. Or it can take 10 minutes," and "that's how much time Molly Conger spent on her laptop last month searching for the man who used the right-wing social media site Parler to share that he was a police officer and pledge support to a member of the Proud Boys extremist group, advocating violence against Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. Turns out the man was a Prince William County sheriff's deputy."

More Coverage. The Washington Post (1/10, 10.52M) runs a feature titled "The Capitol Mob: A Raging Collection Of Grievances And Disillusionment" about some of those involved in the riot and their motivations.

FBI Offers $50K Reward For Information On DC Pipe Bombs.

Reuters (1/8) reported, "The FBI is offering a reward of up to $50,000 for information on the individuals responsible for placing pipe bombs in the committee headquarters of the key U.S. political parties in the capital, the agency said." CBS News (1/8, Siese, 5.39M) reports the FBI "released photos via social media of what appears to be someone in a gray hooded jacket, black gloves, and black pants, clutching an object in one hand." McClatchy (1/8, Kenney, 29K) reports, "Authorities didn't say how the person in the photo is connected to the pipe bomb incidents."

Also reporting are CNN (1/8, Walton, 89.21M) and the Daily Caller (1/8, Nieto, 375K).

Pipe Bombs At RNC, DNC Headquarters Had Timers, Official Says. The New York Times (1/8, Ismay, 20.6M) reports the pipe bombs "found on Wednesday afternoon outside the Democratic and Republican party headquarters, blocks from the Capitol, contained crude mechanical timing devices, according to an official familiar with their initial examination, suggesting they were intended to be detonated." However, the Times adds that "was not clear when they were meant to explode, but thousands of people were in the area that afternoon as a mob encouraged by...Trump stormed the Capitol, where lawmakers had convened to certify...Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s election, leaving five people dead. It was also not clear whether the bombs were connected to the siege."

The Washington Examiner (1/8, Glaritelli, 888K) reported, "The bombs were each about 12 inches long by an inch and a half wide. The devices were "made with a battery, steel wool, and an unknown explosive powder. One of them was found with a cellphone that may have been meant to detonate it."

Schumer Urges FBI To Be Vigilant Of Further Threats Of Violence.

Newsday (NY) (1/10, Coburn, Hernandez, 776K) reports, "Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) on Sunday expressed concern more political violence could follow the mob attack Wednesday on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., by supporters of President Donald Trump." Schumer said he pressed” FBI Director Wray "in a conversation Saturday to track down those involved in Wednesday's siege on Congress, in which five people died, and to be on the alert for further violence. 'The threat of violent extremist groups remains high and the next few weeks are critical in our democratic process,' Schumer said in a statement, noting President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated Jan. 20. 'Given that the same incendiary, dangerous rhetoric online that occurred before January 6, which proved to be a warning of the insurrectionist attack, has only escalated..."
since, I impressed upon Director Wray the vitalness of the FBI to work with other federal and state agencies to remain highly proactive and extremely vigilant to defend our democracy.” Reuters (1/10, Staff) reports, “In a statement, Schumer said he had spoken on Saturday with FBI Director Christopher Wray to urge him to ‘relentlessly pursue’ the attackers.”

Trump Supporters Reportedly Planning More Unrest For Jan. 16-20. The Washington Post (1/9, Timberg, Harwell, Lang, 10.52M) reports the planning “for Wednesday’s assault on the U.S. Capitol happened largely in plain view, with chatters in far-right forums explicitly discussing how to storm the building, handcuff lawmakers with zip ties and disrupt the certification of Joe Biden’s election – in what they portrayed as responding to orders from President Trump,” and Twitter on Friday “said it was particularly concerned about contributing to a possible ‘secondary attack’ on the U.S. Capitol and state government facilities the weekend of Jan. 16-17.” According to the Post, “Concerns about more violent incidents appear to be well-founded.” The Post adds demonstrations “are scheduled to culminate with what organizers have dubbed a ‘Million Militia March’ on Jan. 20 as Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala D. Harris are to be sworn in on the same Capitol grounds that rioters overran on Wednesday.”

In a more than 2,200-word front-page article, the Washington Post (1/9, A1, Miller, Jaffe, Nakhlawi, 10.52M) says “the temporary seizure of a global seat of power was, at its core, an outgrowth of delusional and destructive forces cultivated online and unleashed by the president.” In a nearly 3,100-word front-page article, the New York Times (1/9, A1, Barry, McIntire, Rosenberg, 20.6M) casts the unsuccessful “insurrection” as “the culmination of a sustained assault by the president and his enablers on fact-based reality, one that began long before the November election but took on a fevered urgency as the certainty of Mr. Trump’s defeat solidified.” A Wall Street Journal (1/8, Ballhaus, Palazzolo, Restuccia, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) article headlined “Trump And His Allies Set The Stage For Riot Well Before January 6” provides similar coverage, while an AP (1/9, Woodward, Riechmann) analysis states that the occupation of the Capitol came as “no surprise” as Trump “left many clues he wouldn’t go quietly.”

In his Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) column, David Von Drehle also asserted that “a collection of distortions, delusions and outright lies galvanized a mob of thousands to storm the Capitol in a brief but deadly insurrection.” Von Drehle added, “This unprecedented event was fomented inside a digitally networked community in which extraordinary claims are widely accepted on the basis of the wispiest nonsense.”

DC Mayor Calls For Immediate Increase In Pre-Inaugural Security. The New York Times (1/10, Feuer, 20.6M) reports that in the wake of Wednesday’s violence, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) “issued an urgent appeal to start preparing immediately for more potential violence before, during and after” next week’s presidential inauguration. Bowser called on DHS “to move up to Monday the implementation of heightened security measures that are otherwise set to begin on Jan. 19.” Bowser told CBS’ Face The Nation (1/10, 2.91M), “Given the events of last week, that this inauguration preparation has to be different than any other inauguration with only 10 days to go.”

Kenneth Moton said on ABC World News Tonight (1/10, story 2, 3:00, Llamas, 4.76M) that “a senior official tell[s] ABC News there’s a very serious national security concern for more domestic terrorism for the inauguration, possibly bringing extensive violence.” The Wall Street Journal (1/10, Levy, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports law enforcement agencies are preparing for more marches by Trump supporters in Washington and elsewhere. The Seattle Times (1/10, 1.19M) reports Trump supporters rallied in Olympia, Washington, on Sunday under heavy security.

Experts Caution Rioters To Assume More Hostile Position On Police. The Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) reports that in a “crowd where some carried flags bearing a thin blue line – a pro-police symbol that critics claim also stands for white supremacy and opposition to the Black Lives Matter movement – and shirts adorned with ‘Blue Lives Matter,’ a tide of anger and frustration rose as officers pushed them back” from the Capitol, and “nearly three hours after the building was breached, police cleared the grounds and used batons and chemical munitions to confront the mob.” The Post adds “some promised to return with weapons, ready to fight if necessary,” while one man “repeatedly announced he would be back with his rifle for the
inauguration of...Biden." According to the Post, “Police experts worry this souring sentiment may lead to more violence in the months ahead.”

**Pelosi Says Trump’s Supporters Who Stormed Capitol Chose Their “Whiteness” Over Democracy.** The Hill (1/9, Williams, 5.69M) reports House Speaker Pelosi “said Saturday that the rioters who took part in the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday chose their ‘whiteness’ over democracy.” The Hill adds her remark “came after Pelosi acknowledged the number of people who died of COVID-19 on Wednesday and Thursday, both of which were records for single-day coronavirus deaths in the United States.”

However, Brent Staples, a member of the New York Times editorial board, writes at the New York Times (1/9, 20.6M) that US history “is rife with episodes of political violence far bloodier and more destructive than the one...Trump incited at the Capitol,” and remarks by public officials and commentators to “tell the country again and again that the carnage was an aberration and ‘not who we are’ as a people,” are “dangerous on a variety of counts. For starters, it allowed many Americans to view the president’s insistence that he had won an election in which he was actually trounced, and his simultaneous embrace of right-wing extremism, as political theater that will pass uneventfully from the stage when...Biden is inaugurated.” He concludes, “The mob assault on the Capitol was an outgrowth of what came before.”

**FBI Probing Whether Some Rioters Intended Harm To Legislators.**

The Washington Post (1/8, Barrett, Hsu, Zapotosky, 10.52M) reports, “FBI agents are trying to determine whether some who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday intended to do more than cause havoc and disrupt the certification of President-elect Joe Biden’s victory, and are sifting through evidence to see whether anyone wanted to kill or capture lawmakers or their staffers, according to people familiar with the investigation.” The Post adds that “investigators also are working to determine the motivations and larger goals, if any, of those who had weapons or other gear suggesting they planned to do physical harm. Some rioters, for instance, were photographed carrying zip ties, a plastic version of handcuffs, and one man was arrested allegedly carrying a pistol on the Capitol grounds. ‘We’re not looking at this as a grand conspiracy, but we are interested in learning what people would do with things like zip ties,’ said a law enforcement official, who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the investigation.”

The New York Times (1/9, Levenson, 20.6M) reports, “A man who had an assault rifle was charged with threatening Nancy Pelosi, the House speaker, after he traveled to Washington for the pro-Trump rally on Wednesday and sent a text message saying he would put ‘a bullet in her noggin on Live TV,’ the federal authorities said.” The Times adds, “Federal agents said the man, Cleveland Grover Meredith Jr., had been staying at a Holiday Inn in Washington and had weapons in his camper-style trailer, including a Glock handgun, a pistol, a Tavor X95 assault rifle and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. Meredith was charged with transmitting a threat in interstate commerce, possession of an unregistered firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition, according to court records.”

NBC Nightly News’ (1/10, story 2, 2:25, Snow, 3.76M) reported that “at least two more allegedly involved in the attack on the Capitol were arrested” on Sunday. NBC’s Ron Allen said Larry Rundell Brock of Texas and Eric Gavelek Munchel of Tennessee are “both charged with violently entering the Capitol and disorderly conduct.”

The Washington Post (1/10, Hsu, 10.52M) reports that Brock, “a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, was arrested in Texas and charged with one count of knowingly entering a restricted building and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct, prosecutors said. Brock identified himself to the New Yorker last week as the man photographed in the well of the Senate chamber wearing a green combat helmet, tactical vest, and black and camo jacket. The photo shows the man holding a white flex cuff, used by police to restrain subjects, prosecutors said.”

USA Today (1/10, Connolly, Macareeg, Stephenson, Dorman, Wegner, 12.7M) reports, “Munchel, 30, was being held in a Nashville jail Sunday on a federal warrant; online records show An FBI spokesperson, Samantha Shero, confirmed the arrest. The federal prosecutor’s office in Washington is handling the case. ‘Photos depicting his presence show a person who appears to be Munchel carrying plastic restraints, an item in a holster on his right hip, and a cell phone mounted
on his chest with the camera facing outward, ostensibly to record events that day,' the office said.

The New York Times (1/10, Goldman, Benner, 20.6M) reports the Justice Department said that photographs of a person who appeared to be Mr. Munchel showed him 'carrying plastic restraints, an item in a holster on his right hip, and a cell phone mounted on his chest with the camera facing outward, ostensibly to record events that day.' DOJ said images of a person who appeared to be Brock showed him "clad in a green helmet, green tactical vest with patches, black and camo jacket, and beige pants holding a white flex cuff, which is used by law enforcement to restrain and/or detain subjects." The Dallas Morning News (1/10, 772K) reports Brock, "a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, confirmed to The New Yorker magazine that he was involved in Wednesday's breach of the Capitol." The CBS Weekend News (1/10, story 2, 1:45, Duncan, 13.72) also covers the arrests.

HuffPost (1/10, 363K) reports, "Officials also arrested" Brock, "who lives in Texas, saying he appeared to be holding a white flex cuff, which is used by law enforcement to restrain and/or detain subjects." The FBI "also said the photos of him appeared to show 'an item in a holster on his right hip, and a cell phone mounted on his chest with the camera facing outward, ostensibly to record events that day.' Both men are charged with one count of knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority, and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds."

ABC News (1/8, Meek, 2.44M) reports, "Federal agents and detectives from the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department have launched a broad and multipronged investigation into the mayhem and death Wednesday at the United States Capitol, that sources tell ABC News includes an effort to determine the motives of a paramilitary faction of the mob that invaded the heart of American government. 'We’re talking about a very complex investigation,' said Robert Boyce, a 35-year veteran and former chief of detectives of the New York Police Department. That effort involves scanning volumes of social media posts, reviewing hours of security camera footage, and combing through mountains of cellphone data to determine exactly what occurred, investigators told ABC News."

Daily Beast: Lengthy Process To Determine If Booby Traps Were Left Behind. The Daily Beast (1/8, Shannon, 933K) reports that "there are innumerable potential hiding places" in the Capitol "for lethal devices that can be activated later, by a remote trigger such as a cell phone, or by a vibration-sensitive device like the one that sets off a car alarm when a vehicle rumbles by or honks. Or somebody could have stuck a handgun inside a vase or hollow lamp or behind a toilet, à la Michael Corleone's first hit, intending to return later as a tourist, reclaim the gun and assassinate some lawmaker. 'To clear a 15-by-15 foot office, would take four bomb techs all day,' Dave Williams, a former FBI bomb tech who investigated the Oklahoma City bombing, the World Trade Center bombing and other attacks, told SpyTalk. 'They'd have to look under carpets, at all the fire alarms, light switches, lamps, even light bulbs. A light bulb can be modified so when you turn it on, it explodes. If you have a five-drawer file cabinet, each drawer should be opened remotely.'"

FBI Warned Capitol Police Of Possibility Of Violence Before Riot.

NBC News (1/10, Dilanian, 4.91M) reports, "The FBI and the New York City Police Department passed information to U.S. Capitol Police about the possibility of violence during the protests Wednesday against the counting of the Electoral College vote, and the FBI even visited more than a dozen extremists already under investigation to urge them not to travel to Washington, senior law enforcement officials said." NBC News adds, "The previously unreported details undercut the assertion by a top FBI official that officials had no indication that violence was a possibility, and they add to questions about what intelligence authorities had reviewed before the Capitol riot, which led to the death of an officer and four other people, including a rioter who was shot and killed by police. 'Social media is just part of a full intelligence picture, and while there was First Amendment-protected activity on social media to include some people making threats, to this point, investigators have not found that there was an organized plot to access the Capitol,' a senior FBI official said."
The AP (1/10, Long, Balsamo, Mascaro) reports, “Despite ample warnings about pre-Trump demonstrations in Washington, U.S. Capitol Police did not bolster staffing on Wednesday and made no preparations for the possibility that the planned protests could escalate into massive violent riots, according to several people briefed on law enforcement’s response.” According to the AP, “The revelations shed new light on why Capitol Police were so quickly overrun by rioters. The department had the same number of officers in place as on a routine day. While some of those officers were outfitted with equipment for a protest, they were not staffed or equipped for a riot. ‘They were left naked,’ Rep. Maxine Waters, D-California, said of the police in an interview with AP. She had raised security concerns in a Dec. 28 meeting of House Democrats and grilled Steven Sund, the Capitol Police chief, during an hourlong private call on New Year’s Eve. ‘It turns out it was the worst kind of non-security anybody could ever imagine.’”

The Los Angeles Times (1/8, Zou, 3.37M) reports, “Officers at a U.S. Capitol perimeter fence tried to hold their line but failed as intruders overturned the barrier. Officers at another gate, seemingly overwhelmed, appeared to walk off as the intruders passed by. Another lone officer tried to hold back an advancing group before fleeing through the halls of Congress. In many cases, the officers were in normal uniform. Nowhere were there the skirmish lines of officers in riot gear seen during other recent events, including Black Lives Matter protests. “The Times adds, “The stunning collapse of national security left many of the nation’s leaders cowering behind benches and fearing for their lives,” but “by Thursday, much of their shock had been supplanted by anger – with leading lawmakers demanding resignations from the Capitol’s top security officials and calling for broad investigations into the array of tactical failures under their watch.”

The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Calvert, Youssef, Gurman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that uneven communications between local and federal agencies hindered a forceful response to the riot.

Pete Williams reported on NBC Nightly News (1/10, story 3, 1:10, Snow, 3.76M) that the New York Police Department “notified the US Capitol Police about the possibility of violence during last week’s electoral vote count. Law enforcement officials say the NYPD's intelligence unit sent a packet of information to police agencies nationwide describing the violent rhetoric and the threats of social media, with a separate report sent directly to Capitol Police. And a senior FBI official says agents contacted more than a dozen suspected extremists. These are people who were already under FBI surveillance, and who indicated a desire to come to Washington last week. … These disclosures do add to the questions about why the Capitol Police were not better prepared when the rioters stormed in, and why there wasn’t a greater sense of urgency throughout the federal government about the possibility that the Capitol was a target.” The Washington Post (1/10, Tan, 10.52M) reports “embattled” Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund “stepped down from his post on Friday, days earlier than he said he would.” On Thursday, Sund said his resignation would be effective January 16.

USA Today (1/10, Bohan, Fritze, Brook, 12.7M) reports Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) “said Sunday it took nearly two hours for the Pentagon to give authorization for his state to send its National Guard into Washington to help protect the U.S. Capitol as it came under attack.” Hogan said on CNN’s State Of The Union (1/10, 1.21M), “Our Guard mobilized and was ready, but we couldn’t actually cross over the border into DC without the okay. And that was quite some time. … I can’t speak as to what was going on the other end of the line back at the Pentagon or in the White House. … All I know is that we were trying to get answers and we weren’t getting answers.”

Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) on MSNBC’s Politics Nation (1/10, 825K) said, “One thing that I think is particularly striking is the low number of arrests. Here you have videos of folks engaged in criminal behavior, and the number of arrests is very small. That’s unacceptable.” Peters added, “We have to send a strong signal to those folks who were engaged in this action, that they will be sought out, they will be punished, and anyone else who tries to do this in the future is going to certainly face a very different result than what we saw this last week.”

Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA) on MSNBC’s Politics Nation (1/10, 825K) said, “Had it not been for the gunshot of the one shot fired by that plainclothes officer in the Speaker’s Lobby right behind the House gallery, right there, if those people had been able to get through, they would have had us who were in the gallery up on the third floor trapped...and I have no doubt some of us who look
Lawmakers Investigating Police Preparation Ahead Of Capitol Occupation. Reuters (1/8, Cornwell, So, Berens, Januta, Tanfani) reports that following “the historic security breach of the iconic domed building that houses the U.S. House and Senate, lawmakers told harrowing tales of their escapes from grave danger in the deadly mob assault that many say was incited by Trump,” and “several told Reuters that top Capitol security officials had assured them they would be safe ahead of the planned protests and that everything was under control.” In interviews with Reuters “and in public statements, lawmakers fumed over the failure of the Capitol Police – a 2,000-member force dedicated to guarding the Capitol Grounds – and other agencies.” The Hill (1/8, Marcos, 5.69M) reports Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), the chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees Capitol Police funding, “said Friday he’s asked the police chief to provide all communications during the pro-Trump riots that unfolded this week and will investigate whether any officers assisted rioters.”

Meanwhile, Bloomberg (1/8, A1, Holder, Flatow, 3.57M) interviewed several current and former police leaders about “the logistics of how preparation for a major rally or protest typically works – and why Wednesday’s preparation was such a dismaying contrast to typical practice.” In a nearly 2,000-word article, Politico (1/8, 6.73M) says “the successful storming of the U.S. Capitol by pro-Trump rioters...represents perhaps the greatest policing failure in American history.” According to Politico, “Minute by minute, individual officers sometimes acted bravely, but hour by hour, Wednesday’s events demonstrated a top-to-bottom failure by a key federal law-enforcement agency. The crisis can’t even be called a failure of imagination, as 9/11 is sometimes seen, because in many ways the idea that the pro-Trump mob might march on the Capitol to disrupt the proceedings inside seemed all but obvious. Nor was this an incident that just slipped under the radar. The joint session inside was the single biggest news event in the United States that day, and the rioters had been planning disruptive protest for weeks, in the open.”

The Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) says in an editorial, “Top law enforcement officials and key members of Congress have said plainly what Americans could see — that the events Wednesday were enabled by a failure of law enforcement and a collapse of security.” The Post adds, “To prevent another such failure, on Inauguration Day and subsequently, there must be a robust investigation of the causes for evident shortcomings in leadership, planning, intelligence, coordination and tactics.” The Post calls for the implementation of long-term security measures, concluding the Capitol building “must remain the people’s house — but one that is secure from insurrection.”

McCarthy Says National Guard Could Be Permitted To Carry Guns In DC Ahead Of Inauguration. Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy on Friday told the AP (1/8, Baldor) that Defense Department officials “are reviewing restrictions on the use of force by National Guard members and could allow troops to carry batons or guns in Washington, D.C., as they brace for more protests and possible violence around the Jan. 20 inaugural.” In particular, McCarthy “told The AP...that any changes will be determined by the intelligence gathered in the coming days about potential threats. But he said they are looking at allowing troops to carry their M-4 rifles or 9 mm Berettas, and he will know more in a day or two.”

Pentagon Officials: Quick-Reaction Force Was Not Deployed When Capitol Was Stormed Due To Lack Of Planning. The Washington Post (1/9, 10.52M) reports, “A small quick-reaction force assembled by the Defense Department to assist if needed during protests in Washington on Wednesday did not immediately respond when a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol because of a lack of a prior planning with Capitol Police over how it might be deployed, Pentagon officials said.” A “timeline of events that the Pentagon released Friday night” indicates that the force was at “Joint Base Andrews in Maryland and authorized for use by acting defense secretary Christopher C. Miller 'if additional support is requested by civil authorities.’” The Post adds, “But a senior defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said the Defense Department and Capitol Police hadn’t reached an agreement or settled on a concept of operation ahead of time.”

Meanwhile, a nearly 3,700-word front-page Washington Post (1/9, A1, Demirjian, Leonnig,
Kane, Davis, 10.52M) article chronicles how Capitol police “lost control” of the situation even though Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund had previously “assured members of Congress that his force of 2,000 officers could handle the large expected crowds, according to multiple people who spoke with Sund in the days leading up to the siege.”

However, the Los Angeles Times (1/9, 3.37M) reports the attack on the US Capitol “has spurred congressional leaders to demand a ‘robust’ inquiry into the ‘mind-boggling’ failure of national security,” but they don’t have to “look far for accountability. Congress itself is both client and overseer of the U.S Capitol Police – a secretive agency whose procedures and actions have been kept under wraps for decades by lawmakers themselves.” Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs Executive Director Jonathan Smith said, “The Capitol Police is uniquely opaque, even among federal law enforcement.” The Times adds that not much is known regarding “how the Capitol Police operate.” Congress “has exempted the agency from the Freedom of Information Act, preventing the public from requesting records – unlike with other agencies, such as the FBI.”

**House Democrats Bring Up Possibility Capitol Rioters Received Internal Aid.**

Politico (1/8, Cheney, Ferris, Barron-Lopez, 6.73M) reports more House Democrats “say they’re concerned that tactical decisions by some Capitol Police officers worsened Wednesday’s riots and have raised the possibility that the pro-Trump mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol might have had outside help.” Videos have come to light “showing a small number of officers pulling down barricades for the rioters and, in another instance, stopping for a photo with one of them.” Politico adds, “Some of those incidents were raised on a 3.5-hour caucus call by House Democrats on Friday, demanding an investigation not only into the decisions by the Capitol Police leadership but some rank-and-file officers caught on camera.” However, the legislators additionally brought up “general concerns that the rioters had some sort of outside help not necessarily attributable to the Capitol’s police corps.” Rep. Steve Horsford (D-SC) “told his colleagues he thought the riots were ‘an inside job,’ according to two lawmakers on the call.”

**Statehouses Nationwide Heighten Security After US Capitol “Overrun.”** According to the AP (1/8, Lieb), “The insurrection by supporters of...Trump at the U.S. Capitol this week has prompted governors and lawmakers in several states to heighten security at their own capital buildings as they gather amid a pandemic for legislative sessions and inaugural ceremonies.” The AP reports that state legislatures are concerned that if “the U.S. Capitol – a shining symbol of democracy with a dedicated police force – can be overrun by a violent mob, could state capitals be next?”

**Armed Protestors Used Michigan State Capitol Siege Like A Dry Run For Wednesday Attack.** The New York Times (1/9, Gray, 20.6M) says protestors with guns rushed Michigan’s State Capitol in April and “demanded entry into the House of Representatives’ chamber, chanting ‘Let Us In.’” Some of the protestors, “wearing camouflage fatigues with semiautomatic rifles slung over their shoulders, watched ominously from the gallery above the Senate chamber as the elected officials did their work.” On Wednesday, as the US Capitol was breached, Michigan State Sen. Sylvia Santana (D) said, “Michigan was the precursor for what happened.” A Washington Post (1/9, 10.52M) article headlined “After Trial Runs At Statehouses Last Year, The Far-right’s Violent Tactics Erupted At The Capitol” provides similar coverage.

**More Commentary.** In a piece for MSNBC (1/9, 8.1M), Frank Figliuzzi, who was the assistant director for counterintelligence at the FBI, writes, “In the aftermath of the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 7, there will be resignations, hearings and inquiries at the Capitol Police department, the respective House and Senate sergeant-at-arms offices, and other law enforcement or military entities. The warning signs and intelligence were there – they were just ignored. But let’s be clear – what happened to our democracy that day was not an intelligence failure; it was a failure to act upon available intelligence.” Figliuzzi adds, “The lights are blinking red, and they will continue to signal our vulnerability for the final two weeks of this leaderless administration. Our adversaries are watching. Whether or not they act on the available intelligence depends on our capacity to see what they see: a soft target that needs to secure far more than the building on Capitol Hill.”

In a piece for USA Today (1/8, 12.7M), Todd Gitlin writes, “For months, supporters of
President Donald Trump have mounted acts and threats of violent insurrection against federal and state governments. In September, FBI and Homeland Security officials warned a Senate committee of the “high lethality” of white supremacist groups.” Gitlin adds, “Insurrectionary activity has taken place nationwide. Congress must quickly convene an investigative commission to get answers to questions including... which officials in the FBI, Homeland Security, and other agencies were aware of violent preparations in the run-up to the congressional vote yesterday to count and affirm the states’ election results,” and “which white supremacist groups were under surveillance after the FBI and Homeland Security warned of ‘high lethality’.”

In a piece for Politico (1/8, 6.73M), Garrett M. Graff writes, “The successful storming of the U.S. Capitol by pro-Trump rioters on Wednesday represents perhaps the greatest policing failure in American history, a catastrophic collapse that may well end up costing one Capitol Police officer his life and the entire security leadership of the Capitol their jobs.” Politico adds, “With both houses of Congress in a crucial joint session, the crowds that first approached the Capitol’s outer fence were no larger than the department deals with routinely. Yet within minutes, the outer fence lines had collapsed and officers were in full-blown retreat.” Graff adds, “Through the afternoon Wednesday and through Thursday, current and former major city police chiefs traded puzzled and worried calls, all amazed at the assault on – and stunningly easy fall of – one of the world’s supposedly most secure buildings.”

US Officials Reportedly Open Murder Probe Into Death Of Capitol Police Officer.
The AP (1/8, Mascaro, Daly) reports Capitol Police Officer Brian D. Sicknick “has died from injuries suffered as President Donald Trump’s supporters stormed the Capitol.” The US Capitol Police “said in a statement that...Sicknick was injured ‘while physically engaging with protesters’ during the Wednesday riot,” making him “the fifth person to die because of the Capitol protest and violence.” Sicknick’s family released a statement reading: “Many details regarding Wednesday’s events and the direct causes of Brian’s injuries remain unknown, and our family asks the public and the press to respect our wishes in not making Brian’s passing a political issue.” On CBS This Morning (1/8, 2.37M), Jeff Pegues said Sicknick, was “a 12-year veteran who served in the first responders unit.”

Reuters (1/8, Singh, Heavey, Holland) reports a law enforcement official told CNN that federal prosecutors “are opening a murder investigation” into Sicknick’s death. On the CBS Evening News (1/8, story 4, 2:11, O’Donnell, 4.08M), Jeff Pegues said investigators are “still at the beginning of this investigation, but, obviously, they’re going to use cell phone data and video from inside the Capitol to try to get the person or persons...responsible.” On ABC’s Good Morning America (1/8, 3.14M), Pierre Thomas said police “want to know if he was assaulted and if that mob played a role in his death. Was it murder?”

The New York Times (1/8, Santora, Specia, 20.6M) reports that “it was unclear where Mr. Sicknick’s encounter with the rioters took place, but photos and a video posted by a local reporter during the night of chaos showed a man spraying a fire extinguisher outside the Senate chamber, with a small number of police officers overlooking the area on a nearby stairway.” Reuters (1/8, Lynch, Brice) has more on the investigation into Sicknick’s death.

A front-page Washington Post (1/8, Al, Hermann, Weiner, Heim, Jackman, 10.52M) article reports a White House spokesman “said Trump and his administration extend our prayers to Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick’s family as we all grieve the loss of this American hero,” while House Speaker Pelosi “ordered flags at the U.S. Capitol to be flown at half-staff,” and “Thursday night, officers lined up in front of the Capitol in silence to honor their fallen colleague.” On the lead ABC World News Tonight (1/8, lead story, 4:22, Muir, 6.95M) segment, Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl said Vice President Pence “offered his condolences, and the White House put out a statement from a deputy press secretary, but nothing from the President himself. Trump, more isolated than ever, remained behind closed doors at the White House today, amidst growing calls for him to resign.” Meanwhile, Reuters (1/8, Hunnicutt) reports Joe Biden on Friday “expressed sympathy to the family of the U.S. Capitol Police officer killed in Wednesday’s invasion of Congress by pro-Trump supporters, and said those responsible would be held accountable.” Biden said, “The people responsible should be held accountable, and they will be.”
Bloomberg (1/9, Natter, Laing, 3.57M) reports that aside from Sicknick and Babbitt, three others “died Wednesday when thousands of pro-Trump supporters forced their way into the U.S. Capitol in Washington, smashing windows and ransacking offices.” Meanwhile, a front-page Washington Post (1/9, A1, Jamison, Natanson, Woodrow Cox, Horton, 10.52M) article chronicles “Babbitt’s journey from capital ‘guardian’ to invader.”

Officer Held Back Rioters For Nearly One Minute. Reuters (1/10, Hals) reports Capitol Police officer Eugene Goodman “is being hailed for his role steering an angry mob away from the Senate chambers in Wednesday’s deadly storming of the Capitol. Goodman can be seen in a video “getting rioters to move away from the Senate as police raced to secure the chamber.” The New York Post (1/10, Brown, 7.45M) reports analysis of the video “shows that he held them back for almost a minute – at the exact time as a half-dozen armed officers were inside the chamber desperately trying to secure it.”

Officer Who Was On Duty Wednesday Dies In Apparent Suicide. The New York Daily News (1/10, Sblendorio, 2.51M) reports Howard Liebengood, “a longtime officer with U.S. Capitol Police,” died Saturday while off duty “in what’s being described as an apparent suicide. Capitol Police did not reveal a cause of death for Liebengood in its announcement Sunday,” but two sources said it was suicide, and “a colleague with Capitol Police also referred to Liebengood’s death as a suicide in a Facebook post Sunday.”

Pro-Trump Police Unions “Angry” With President Over Call For Supporters To March On Capitol. In an exclusive, the Washington Times (1/8, Mordock, 626K) reports police unions nationwide “mobilized like never before to support Mr. Trump ahead of the presidential election,” but “police unions that once blasted Mr. Biden for his tepid denunciation of rioters, say they are angry that Mr. Trump urged his supporters to march to the Capitol.”

Police Departments Nationwide Investigating If Their Officers Stormed Capitol.

The New York Times (1/9, MacFarquhar, 20.6M) reports police departments nationwide have “suspended officers or referred them to internal reviews for attending the events on Jan. 6 in Washington that devolved into an assault on the U.S. Capitol.” According to the Times, “The commanding officers or officials involved in the cases in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington State stressed that while the officers attended as private citizens, the question of whether they broke the law would be investigated.”

Reuters (1/10, Caspani) reports that “police departments in Virginia and Washington state have placed officers on leave as authorities examine whether they took part in unlawful acts while on-duty.” Reuters adds, “Fire departments in Florida and New York City have also said they reported to federal authorities allegations that some of their members may have been present when the mob broke into the Capitol as Congress met to certify the results of the Nov. 3 presidential election. The police department in the small town of Rocky Mount, Virginia, said on Sunday it had placed two officers on administrative leave after it learned they attended an ‘event’ in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday while off-duty.”

The New York Post (1/9, Edelman, 7.45M) reports, “The FBI is investigating whether active or retired FDNY firefighters took part in the siege at the US Capitol. The Post has learned. The department issued a statement Saturday in response to questions about a photo posted to Twitter of a man wearing a jacket marked ‘FDNY Squad 252’ on the back, standing near the entrance to the Capitol and carrying an American flag. The department received anonymous allegations that active or retired members were present at the events at the United States Capitol on January 6 and, as required, has provided that information to the FBI, the statement said.”

While Bulk Of Americans Feel Attack On Capitol Was Unacceptable, “Large Portion Of The County At Least Empathizes With What Occurred.”

A Washington Post (1/9, 10.52M) analysis says that “while most Americans also think that the
actions of the mob” who attacked the Capitol on Wednesday “were unacceptable, a large portion of the country at least empathizes with what occurred or, in some cases, actually approves.” A HuffPost poll released on Friday which was carried out by YouGov indicates that roughly “three-quarters of the country expressed disapproval of what the mob had done.” Meanwhile, a NewsHour poll released the same day which was carried out by Marist College asked whether respondents backed what happened at the Capitol. The Post adds, “Even more expressed opposition than disapproval.” However, the HuffPost polling indicates that one third of Trump backers feel that “those who stormed the Capitol represent people like them or represent Trump supporters broadly.”

**Attack On Capitol Highlighted “Disbelief In Democracy That Has Metastasized Among Many Of” Trump’s Backers.** Meanwhile, a *New York Times* (1/9, Gabriel, 20.6M) analysis says that the “violent mob inspired by...Trump smashing its way into the Capitol” was “a shocking spectacle” that “highlighted one of the most dangerous parts of Mr. Trump’s legacy: the disbelief in democracy that has metastasized among many of his supporters.” The Times adds that while the “turmoil...has divided Republican officials,” some of the voters who “fervently back” Trump in interviews “expressed sympathy with what they said were the motives of the mob – to stop the counting of Electoral College results in Congress, under the false premise that widespread fraud had deprived the president of re-election.” According to the Times, this stance “suggests that a core part of the Republican Party, both voters and some officials, is dead-set on rejecting the legitimacy of any politics or party but their own.”

**COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Three Sri Lankan Nationals Charged In Federal Court With Aiding 2019 Bombings.**

The Los Angeles Times (1/8, Ormseth, 3.37M) reports, “Three Sri Lankan nationals were charged Friday in federal court in Los Angeles with supporting an ISIS cell that killed hundreds of people in a string of coordinated suicide bombings that shook Sri Lanka in 2019.” Mohamed Naufar, Mohamed Anwar Mohamed Riskan and Ahamed Milhan Hayathu Moahmed are “accused of conspiring to provide material support to ISIS.” Naufar and Milhan are also charged with aiding and abetting the receipt of military training from ISIS.

The AP (1/8) reports, “The men have no California connection but the FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force that headed the investigation is based in Los Angeles, according to the U.S. attorney’s office.” They were “being held in Sri Lanka and it wasn’t immediately clear whether they had attorneys who could speak for them.” Nick Hanna, U.S. attorney for the Central District of California, said in a statement, “This case clearly demonstrates that the United States will take decisive action to ensure terrorists face justice when they target Americans anywhere in the world. This complaint makes clear that we stand ready with these charges in the event the defendants attempt to evade justice.”

**Jacobsen: Biometric Evidence Used In Fight Against Terrorism May Not Be Reliable.**

In an essay adapted from her upcoming book “First Platoon” for the *New York Times* (1/9, 20.6M), reporter and author Annie Jacobsen writes President Trump pardoned Clint Lorance, “an Army first lieutenant who ordered his platoon to shoot three unarmed motorcycle riders in Afghanistan, in July 2012, killing two of them,” after “being shown biometric data — fingerprints and DNA — that alleged the Afghan men killed were Taliban bomb makers, not civilians.” Jacobsen writes that “biometric evidence is at the heart” in the case of Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, who “pleaded guilty to killing 16 Afghan villagers in cold blood.” Bales’ “appeal rests, in part, on data provided by a biometrics expert named William Carney — who also worked on the Lorance case.” Jacobsen writes that “these efforts are built upon the century-old law enforcement notion that fingerprints don’t lie.” However, “in the nascent world of Defense Department biometrics, I learned, fingerprint evidence can be manipulated and misconstrued.”

**Boston Marathon Bomber Sues Over Treatment In Prison.**
The New York Post (1/8, Woods, 7.45M) reported, “Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is suing the federal government for $250,000 over his treatment inside the Colorado supermax prison where he is serving a life sentence — claiming his baseball cap was confiscated and he has been restricted to only three showers a week, according to a new report.” In the suit, Tsarnaev accused guards and the warden at the Federal Correctional Complex Florence — called the ‘Alcatraz of the Rockies’ — of being ‘unlawful, unreasonable and discriminatory,’ The Boston Herald reported.” Tsarnaev claimed that prison guards confiscated his baseball cap and bandana because, by wearing [the cap], I was ‘disrespecting’ the FBI and the victims of the April 15, 2013, bombing, according to the report.” His treatment, he claimed, “has made him so anxious that it is contributing to his ‘mental and physical decline.’”

**FAA Chief Issues Statement Warning Public Not To Disrupt Flights With “Unruly Passenger Behavior.”**

Bloomberg (1/9, Levin, 3.57M) reports Federal Aviation Administration Administrator Stephen Dickson released a statement Saturday vowing “strong enforcement action against anyone who endangers the safety of a flight, with penalties ranging from monetary fines to jail time.” Dickson’s statement followed “a spate of incidents” last week “involving supporters of President Donald Trump disrupting flights and refusing to wear face masks.” Dickson added that FAA keeps tabs on flight safety violations such as “unruly passenger behavior, which can distract, disrupt, and threaten crew members’ ability to conduct their key safety functions.”

Reuters (1/9, Shepardson) reports Dickson stated, “I expect all passengers to follow crew member instructions, which are in place for their safety and the safety of flight.” The story reports Alaska Airlines has “banned 14 passengers from future travel with the carrier after ‘unacceptable’ behavior on a flight from Washington to Seattle.” According to the story, FAA has “opened more than 1,300 enforcement actions against unruly passengers during the past decade.”

CNBC (1/9, Josephs, 7.34M) reports last week, one “American Airlines pilot on a Washington-to-Phoenix flight warned travelers he would ‘put this plane down and dump people off in the middle of Kansas’ to convince passengers to ‘behave’ on board.” There was “another flight” where “American Airlines flight attendants turned up the lights and ordered passengers to their seats after passengers shouted and cursed each other.”

**Capitol Police To Station Agents At DC-Area Airports After Multiple Members Of Congress Harassed.** Politico (1/9, Ferris, 6.73M) reports, “Capitol security officials are escalating safety measures for members of Congress at airports after multiple incidents in which lawmakers have been verbally harassed as they travel to and from Washington.” USCP will station agents “at three regional airports” — Reagan International, Dulles International, and Baltimore-Washington International — “through Inauguration Day to ‘assist with security coordination.’” The action was taken “after the confrontation of many lawmakers in D.C. airports, including Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-S.C.).” Unlike Graham, “many lawmakers, particularly in the House, do not” have a dedicated security detail with them when they travel, and “Several lawmakers have privately been raising concerns that they could be not just confronted verbally, but threatened in more dramatic fashion in the coming days and weeks.”

ABC World News Tonight (1/9, story 5, 0:30, Llamas, 839K) broadcast USCP “will be teaming up with other authorities, including US Air Marshals, to provide protection for members of Congress.” NBC News (1/10, Moe, Lozano, 4.91M) reports online the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority and US Air Marshals “will increase security for congressional travel to and from Washington.” In addition to Graham, Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA) were also “heckled” at airports while traveling home last week.

**Pompeo To Designate Yemen’s Houthis A Foreign Terrorist Organization.**

The Washington Post (1/10, Hudson, Ryan, 10.52M) reports, “The Trump administration has decided to designate Yemen’s Houthi rebels as a foreign terrorist organization,” according to unnamed sources. The Post says, “aid groups and several senior U.S. officials worry the decision could worsen a humanitarian crisis.” In a memo obtained by the outlet, Secretary of State Pompeo “announced his intention to blacklist the group and add three of its top officials to a list of [redacted]”

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Specially Designated Global Terrorists, including leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi.” An official “said the
decision was based on the group’s involvement in terrorist activities, including a missile attack on
a Saudi airport in 2019 and another on a Saudi oil distribution station in 2020.” Pompeo said, “The
designations are intended to hold Ansarallah accountable for its terrorist acts, including cross-
border attacks threatening civilian populations, infrastructure, and commercial shipping.”

The AP (1/11, Michael) reports, “A leading aid organization on Monday warned that U.S.
Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s move to designate Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi rebels as a
foreign terrorist organization would deal another ‘devastating blow’ to the impoverished and war-
torn nation.” The Norwegian Refugee Council “said the designation and Pompeo’s planned
sanctions on the Houthis will hamstring the ability of aid agencies to respond to the humanitarian
needs of millions of Yemenis.” The council, along with other humanitarian agencies active in
Yemen, “have long warned that sanctions could prove catastrophic for efforts to help starving
Yemeni civilians caught in the conflict between the Houthis and the Yemeni government, backed by
a Saudi-led coalition which has been waging war against the rebels.”

Experts: Foreign Intelligence Officials Likely Entered Capitol Building.

Government Matters (DC) (1/10, Haddon) reports that former ODNI National Security Policy
Analyst Katrina Mulligan “said the possibility that a bad actor could have gotten into the Capitol
building” during its assault last week “is ‘more than plausible’ and ‘has almost certainly occurred.’”
Mulligan estimates there to be “over 100,000 foreign intelligence officials believed to be living in
the Washington, D.C. area.” Mulligan said last week’s events are “exactly the kind of situation that
a foreign intelligence official would be seeking to exploit for these sorts of purposes.” Former
Deputy Assistant DHS Secretary for Counterterrorism Policy Tom Warrick said foreign adversaries
don’t have to go after the most classified secrets – they can go after cell phones, laptops, papers
left on desks as people are evacuated.”

DNI Ombudsman: Administration Politicized Some Intelligence Regarding Foreign
Interference In 2020 Elections.

The New York Times (1/8, Barnes, Savage, Goldman, 20.6M) says that Barry Zulauf, the analytic
ombudsman in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, has “concluded” in a new report
submitted to Congress on Thursday that the Administration “politicized the intelligence around
foreign election interference in 2020, resulting in significant errors in its reports last year to
Congress and the public.” Analysts “believed that the classified document – after interventions by
John Ratcliffe, the current director of national intelligence, to add the warning about China – was
an ‘outrageous misrepresentation of their analysis,’” according to Zulauf. The analysts “believed
that during a drawn-out review process, senior leaders had ‘watered down’ their conclusions
about Russia to make it sound ‘not too controversial’ while diverting attention to China by
bolstering the perception of its threat.”

The Washington Post (1/8, Nakashima, 10.52M) says Zulauf “described an intelligence
community afflicted by a ‘widespread perception in the workforce about politicization’ of analysis
on the topic of foreign election influence – one that he says threatens the legitimacy of the
agencies’ work.” According to the Post, “The dispute illustrates the task faced by the incoming
administration, with senior advisers to...Joe Biden saying they want to end what they describe as
a toxic political environment in the intelligence community and produce the best information for
policymakers.”

Dominion Voting Systems Sues Ex-Trump Lawyer Sidney Powell For $1.3B.

USA Today (1/8, Cummings, 12.7M) reports, “Dominion Voting Systems filed a defamation lawsuit
against attorney Sidney Powell over” claims relating to the 2020 election. Powell has “variously
implicated Dominion, deceased Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez, the CIA and Chinese communists
in a plot to rig the election against Trump.” The lawsuit says, “Dominion was founded in Toronto
for the purpose of creating a fully auditable paper-based vote system that would empower people with disabilities to vote independently on verifiable paper ballots. The company "says her claims are not rooted in any factual basis but instead rely on 'declarations from a motley crew of conspiracy theorists, con artists, armchair 'experts,' and anonymous sources who were judicially determined to be 'wholly unreliable.'" The Wall Street Journal (1/8, Corse, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

**Trump Faces Calls To Pardon WikiLeaks' Assange.**
The New York Times (1/10, Vogel, 20.6M) reports WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's allies "have ramped up a push for a last-minute pardon from President Trump, enlisting a lobbyist with connections to the administration, trying to rally supporters across the political spectrum and filing a clemency petition with the White House." However, the Times says the initiative "comes at a delicate moment for Mr. Assange and during a period of tension between the United States and Britain over a case that his supporters say has substantial implications for press freedoms."

**Nunes Asks Ratcliffe To Look Into Coronavirus Origins, Wuhan Lab Theory.**
The Washington Examiner (1/10, Dunleavy, 888K) reports that Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, called on DNI Ratcliffe "to provide details about the origins of the coronavirus in China, including intelligence community information related to whether COVID-19 may have escaped from a lab in Wuhan." In a two-page letter, Nunes said the Republicans in his committee "have conducted a long-standing investigation into the rise of China as our foremost national security threat," and "as part of that probe, we are investigating the outbreak of the coronavirus." He "asked Ratcliffe to provide the intelligence with a classified notification on Chinese virology research, including an explanation of significant changes in Intelligence Community analysis, or the evolution of such analysis, related to the origin of SARS-CoV-2, research activities in Wuhan labs, efforts by China to block international investigations of a possible lab leak, and actions taken by Chinese authorities that increased COVID-19 worldwide lethality and economic disruptions."

**Intel Agencies Directed In Spending Bill To Reveal Knowledge Of UFOs.**
CNN (1/10, Kaur, 89.21M) reports that following the signing of the coronavirus relief and government spending bill in December, DNI and the Secretary of Defense have 180 days "to provide the congressional intelligence and armed services committees with an unclassified report about 'unidentified aerial phenomena.'" The IC report "must contain detailed analyses of UFO data and intelligence collected by the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force and the FBI, according to the Senate intelligence committee's directive." It should also outline "an interagency process for ensuring timely data collection and centralized analysis of all unidentified aerial phenomena reporting for the Federal Government," said the report. It must "designate an official responsible for that process" and "identify any potential national security threats posed by UFOs and assess whether any of the nation's adversaries could be behind such activity."

International Business Times (1/10, Manning, 123K) reports, "Congress is interested in this information because of the various videos the Pentagon released in April." They showed "unidentified area phenomena" that the U.S. Navy stated were real, according to CNN."

**CIA Redesigns Website With New, Modern Images.**
The Los Angeles Times (1/8, Miranda, 3.37M) reports that last week the CIA announced "that it had traded its old site design (a bureaucratic harmony of blue and beige) in favor of a sleek new look." Visitors to the site now "encounter an all-black background with bold white headlines: 'We are the Nation's First Line of Defense.'" The agency's seal "depicting an eagle and a shield, generally rendered in red, white, yellow and blue, has been transformed into stark black and white." Additionally, "Cosmic-looking circular glyphs serve as navigational symbols. Scattered throughout the site are images of cerebral-yet-stylish individuals with blue-steel glares – of the sort you might find on the faculty page for SCI-Arc." The Times says the redesign "draws attention
Kim Jong Un Threatens To Expand Nuclear Arsenal.

The AP (1/8, Kim) reports, “North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to expand his nuclear arsenal and develop more sophisticated atomic weapons systems, saying the fate of relations with the United States depends on whether it abandons its hostile policy, state media reported Saturday.”

Reuters (1/8, Kim) reports, “North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called the United States the biggest enemy and said Washington's hostile policy toward North Korea would not change regardless of who occupies the White House, state media reported on Saturday.”

CNN (1/9, 89.21M) reports that Kim “said North Korea is pushing ahead with the armaments to deter the United States, comments that appear to show President Donald Trump's strategy of high-level engagement with Pyongyang failed to convince Pyongyang to stop its pursuit of a modern nuclear arsenal.” The North Korean leader “said ‘multiple-warhead guidance technology’ is in the final stage, while studies in hypersonic flight that could be applied to new ballistic missiles are complete,’ with North Korea ‘making preparations for their test and production.’”

The Washington Post (1/8, Denyer, 10.52M) reports that Kim said, “There is no more foolish and dangerous act than not reinforcing our own forces while clearly seeing development of state-of-the-art weapons of our enemies.” In the speech, “Kim vowed to develop solid-fuel ICBMs that can be launched from land and sea.” He also “called for more research and development into advanced military equipment, including spy satellites, hypersonic weapons and reconnaissance drones, and said research had nearly been completed on a nuclear submarine.”

The New York Times (1/8, Choe, 20.6M) reports that the speech “marked his first official reaction to the election of Mr. Biden to replace Mr. Trump.”

The AP (1/10, Kim) reports separately, “North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was given the title of general secretary of the ruling Workers’ Party formerly held by his late father and grandfather, state media reported Monday.” The added title is a “move apparently aimed at bolstering his authority amid growing economic challenges.” At the meeting, Kim also “vowed to build more sophisticated nuclear weapons, disclosed economic developmental goals and reshuffled party officials.”

The Hill (1/9, 5.69M) also reports.

Chinese State Media Denounce Pompeo’s Lifting Of Restrictions On Contact Between US And Taiwan Officials.

The AP (1/10, Morisug) reports, “China’s state media lashed out at the latest move on Taiwan by the departing Trump administration, accusing U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo of ‘seeking to maliciously inflict a long-lasting scar on China-U.S. ties.’” A commentary for the Xinhua News Agency stated “that the lifting of longstanding restrictions on U.S. government contacts with Taiwanese counterparts proves that Pompeo is only interested in stoking unwarranted confrontations, and has no interest in world peace.” A CGTN commentary “called Pompeo’s announcement ‘a cowardly act of sabotage’ of the next U.S. administration.” Taiwan’s Premier Su Tseng-chang said, “We are expressing our gratitude toward the U.S. for speaking out and supporting Taiwan.”

Reuters (1/10, Ali, Brunnstrom) reports on Saturday, Secretary of State Pompeo “said he was lifting restrictions on contacts between U.S. officials and their Taiwanese counterparts, a move likely to anger China and increase tensions between Beijing and Washington.” The restrictions were, said Pompeo, self-imposed, and lifting them, according to Reuters, “appeared to be another part of an effort...to lock in a tough approach to China.”

The New York Times (1/9, Barnes, Qin, 20.6M) reports, “A set of complex guidelines meant to make it difficult for American officials to visit with Taiwan’s officials was put in place after the adoption of the ‘One China policy’ in 1979, which recognized the communist government in Beijing and removed recognition of the nationalist government that ruled Taiwan.” Pompeo said, “Executive branch agencies should consider all ‘contact guidelines’ regarding relations with Taiwan.
previously issued by the Department of State under authorities delegated to the secretary of state to be null and void.” The Times also reports, “A Biden transition official said Mr. Biden remained committed to the One China policy, as well as the Taiwan Relations Act.”

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Fort Bliss Soldier Charged Over Alleged Sexual Assault Of Private First Class Subsequently Discovered Dead.

ABC World News Tonight” (1/9, story 10, 0:18, Llamas, 839K) reported that the Army “says a Fort Bliss soldier has been charged for the alleged sexual assault of another soldier who was later found dead on base. Private First Class Asia Graham was found unresponsive in her barracks on New Year’s Eve. She reportedly accused the soldier charged of sexual assault before her death.”

Colorado Attorney General’s Office Launches Grand Jury Probe Into McClain’s Death.

The Hill (1/8, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports, “The Colorado attorney general’s office on Friday announced that it has launched a grand jury inquiry into the death of Elijah McClain, a 23-year-old Black man who died after Aurora police put him in a chokehold in 2019.” Weiser said in a release that his office has commenced “a grand jury investigation,” in order to “compel testimony from witnesses and require production of documents and other relevant information that would otherwise be unavailable.” He said, “Our investigation will be thorough, guided by the facts and law, and worthy of the public’s trust.”

Colorado Officers Will Not Face Charges Over Detainment Of Black Girls.

In a story that also reports on the grand jury probe into McClain’s death, the AP (1/8, Slevin, Nieberg) reports, “Suburban Denver police officers won’t be charged after detaining four Black girls by gunpoint this summer and handcuffing two of them after wrongly suspecting they were riding in a stolen car, prosecutors said Friday.” The August incident also involved personnel from the Aurora Police Department.

FBI Releases Video Of Armored Car Courier Being Robbed At North Miami Beach ATM.

The Miami Herald (1/9, Cohen, 647K) reported, “An armored car courier servicing an ATM at a Wells Fargo bank branch in North Miami Beach was robbed by a man driving a blue Honda Civic on Friday afternoon, the FBI said.” The FBI has “released video of an exchange between the robber and the courier — who fired a shot at the robber — and an image of the car’s rear and license plate.” According to FBI agent Michael Leverock, the robbery “happened at about 4 p.m. Friday near an ATM behind a Wells Fargo bank branch at 147th Street and Biscayne Boulevard.”

WFOR-TV Miami (1/8) reported, “Authorities said the suspect fled the area in his car with an undetermined amount of money.”

Former Michigan Police Officer Pleads Guilty To Civil Rights Charge Of Excessive Force.

The Detroit Free Press (1/8, Abdel-Baqui, 2.16M) reported, “A former Hamtramck police officer who pistol-whipped two civilians in 2014 and lied about it in police reports pleaded guilty to a civil rights charge of excessive force in U.S. District Court in Detroit on Friday.” Ryan Mcinerney “admitted that on the night of June 22, 2014, he stopped a man in his vehicle, ordered him to put his hands up, and without justification, pistol-whipped him several times in the face, according to the Department of Justice.” A news release from the DOJ said, “As a result of the assault, the victim, identified in court documents only as D.M., suffered broken facial bones and lacerations requiring stitches, among other injuries. D.M. did not present a danger to the defendant, and there was no lawful reason for the pistol-whipping.”

Texas Man Pleads Sentenced In Fake ID Scheme To Get Free Flights.

The Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) reported, “A Houston man who U.S. attorneys say manufactured, used and sold fraudulent airline-employee ID cards to gain free-flight privileges on Spirit Airlines was sentenced on Wednesday to 30 months in prison by a U.S. district judge in
California." Hubbard Bell, 32, "a former Mesa Airlines employee who had legitimate access to the Spirit Airlines flight privileges as a work benefit until 2015, allegedly started the scam after Mesa Airlines terminated him in 2015. According to the article, "the fake ID ring ran from early 2016 to late 2017, and it resulted in 1,953 known flight bookings reserved for someone whose name did not match the Mesa Airlines employee used to book the free flight."

Fugitive Convicted Of Chicago Murder Captured After More Than 20 Years At Large

The Times of Northwest Indiana (1/9, Ortiz, 254K) reported, "On Tuesday the FBI Gang Response Investigative Team received a tip that a fugitive named Joseph Tallios, 55, was living in a home in Lake Station, said Chris Bavender of the FBI Indianapolis office." That same day, "agents arrested the man at a park at Liverpool Road and Decatur Street, which was near his residence, Bavender said." Tallios, "who fled mid-trial, was convicted in absentia of the murder of his brother-in-law and related arson in June 1997, according to a 1998 article from the Chicago Tribune."

Ohio Resident Facing Drug, Firearm Charges.

The Youngstown (OH) Vindicator (1/9, 135K) reported that a recently filed criminal complaint accuses Youngstown resident Raphael Ortiz "of possessing drugs with intent to distribute them and being a felon in possession of a firearm." The Vindicator added, "The charges stem from a search operation that involved the FBI and other law enforcement organizations.

FBI Raids Homes, Offices Of Tennessee State Lawmakers.

NBC News (1/8, 4.91M) reported, "Federal authorities raided homes and offices of several Tennessee lawmakers on Friday, including the property of former state House Speaker Glen Casada, officials said." FBI agents searched properties with "addresses associated with Casada, fellow GOP state Reps. Robin Smith and Todd Warner and Casada's former chief of staff, Cade Cothren, said David Boiling, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Nashville." Casada resigned from "his leadership role in summer 2019, after he admitted to sending a series of sexually inappropriate and racist text messages."

The AP (1/8, Kruesi, Mattise) reports U.S. Attorney's Office for Middle Tennessee spokesman David Boiling "said FBI agents searched the homes and offices of state lawmakers" on Friday. The searches "included the homes of former GOP House Speaker Glen Casada and state Rep. Robin Smith," but Boiling "declined to provide any further information regarding the nature of the searches and how many lawmakers were involved."

WSMV-TV Nashville, TN (1/8, Sulek, Wenzel, 230K) reports Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton said in a statement, "I have been, and I will continue to be in full cooperation with the authorities as their investigation continues. On the advice of both Ethics and Legal Counsel, I am placing everyone that was subject to the execution of today's search warrants on administrative leave until further notice." CBS News (1/8, 5.39M) reports Republican Governor Bill Lee "told reporters Friday that he had spoken to current House Speaker Cameron Sexton about the searches, describing them as "FBI raids."

The Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (1/10, 168K) reports that Tennessee legislators believe that the raids focus "could be on the controversial 2019 passage of Gov. Bill Lee's school voucher bill." Critics "charged at the time that various promises to fund pet projects and take other actions were extended by GOP lawmakers to pass fellow Republican Lee's voucher bill."

WSMV-TV Nashville, TN (1/8, Finley, 230K) reports former Speaker of the House Glenn Casada has also "been embroiled in controversy over racist and sexist text messages as well as additional allegations of misconduct is stepping down as House Speaker."

Also reporting are Tennessean (1/10, 645K), Tennessean (1/10, 645K), Tennessean (1/8, 645K), and WSMV-TV Nashville, TN (1/8, Sulek, Wenzel, 230K).

Investigation In Georgia Leads To Meth Seizure.

In online coverage, WGA-TV Macon, GA (1/8, Helm) reported, "The Butts County Sheriff's Office on Friday announced the results of a months-long" investigation that targeted an alleged methamphetamine trafficking ring. The DEA and the FBI were involved with the investigation,
which led to the seizure of “almost 10 pounds of meth with an estimated street value of over $225,000, along with handguns, assault rifles, vehicles, stolen property, and over $40,000 in cash.” The Jackson (GA) Progress-Argus (1/8, Stanford, 11K) and the WAGA-TV Atlanta (1/8, Evans, 315K) website also covered this story.

Pennsylvania Judge Orders Detention Of Former University Of Pittsburgh Student Over FBI Threats.
The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (1/8, 426K) reports U.S. Magistrate Judge Richard Lanzillo “ruled Friday that Khaled Miah, 27, will remain in custody as a danger to the community and a flight risk.” FBI agents “said Mr. Miah holds Islamic extremist views and had been watching FBI agents who were investigating him.” They also “said he used a Twitter account to post threatening messages to Pittsburgh agents and at one point watched an agent’s residence.”

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (1/8, Ward, 245K) reports Lanzillo said in his ruling, “Anyone who seems to come within the defendant’s orbit ... becomes subject to his surveillance and scrutiny.” He added, “This is all with a backdrop of fascination with terrorism and terrorists that cannot be explained by academic interest.”

Texas Man Suspected Of Murder Commits Suicide.
KDFW-TV Dallas (1/9, 372K) reports Herbert Nixon Flores, who “was being tracked by the FBI Fugitive Task Force from Los Angeles” in connection to the murder of an ex-girlfriend, “shot himself as more police vehicles approached him” in Irving.

The Los Angeles Times (1/9, 3.37M) reports that Flores’ death “brought an end to a manhunt that began the morning of Jan. 6, when, police say, Flores shot his former girlfriend to death in the 9000 block of Barbee Avenue in Pacoima.”

Former Federal Agent One Of Four Indicted In Painkillers Case.
The Miami Herald (1/9, 647K) reported that Alberico Atius Crespo, a former US Department of Health and Human Services agent, and three others were recently indicted “on charges of dealing painkillers in Miami-Dade County.” The Herald highlighted the FBI’s involvement with the investigation of this case.

Convicted Sex Offender Arrested In Utah.
The Deseret News (UT) (1/8, 114K) reports Craig Thomas Defe, who “pleaded guilty to four counts of sexual exploitation of a minor and unlawful conduct with a 16- or 17-year-old” in November 2019, “has been arrested again in an online undercover investigation by police.” He “showed up to meet whom he thought was a 13-year-old girl,” and he “was still wearing a GPS monitor on his ankle issued by a judge in his current case.” The FBI supported the sting.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (1/8, 372K) reports that the Las Vegas Valley’s Child Exploitation Task Force arrested Holens Colimon and Jose Calderon-Moller on charges of “attempting to pay a 15-year-old girl for sex as part of an undercover law enforcement sting in Las Vegas.” A task force officer “received communications from two separate callers responding to the ad,” and they “informed the callers that the girl being offered for prostitution was 15, and in each case, the callers were still willing to meet.”

Arizona Identifies Body.
The AP (1/8) reports that the Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office announced Friday the identification of Shane Rollman’s body, which was “found in a dry creekbed near Interstate 17 on New Year’s Day.” Rollman’s car “had been found abandoned about two miles away at a highway rest area on Sept. 23.”

DOL Sues To Void Local 98 Leadership Election In Pennsylvania.
The Philadelphia Inquirer (1/8, Roebuck) reports that the Department of Labor "sued to void the most recent election of the city's politically powerful electrician's union Friday, saying labor leader John J. Dougherty and his allies had threatened those who had considered challenging them for leadership positions." Government lawyers "asked a judge to force Local 98 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to hold a new vote for several top posts" after a raid conducted last October, when agents "sought evidence of similar claims that the union's top officials had intimidated rivals who questioned Dougherty's leadership after his 2019 indictment on bribery and embezzlement charges."

Deutsche Bank Agrees To Pay $125 Million To Settle Foreign Bribery Violations.

The New York Times (1/8, Goldstein, Enrich, 20.6M) reports, "Deutsche Bank agreed on Friday to pay $125 million to settle a foreign bribery investigation by federal authorities into the bank's attempts to win business in several countries including Saudi Arabia by making improper payments to politically connected people." The Wall Street Journal (1/8, Ramey, Patrick, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Former Iowa Public Official Sentenced For Mail Fraud.

The AP (1/8) reports former Iowa trash collection official Jeffrey Dvorek "was sentenced Friday to 57 months in prison after pleading guilty last August to one count of federal mail fraud." He "was arrested in 2019 and indicted on 10 mail fraud counts," and prosecutors "say he set up a shell company purported to provide services to Metro Waste Authority, then paid out company funds for his own use between 2012 and 2017."

US Charges Two Oregonians With COVID-19 Loan Fraud.

The AP (1/8) reports from Portland, Oregon, "Two men are accused of converting for personal use more than $2.2 million in loans meant to help small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic." Andrew Aaron Lloyd, 50, of Lebanon, and Russell A. Schort, 38, of Myrtle Creek, "are charged with wire fraud, bank fraud and money laundering in federal court in Eugene. The FBI investigated after receiving information that the men fraudulently obtained Paycheck Protection Program loans, which were authorized by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act." The AP adds, "Between April 7 and May 8, financial records showed both applied for and received at least three loan payments using three different entities, totaling more than $2.2 million, according to a criminal complaint filed in court."


Bloomberg (1/8, Sebenius, 3.57M) reports SolarWinds "has tapped prominent security experts Chris Krebs and Alex Stamos to review its practices after suspected Russian hackers compromised the company's software and conducted a sprawling hack across the U.S. government and private sector." Krebs previously headed the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency "and was known for instilling confidence in the integrity of the 2020 elections until he was fired by President Donald Trump in November." Bloomberg adds that Stamos "served as chief security officer at Facebook until 2018 and is currently director of the Stanford Internet Observatory."

The Washington Times (1/8, Blake, 626K) reports that Stamos said, "We have already engaged in helping understand and recover from what looks to be one of the most serious foreign intrusion campaigns in history, and we will be helping others learn from this attack." Meanwhile, Krebs "worked as Microsoft's director for cybersecurity policy before joining CISA, a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as the agency's first director beginning in late 2018." The agency was "charge of securing the nation's election infrastructure when millions of Americans voted in the recent White House race decisively won by President-elect Joseph R. Biden."
Reporting similarly are Law360 (1/8, Subscription Publication, 9K) and TechCrunch (1/8, Whittaker, 502K).

**DHS Advisory Explains How Attackers Hid In Plain Sight.** CNN (1/8, Fung, 89.21M) reports that on Friday a DHS bulletin found the Russian-linked hackers behind the SolarWinds breach "gave themselves top administrative privileges, allowing them to spy on their targets with impunity." The DHS advisory "represents the agency's most detailed explanation yet of how the attackers were able to monitor high-value intelligence targets undetected for months," revealing "that investigators are increasingly focused on the attackers’ use of Microsoft products to hide in plain sight." Experts and officials "have said for weeks that the attackers likely abused credentials and impersonated legitimate users to conduct their spying campaign." Now CISA "has confirmed that happened, describing step-by-step how the attackers hid their tracks."

**Federal Cyber Group Announces SolarWinds Hack Affected Fewer Than 10 Agencies.** The Washington Examiner (1/7, Gross, 888K) reports that the US Cyber Unified Coordination Group (UCG) "announced on Jan. 5 that it had identified fewer than 10 agencies affected by the [SolarWinds] cyberattack," though "investigators are still working to determine the scope of the damage." The group "did not list the affected agencies, but news reports have suggested the U.S. departments of Treasury, Commerce, State, Energy, and Homeland Security were victims of the attack." It "said the attack originated from an advanced attacker, likely Russian in origin." UCG includes agencies such as the FBI and CISA.

**Federal Courts’ Filing System Likely Breached By SolarWinds Hack.** The Washington Examiner (1/8, Dunleavy, 888K) reports, "The online filing system used by the federal court system was likely breached in the SolarWinds hack, suspected to be orchestrated by Russia." The Administrative Office of the US Courts "revealed an 'apparent compromise of the confidentiality' of its case management and electronic case files system 'due to these discovered vulnerabilities' and said this week that it was 'under investigation.'" The agency is working with DHS "on a 'security audit' related to the cyberattacks that 'greatly risk compromising highly sensitive non-public documents ... particularly sealed filings' stored on the online system, adding that 'due to the nature of the attacks, the review of this matter and its impact is ongoing.'"

**FBI Alert Warns Of Growing Egregor Ransomware Threat.**

Gov Info Security (1/9, Ferguson) reports, "The FBI issued a private industry warning this week over the growing threat from the operators behind the Egregor ransomware variant and other cybercriminal gangs affiliated with the group." Since September, the group and its affiliates "claim to have compromised approximately 150 corporate networks both in the U.S. and other countries." They have demanded as much as $4 million, according to a Group-IB report. The group "operates in a service model, which includes the operators of the actual ransomware as well as affiliated cybercriminals that carry out their own attacks and receive a percentage of the ransom if the money is paid by the victim," according to the FBI. The FBI alert says, "Egregor ransomware utilizes multiple mechanisms to compromise business networks, including targeting business network and employee personal accounts that share access with business networks or devices."

**New Zealand Central Bank Reports Data System Was Hacked.**

The AP (1/10) reports, "New Zealand's central bank said Sunday that one of its data systems has been breached by an unidentified hacker who potentially accessed commercially and personally sensitive information." The breach involved a "third party file sharing service used by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand to share and store sensitive information." The bank's governor Adrian Orr said, "We are working closely with domestic and international cybersecurity experts and other relevant authorities as part of our investigation and response to this malicious attack." Orr added, "The nature and extent of information that has been potentially accessed is still being determined, but it may include some commercially and personally sensitive information." Also reporting is Reuters (1/11).

**Experts: US Government’s Ability To Protect Against Russian Hackers Has Gotten Worse.**
The Washington Post (1/8, Riley, 10.52M) reports, “The U.S. government’s ability to protect itself from Russian hackers has gotten worse,” according to 63% of experts on “The Network,” a panel of more than 100 cybersecurity experts who participate in our ongoing informal survey. The SolarWinds hack targeted fewer than 10 federal agencies including the Justice, Homeland Security, and Treasury departments as well as the companies around the globe who were also clients of network management company SolarWinds.” According to the experts, the campaign “shows defenses aren’t improving faster than the adversaries are innovating.” Van Scoyoc Associates vice president and chair of the cybersecurity and data privacy practice Norma Krayem said, “How it is that seven years after the [Office of Personnel Management] attack the U.S. government’s systems are still not able to identify and protect against sophisticated ... hackers is unfathomable.”

US Government Spent Billions To Stop Cyberattacks In FY20.
The Daily Caller (1/8, Hukerl, 375K) reports that the IC “formally blamed Russia” for the attack on SolarWinds and federal agencies in a statement last week, stating that hackers had been launching attacks on federal networks for nearly nine months before first being detected.” According to the New York Times, “SolarWinds said 33,006 of its customers used the program and around half downloaded the malicious code.” The government was subjected to the attack “for months before software company SolarWinds discovered in December their Information technology program Orion – used by government agencies – had been compromised.” According to Deltek, “Roughly $18.7 billion in federal spending was allocated for cybersecurity initiatives in fiscal year 2020” – almost half of which “went to the Pentagon and agencies under its oversight” such as DIA and NSA.

WPost Profiles Bellingcat Investigative Collaborative.
The Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) highlights “the global corps of sleuths known as Bellingcat.” According to the Post, “The investigative collaborative – which relies on both paid and volunteer researchers combing through ‘open-source’ digital data available to anyone with the right searching skills – has been responsible for several eye-popping scoops: pinning the crash of a Malaysian airliner in Ukraine to a Russian missile, unmasking spies supposedly behind the poisoning of a Russian double agent in England and dissecting the racist motives of the Christchurch, New Zealand, mosque mass shooter.” However, “Bellingcat’s occasional use of what is essentially a black market for data raises questions for American newsrooms.”

FBI Partners With Illinois On Task Force To Tackle Unemployment Fraud.
The Chicago Tribune (1/8, Jimenez, 2.03M) reported, “As reports of unemployment insurance fraud continue to rise, Illinois has partnered with the FBI to create a task force aimed at curbing the issue.” Attorney General Kwame Raoul on Friday announced “the launch of the task force, which includes the state’s Department of Employment Security, State Police and Department of Revenue, as well as the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General and the IRS.” The task force will “allow federal, state and local law enforcement to share resources as the state looks to address widespread fraud, Kwame said in a Friday news release.”

Groups Request Supreme Court To Rule On Whether Americans Can Keep Phone Passcodes Secret.
In an exclusive, the Wall Street Journal (1/8, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that a pair of civil-liberties organizations filed a petition requesting the US Supreme Court to rule on the question of whether Americans are constitutionally permitted to keep their passcodes secret. The petition was filed on Thursday by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier
Barrett: FBI Continues To Set The Standard For Government Transparency.

In a piece for the Washington Post (1/7, Barrett, 10.52M), Devlin Barrett argues that while recent books authored by former FBI officials "have tended to be about hard men in dark suits, whispering worriedly about Russians, President Trump and existential threats to democracy," the FBI "still sets a gold standard for excellence and ethics that should be followed more widely." Barrett examines Frank Figliuzzi’s new book, "The FBI Way: Inside the Bureau’s Code of Excellence," which "is in the spirit of earlier tomes that combine federal-agent tradecraft with a dash of self-improvement advice."

WPost: Garland Can Fix DOJ.

A Washington Post (1/16, 10.52M) editorial argues Appeals Court Judge Merrick Garland, Joe Biden’s nominee for attorney general, is an "unusual choice" for the position as he is a sitting judge, but the decision is "an inspired one for perhaps the most important job in the next administration." According to the Post, Garland’s nomination "sends an emphatic message that Mr. Biden does not want what President Trump desired in an attorney general: a lackey who will serve as the president’s personal attorney. Instead, Mr. Biden chose an apolitical judge who will serve with the independence and credibility befitting the nation’s top lawyer." The Post adds the Justice Department "needs that -- badly."

Comey To Publish New Book Ahead Of The Inauguration.

The Washington Post (1/7, Jurecic, 10.52M) reports former FBI Director James Comey will publish next week his new book, "Saving Justice," and his is "framing the book as part of a larger project of rebuilding American institutions in Trump’s wake." The latest work "is more of a user’s manual for the justice system, whose independence and integrity Trump has done his best to undermine," as opposed to a memoir.

Judge Orders Pretrial Release Of Accused Eco-Saboteur Joseph Dibee.

The Oregonian (1/8, 1.02M) reports U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken "ordered the pretrial release of eco-saboteur Joseph M. Dibee as soon as he tests negative for COVID-19." Aiken "said she was `really disturbed` by the medical issues at the jail, considering that she had received weekly status reports that no one in the jail had contracted coronavirus, and learned only of Dibee’s positive test when she ordered he be tested after his lawyer requested it."

FBI Sacramento Opens Applications For Online Citizens Academy.

The Woodland (CA) Daily Democrat (1/8, 15K) reports that the FBI Sacramento Field Office "is encouraging civil, business, and religious community leaders to complete an online application to attend its virtual FBI Citizens Academy." The Academy’s Spring 2021 courses will “be offered entirely online, enabling leaders from regions located far from FBI field offices to attend,” and they "provide community leaders with a view into how the FBI Sacramento Field Office serves communities within its 34-county region in California."


WTNH-TV Hartford, CT (1/8, 212K) reports that the Connecticut FBI Safe Streets Taskforce is working to "keep communities safe by addressing serious and violent crimes" throughout Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport. The article profiles the efforts of task force members throughout the state.
Democrats Move Toward Second Trump Impeachment.

Tom Llamas said in the lead story on ABC World News Tonight (1/18, lead story, 4:30, 4.76M) that in "fallout from the deadly siege on the Capitol," House Democrats are "on the path to impeach President Trump for a second time though he has just 10 days left in office. Democrats say he must be held accountable for his words. The charge: incitement of insurrection. ... As Congress heads towards impeachment, a growing number of Republicans are calling for the President to resign." ABC's Rachel Scott reported House Speaker Pelosi is "telling her party to get ready to come back to Washington, the single [impeachment] article charging Trump with incitement of insurrection. He predicted the day would 'be wild,' pressuring his loyal Vice President to undo the will of the people." Trump: "Mike Pence is going to have to come through for us." Scott: "But when he didn't, rioters were later heard chanting, 'Hang Mike Pence.' ... With his inner circle now shrinking, the President is hunkered down inside the White House, trying to assemble a defense team...as a growing number of Republicans and former allies condemn him." Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R): "What we had was an incitement to riot in the United States Capitol." ABC's George Stephanopoulos: "So you think it was an impeachable offense?" Christie: "Oh, sure. Yeah, I think if inciting to insurrection isn’t, then I don't know what is."

Jericka Duncan said in opening the CBS Weekend News (1/16, lead story, 3:05, 13.72M), "Tonight, President Trump faces a hard reckoning with history. In the wake of the assault on the US Capitol that he incited, Mr. Trump faces a second impeachment, perhaps even criminal charges." CBS' Nicole Killion: "As he enters his final full week in office, President Trump will try to shore up his legacy. Senior advisors tell CBS News he is expected to deliver remarks Monday and make a trip to the border Tuesday. But calls for the President to resign now are growing from within his own party." Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA): "The best way for our country to heal is for the President to resign and go away, as soon as possible."

Kate Snow opened NBC Nightly News (1/10, lead story, 3:10, 3.76M) with the "growing calls for the President of the United States to either resign or be impeached by Congress – and not just from Democrats, but some Republicans now calling on him to step aside. The President [is] not even speaking to his own Vice President at this point. We're also seeing new video tonight of just what happened on Wednesday at the Capitol. And we're learning security warnings ahead of that day were ignored." NBC's Kelly O'Donnell: "With Joe Biden soon to take office, senior Democrats suggest Speaker Pelosi could complete House impeachment but delay sending the article to the Senate for trial, giving the new Administration breathing room." House Majority Whip Clyburn: "One hundred days he needs to get his agenda off and running, and maybe we'll send the articles some time after that." Clyburn said on Fox News Sunday (1/10, 1.08M), "The Senate determines guilt or innocence and that has to do with the Senate schedule. Now, the House has to do its business. We call ourselves the people's house, the vast majority of the American people – I saw the poll results this morning – say this man should be removed from office."

Toomey, on CNN's State Of The Union (1/10, 1.21M), said, "I think the President did commit impeachable offenses. There is little doubt in my mind about that. I don't know as a practical matter it is actually possible to do an impeachment in the handful of days that are left. ... I am also not at all clear that it is constitutionally permissible to impeach someone after they have left office. So there may not be a viable impeachment route at this point. But certainly, he could resign and that would be a very good outcome." On NBC's Meet The Press (1/10, 2.9M), Toomey said, "The President has disqualified himself. I don't think he's a viable candidate for office ever again because of the outrageous behavior in the post election period." The Philadelphia Inquirer (1/10, Madej) reports Toomey "remarked that he doesn't think the 'unbelievable behavior of Wednesday...could've been reasonably expected,' and that Trump's actions are 'wildly different from the offensive tweets that were common during his presidency.'"

On CBS' Face The Nation (1/10, 2.91M), Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) said, "I understand the concerns that just as President Biden takes over responsibility for leading our nation through this tragic pandemic, that we might be distracted by weeks in the Senate by a Senate trial. That's why I've called for President Trump to do the right thing finally and resign or for Vice President Pence to secure the next 10 days through the 25th Amendment."
Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), on CNN's State Of The Union (1/10, 1.23M), said, "There is no doubt about it: He should be impeached. But you have to be practical about what we are doing. We have two paths to go. We are ready to install a new government. If I was Joe Biden, I'd want to put my government together and put confidence back into the American people that we can govern ourselves and be the beacon of light for the whole country and the whole world."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), on NBC's Meet The Press (1/10, 2.9M), said, "The assault on the capitol was a violent insurrection that was incited and encouraged by Donald Trump. It was an attack on the Congress, an attack on the country, and an attack on the Constitution. That's why House Democrats are united in demanding and seeking his immediate removal." On CNN's Inside Politics (1/10, 8.12K), Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-NY) said, "This President must be impeached and removed, and anything less than that is an abdication of Congress' constitutional responsibility to be a check on the executive branch and to protect the American people from a very dangerous, unbridled, lawless chief executive." Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), on ABC's This Week (1/10, 2.99M), said, "Our main priority is to ensure the removal of Donald Trump as President of the United States. Every minute and every hour that he's in office represents a clear and present danger, not just to the United States Congress, but frankly to the country."

However, some Republicans expressed skepticism. Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), on CBS' Face The Nation (1/10, 2.91M), said, "To remove him from office clearly is not going to happen between now and the last day he's in office." Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), on Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures (1/10), said, "It's unfortunate that instead of unifying us right now, Biden, the Democrats, have chosen to use this to talk about ridiculous things about impeaching a President who isn't going to be in office in about nine days." Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), on Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures (1/10, 1.38M), said, "The Democrats are going to try to remove the President from office just seven days before he is set to leave anyway. I do not see how that unifies the country."

The AP (1/10, Supervile, Fram, Jalonick) reports Pelosi said Sunday that the House will proceed with impeachment "as she pushes the vice president and Cabinet to invoke constitutional authority to force him out, warning that Trump is a threat to democracy after the deadly assault on the Capitol." CBS' 60 Minutes (1/10, 9.8M) showed Pelosi saying, "I like the 25th Amendment because it gets rid of him. He's out of office. But there is strong suit in the Congress for impeaching the President a second time. This President is guilty of inciting insurrection." The Wall Street Journal (1/10, Restuccia, Kendall, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Vice President Pence "isn't expected to move forward with a 25th Amendment process, people familiar with his thinking said."

The New York Times (1/10, Levin, 20.6M) reports, "Momentum for impeaching [Trump] a second time was growing rapidly over the weekend among rank-and-file Democrats and some Republicans, setting the stage for a final showdown that would test the boundaries of politics, accountability and the Constitution." In addition to Toomey, Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) has expressed openness to impeachment and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) has called on Trump to resign.

USA Today (1/10, Fritze, 12.7M) reports Trump "begins one of the most perilous weeks of his presidency Monday as momentum for a second impeachment soared over the weekend and a growing number of Republicans broke ranks to openly call for his removal." Trump "has only days remaining in his term — a point supporters noted — but the debate over how Congress should respond is focused largely on his legacy and his ability to control the GOP" after leaving office.

The Washington Post (1/10, 10.52M) reports, "Tensions are breaking out among Democrats over how aggressively to push for impeachment, "aware that many voters hope Congress will prevent Trump from provoking further violence, but also want[ing] Biden to be free to take immediate action on the coronavirus pandemic and a faltering economy. Some Democrats said privately that they are wary of impeachment but unsure how to slow its momentum given the intensifying passions against Trump."

Fox News (1/10, Blitzer, 23.99M) reports on its website that Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) said Sunday that the article of impeachment has 195 cosponsors. The Los Angeles Times (1/10, 3.37M) says being impeached twice would make Trump "the first U.S. president to hold that unwelcome distinction." Reuters (1/10, Cornwell, Chiacu, Psaidakis), Bloomberg (1/10, 3.57M), POLITICO
Polls Show Majority Support For Trump's Removal Or Early Exit. CNN (1/10, 89.21M) reports on its website that the potential second impeachment "starts out more popular than any other removal process of a president in recent American history. Removing Trump from office remains quite unpopular among Republicans, however. A look across polls conducted since riots at the Capitol on Wednesday shows that a clear plurality of Americans overall want Trump out of office. ... An average across polls since Wednesday (in which no pollster is counted more than once) shows that 50% of Americans want Trump to either be impeached, for the 25th Amendment to be invoked or for Trump to resign from office."

The Hill (1/10, Mastrangelo, 5.69M) reports that an ABC News/Ipsos poll of 570 adults (1/8-1/9) found that 57% want Trump removed from office, with 67% saying Trump "deserves a 'good amount' of the blame for the riots in Washington, D.C. last week."

Trump Plans "Defiant" Final Week. The AP (1/10, Colvin) reports Trump "enters the last days of his presidency isolated and shunned by former allies and members of his own party as he faces a second impeachment and growing calls for his resignation." But Trump, "cut off from the social media channels that have been the lifeblood of his presidency," will "nonetheless try to go on offense in his last 10 days, with no plans of resigning." Bloomberg (1/10, 3.57M) reports Trump "and a dwindling circle of advisers plan a defiant final week in office, according to people familiar with the matter." The President is "preparing at least one more round of pardons, and will try a final time to advance his administration's effort to bring Big Tech to heel, the people said, though it isn't clear what he may do."

The New York Times (1/10, Haberman, 20.6M) writes that "even without Twitter, and even under a new threat of impeachment, Mr. Trump remains until Jan. 20 the most powerful man in the world, with access to the White House briefing room, the East Room and the Oval Office to communicate his thoughts. He has a press office devoted to issuing his statements and a cadre of reporters assigned to cover what he says and does." Still, the Washington Post (1/10, Rucker, 10.52M) writes, Trump "is now destined to sink out of the White House considerably diminished from the strapping, fearsome force he and his advisers imagined he would be in his post-presidency."

The Dallas Morning News (1/10, 772K) reports, "Eight days before reluctantly leaving office, [Trump] will visit the border in South Texas on Tuesday to tout partial construction of the massive wall he promised to deliver - far more than critics wanted, far less than he wanted, and none it funded by Mexico." Meanwhile, Reuters (1/10, Mason) reports, "His White House is in 'meltdown' as it lurches through his final days, current and former officials said," and many White House staffers "are upset and embarrassed by the turn of events, and are eager to move on."

CBS' Schieffer: Trump's "Reign Mirrored His Own Chaotic Life." Bob Schieffer said on the CBS Weekend News' (1/10, story 11, 1:50, Duncan, 13.72M), "It is ending as it began: in chaos, controversy, and confusion. ... His reign mirrored his own chaotic life. He lurched from one crisis to another, from financial windfalls to bankruptcies, from tabloid scandals to audacious lies. He introduced us to a bizarre cast of characters, from porn stars to the crackpots and clowns who inhabit the dark fringes of American politics. ... As we saw in those awful scenes unfolding in the Capitol, we came to understand that the man who had a manic desire for power had no real understanding of the power he possessed or what happens when it is misused. He will be gone soon. But he showed us America was not broken. He was."

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Used Violent Imagery In Speech To Followers Before Capitol Violence. The New York Times (1/10, Savage, 20.6M) reports, "The speech that President Trump delivered to his supporters just before they attacked the Capitol last week is a central focus as House Democrats prepare an article of impeachment against him for inciting the deadly riot. ... In the speech, the Times says, Trump "repeated many of his falsehoods about how the election was stolen, then dispatched the marchers to the Capitol." The Times also says it was "riddled with violent imagery and calls to fight harder than before," while "he made only a passing suggestion that the protest should be nonviolent."

WPost A1: Trump Urged Top Georgia Elections Investigator To "Find The Fraud" In Separate Call. The Washington Post (1/9, A1, Gardner, 10.52M) reports in a front-page article,
President Trump urged Georgia's lead elections investigator to 'find the fraud' in a lengthy December phone call, saying the official would be a 'national hero,' according to an individual familiar with the call who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the conversation. The President "placed the call to the investigations chief for the Georgia secretary of state's office shortly before Christmas - while the individual was leading an inquiry into allegations of ballot fraud in Cobb County, in the suburbs of Atlanta, according to people familiar with the episode." Additionally, the New York Times (1/9, Fausset, Benner, 20.6M) reports that at the time, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger's "office was conducting an audit of more than 15,000 ballots in Cobb County," which "appeared to be an effort to placate Mr. Trump and his allies, who repeatedly, and baselessly, argued that he lost the election in Georgia by around 12,000 votes because of a 'rigged' system."

Administration Reportedly Pushed Atlanta US Attorney To Resign. The Wall Street Journal (1/9, Viswanatha, Gurman, McWhirter, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports White House officials pushed US Attorney Byung Pak in Atlanta to resign before the Georgia runoff elections because Trump was unhappy with Pak for not launching an investigation into his claims of election fraud, according to people familiar with the matter. ABC News' World News Tonight (1/9, story 3, 0:45, Llamas, 839K) provided similar coverage in a brief broadcast.

Biden Still Planning To Take Oath Of Office On Capitol Steps.

The Washington Post (1/9, Davies, Viser, 10.52M) reports Biden "still plans to be sworn in on the steps of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 20, exactly two weeks after a pro-Trump mob with rioters wielding Confederate flags stormed the building to attack the very nation Biden was elected to lead." According to the Post, "The Biden administration has the added weight of showing strength and stability to the rest of the world, which watched in horror as American democracy wavered from the exact place where he is to take the oath of office."

In her Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) column, Ruth Marcus says Biden's response to the storming of the capital provides "grounds for optimism," as he "rose to the terrible occasion" on Wednesday, in contrast to Trump, who "refused to accept, no less condemn, the consequences of his reckless words." Marcus adds Biden "is the presidential voice the country needs."

Trump Denounces Twitter After Accounts Are Permanently Suspended.

The New York Times (1/8, A1, Conger, Isaac, 20.6M) reports on its front page that Twitter "said on Friday that it had permanently banned President Trump from its service 'due to the risk of further incitement of violence,' effectively cutting him off from his favorite megaphone for reaching the public and capping a series of actions by mainstream sites to limit his online reach." The Washington Post (1/8, A1, Romm, 10.52M) reports on its front page that Twitter's action "amounted to a historic rebuke for a president who had used the social-networking site to fuel his rise to political prominence." The Post adds that a "defiant" Trump "lashed out in response late Friday, accusing Twitter in a statement of having 'coordinated with the Democrats and the Radical Left' to remove his account," and he "threatened regulation, promising a 'big announcement' to come, and said he is looking 'at the possibilities of building out our own platform in the near future!'"

According to Politico (1/8, Lima, 6.73M), Twitter "muzzled the president of the United States three times in a matter of hours: First, it permanently suspended his personal account, @realDonaldTrump, saying his use of it posed an unacceptable risk of violence. Then, it removed a series of Trump's tweets on the White House's official @POTUS account, where he had lashed out at Twitter's decision Friday night and vowed, 'We will not be SILENCED!' And when the identical messages popped up later on Trump's campaign Twitter account, the company permanently suspended that account too."

Earlier in the day, the Washington Times (1/8, Boyer, 626K) reports Trump had "said...his followers will be a political force for years to come." The President had tweeted, "The 75,000,000 great American Patriots who voted for me, AMERICA FIRST, and MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, will have a GIANT VOICE long into the future. They will not be disrespected or treated unfairly in any way, shape or form!!!" However, Politico Magazine (1/8, 6.68M) senior staff writer Michael
Kruse highlights that without access to Twitter on Wednesday, Trump “wasn’t able to employ his preferred method of communication to stoke or incite supporters. He wasn’t able to launch at leaders of his party his usual mob-boss loyalty tests. And he wasn’t able to distract and divert and defend himself in the telltale ways to which Americans have grown so accustomed.”

Meanwhile, Bloomberg (1/8, Wagner, 3.57M) also reports Twitter “suspended several high-profile supporters of...Trump, including former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and attorney Sidney Powell, as part of an effort to remove accounts linked to the QAnon conspiracy group prominent at Wednesday’s storming of the U.S. Capitol.” Reuters (1/8, Venkat, Culliford, Paul) report Twitter “also suspended Ron Watkins, the administrator of fringe message board 8kun, which effectively serves as home base for the QAnon conspiracy movement,” and the Washington Times (1/8, Lovelace, 626K) reports “prominent conservative commentators,” including actor James Woods and #WalkAway movement leader Brandon Straka, “are claiming that they are losing Twitter followers in droves, with some asserting that Twitter is deleting their following.” The Times adds that when asked about the claim, a spokesperson for Twitter “pointed to their approach to fighting accounts engaged in platform manipulation and spam.”

In a Washington Post (1/8, 10.52M) op-ed, Graham Lampa, Director of Digital Communications at the Atlantic Council and a former State Department official during the Obama and Trump Administrations, argues that as the @realDonaldTrump account was used to “announce official decisions,” it should be given to the government after Trump leaves office.

“Ballistic” Trump Seeks Alternative Communication Methods After Twitter Bans. Politico (1/8, Orr, Lippman, Nguyen, Stein, 6.73M) reported President Trump “has many prized possessions,” but “few seemed to inspire as much personal joy as his Twitter feed,” and “on Friday night, he lost it. And, then, he lost his mind.” A senior Administration official characterized the President as “ballistic” and said that Trump was “scrambling to figure out what his options are.” Politico also reports the President in a White House statement “said he’d been ‘negotiating with various other sites’ while ‘we also look at the possibilities of building out our own platform in the near future,’” but aides “did not reveal what plans were in the works.” The AP (1/9, Bajak) reports that while he has been “deprived of his big online megaphones, Trump does have alternative options of much smaller reach.”

On the CBS Weekend News’ (1/9, lead story, 1:36, Diaz, 577K), Paula Reid described Saturday as “an unusually quiet day...at the White House, and it’s partly because we have not heard from...Trump on Twitter.” Reid added Twitter “banned the President due to the risk of further incitement of violence,” and Rachel Scott reported on ABC World News Tonight (1/9, story 2, 0:29, Scott, 839K) that sources “tell ABC News he regrets condemning the violence, and now he’s lost his biggest political tool.” Both AP (1/9, Machini, Colvin) and Politico Magazine (1/9, Robertson, 6.73M) analyses eulogize the @realDonaldTrump account and look back on its biggest tweets.

Meanwhile, Jo Ling Kent reported on NBC Nightly News (1/9, story 2, 2:38, Diaz-Balart, 5.98M) that since the ban, the President has “tried to tweet from other campaign and staff accounts, triggering a game of whack-a-mole with Twitter quickly taking down his posts.” The Hill (1/9, Lonas, 5.69M) reports Twitter on Saturday “banned...Trump’s official campaign account and his digital director for attempting to use their accounts to give the president a platform to speak on Twitter after he was permanently suspended Friday.” A spokesperson for the company told The Hill, “As stated in our ban evasion policy, if it is clear that another account is being used for the purposes of evading a ban, it is also subject to suspension.”

Politico (1/9, Scopa, 6.73M) says that after spending “more than 1,400 days of trying to placate and handle...Trump and his allies, the tech industry is taking on the Trump machine with just days left in the president’s term.” Politico adds “the rat-tat-tat of takedowns” by Twitter, Facebook, Reddit, TikTok, Snapchat, Pinterest, Google, and Apple “was a striking display of the tech industry’s power to shape the fate of even the president of the United States. And it comes after years of efforts by both Democrats and Republicans in Washington to cut Silicon Valley down to size — including lawsuits that Trump’s antitrust enforcers have filed in recent months against Facebook and Google, plus efforts on both the right and left to challenge Section 230, the provision in communications law that limits online platforms’ liability for what users post to them.”

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A front-page New York Times article says "Trump’s muzzling provides a clarifying lesson in where power resides in our digital society – not just in the precedent of law or the checks and balances of government, but in the ability to deny access to the platforms that shape our public discourse." The Times adds Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg "have never appeared on a ballot. But they have a kind of authority that no elected official on earth can claim. This power appears mostly in subtle and unspoken ways – like the eerily calm, hostage-like video Mr. Trump filmed on Thursday, hours after Twitter and Facebook threatened to delete his accounts."

In his Politico Magazine column, founding editor John F. Harris describes Twitter’s ban of Trump as “a signal moment – a historic move, even before we know the consequences that will flow from it.” Harris adds the ban “represents an effort to reassert the notion that filters have a place in public communication and that some voices have lost their claim on public legitimacy – even when that voice has 89 million followers and is just two months past receiving the second-highest number of votes in U.S. election history.” However, he says the question “seems unavoidable: Are you sure about this?”

Meanwhile, Politico Magazine senior media writer Jack Shafer expresses skepticism that Trump’s pledge to build a “media empire” will succeed. Schafer adds that if the President does “start a cable channel,” Fox News “will savage him when he poses a threat to its viewership and revenues. The same goes for the Trump-lovers at NewsMax and OAN.”

In addition, New York Times opinion writer at large Charlie Warzel questions if “a disgraced president addicted to outrage and innately governed by the same forces as the attention economy survive without his primary outlet.” Per Warzel, “I think it all depends on whether Mr. Trump is, himself, a platform as formidable as some of the platforms he uses.”

Twitter Allies, ACLU Criticize Twitter For Ban On President’s Account. The Washington Post reports Twitter’s ban of the President has "sparked a fierce political backlash among his most fervent allies on Saturday, sending some of his supporters – and the White House itself – scrambling to find another potent tool to communicate online." According to the Post, "Many prominent conservatives – including Brad Parscale, Trump's former campaign manager, and Rush Limbaugh, the leading voice in right-wing radio – reacted to Trump’s suspension by blasting Twitter, quitting the site outright or encouraging the president’s loyal following to turn to alternative services."

The Hill reports Secretary of State Pompeo as well as Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Ted Cruz (R-TX) “expressed their displeasure with Twitter’s decision,” as did Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO), Ken Buck (R-CO), Beth Van Duyne (R-TX), and Dan Crenshaw (R-TX). The Washington Times reports Donald Trump Jr. "said Saturday that Big Tech’s ban of President Trump is 'sick and sad,' and he urged followers to sign up for his web site in anticipation that he will also be banned."

In addition, the Washington Times says that although the American Civil Liberties Union "has repeatedly locked horns with Mr. Trump and his administration," the ACLU on Friday raised “concerns about social media platforms banning users, in the aftermath of Twitter’s decision to permanently suspend him."

However, the New York Times reports that although the bans on Trump “may have been unwise, scholars who study the First Amendment said...they were perfectly lawful” because the First Amendment “prohibits government censorship and does not apply to decisions made by private businesses.” The Times adds they “were nonetheless uneasy about the developments, which underscored the enormous power of a handful of social media companies that are largely insulated from accountability and may change positions on what speech is acceptable as executives come and go.”

In his Washington Post column, Fred Hiatt similarly argued that while the President and his allies are “complaining” that his “free-speech rights are being squelched by the liberal cancel culture,” they are “wrong” because Twitter “is a private company, and it has no obligation to distribute Trump’s lies or provocations.”

Meanwhile, a Bloomberg article headlined “Twitter’s Trump Ban Deemed Necessary, Derided As Long Overdue” says that the ban “is unlikely to let Twitter off the hook after
years of enabling the president, allowing a portion of America to be sucked into an angry alternate reality.” Bloomberg adds the company “is already facing criticism from Democrat politicians, who will take control of U.S. Congress and the presidency in less than two weeks.”

**Democrats Look To Penalize Social Media Platforms For Failing To Combat Trump.** The *Washington Post* (1/8, Romm, 10.52M) says Facebook, Google and Twitter are “staring down the prospect of harsh new regulations in Washington, as politically ascendant Democrats in Congress pledge to take fresh aim at Silicon Valley for its role in stoking the deadly riots at the U.S. Capitol this week.” According to the Post, “The violent mob that stormed the House and Senate, leaving the two chambers in lockdown, has emboldened party lawmakers who say that social media sites failed to heed their repeated warnings — and then did too little, too late, in response to...Trump and his incendiary online rhetoric.” The Post says “some Democrats now are promising to use their powerful new perches...to proffer the sort of tough new laws and other punishments that tech giants have successfully fended off for years.” A *Reuters* (1/8, Paul, Culliford) analysis says that although social media companies “took action against users and groups spurring on the siege of Capitol Hill this week, culminating in the suspension of...Trump’s accounts, it was too little too late.”

**Reddit Bans Trump Forum.** The *New York Times* (1/8, Isaac, 20.6M) reports Reddit “banned a forum dedicated to discussing and promoting...Trump from its site on Friday, the latest of the major technology platforms to diminish Mr. Trump digitally after his supporters staged an assault on the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.” The Times says the r/donaldtrump subreddit “had tens of thousands of subscribers before it was removed, and was considered one of a few highly visible places online where Trump supporters could gather and express solidarity with the president.”

**Apple, Google Take Action Against Parler.** The *Wall Street Journal* (1/8, Horwitz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Apple threatened Parler that it faces a ban from its App Store, and *The Hill* (1/8, Klar, 5.69M) also says Google on Friday suspended the social media company “from its app store while joining Apple in calling on the platform to tighten its content moderation rules or risk permanent removal.”

**Facebook Suspends Account Of Virginia State Senator, “Walk Away” Page.** The *Washington Post* (1/8, Vezzella, 10.52M) reports Facebook on Friday suspended the official account of Virginia state Sen. Amanda Chase, R-Chesterfield, “days after the self-described ‘Trump in heels’ praised rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol as ‘patriots’ while also suggesting that left-wing ‘antifa or BLM agents of destruction’ were really to blame.” The Post says that Chase, who “spoke to the crowd of...Trump’s supporters in Washington on Wednesday but left before they crashed through Capitol security, cannot post or comment for seven days, or post live video for 60 days on her official Senate page, according to a written notice,” although her personal Facebook page “was not affected.” Meanwhile, the *Washington Times* (1/8, Zantow, 626K) reports that Virginia state Senate Democrats “are demanding” Chase, a Republican gubernatorial hopeful, “resign for participating in the march to the U.S. Capitol, where a mob stormed the building.”

In addition, the *Washington Times* (1/8, Ernst, 626K) reports that Brandon Straka, the founder of the “Walk Away” movement, on Friday revealed that “his team, and his 500,000-strong Facebook page with citizens who abandoned the Democratic Party were purged from the site this week.”

**“Trump Loyalists” Raised Funds Via Livestream While Storming Capitol.** The *New York Times* (1/8, Browning, Lorenz, 20.6M) reports some of the “mob of Trump loyalists” who occupied the Capitol this week raised money via livestreaming website Dive. The Times adds the “increasing popularity” of Dive “shows how an online exodus of far-right figures on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube since the November election has now moved beyond alternative social-networking, news and video sites like Rumble, Gab and Parler.” According to the Times, “That shift gained further momentum this week after Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitch limited President Trump’s accounts for inciting Wednesday’s violence and clamped down on other right-wing personalities.”

**WPPost Analysis: Fox News “Unquestionably” Contributed To “Poisoned” Reality Of Trump Supporters.** A *Washington Post* (1/8, Bump, 10.52M) analysis says it is “not the case that Fox News bears sole responsibility for this disinformation that’s poisoned the sense of reality.
of so many Trump supporters. But it's unquestionably the case that the network, shows like 'Fox & Friends' and the prime time 'opinion' lineup contributed to it."

Toledo Blade Staff Accuses Management Of Altering Stories On Capitol Attack. The Washington Post (1/8, Elfrink, 10.52M) reports that as staffers of the Toledo Blade, "like journalists everywhere, scrambled Wednesday to document the attack on the Capitol by a pro-Trump mob incited by the president, they say a curious edict came down from management: to avoid calling the rioters 'Trump supporters' in Web headlines and to change stories and photo captions to say that others might be involved in the violence." According to the Post, "The journalists' concerns intensified on Thursday when Susan Block, wife of the chairman of Block Communications, a family-owned company that owns the Blade, posted an all-caps Facebook rant in support of the mob and calling Vice President-elect Kamala D. Harris a 'w------.'"

YouTube Removes Bannon Podcast After Giuliani Makes "False Election Claims." The Hill (1/9, Jenkins, 5.69M) says that YouTube on Friday "pulled former White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon’s ‘War Room’ podcast channel from its platform" over "false election claims," which USA Today (1/9, Tyko, 12.7M) reports came after Trump’s personal attorney Rudy Giuliani appeared on the podcast. However, USA Today adds Giuliani "still had a Twitter account as of Saturday."

Parler Removes Some Of Wood’s Posts As Apple, Google, And Amazon Crack Down On Site. The Washington Times (1/9, Blake, 626k) reports "pro-Trump lawyer" L. Lin Wood, who was "newly kicked off Twitter," confirmed on Saturday that he had "some of his posts yanked...from rival social media service Parler, a supposed free speech haven popular among fellow conservatives," after he "called for the execution of Vice President Mike Pence."

Meanwhile, The Hill (1/9, 5.69M) reports Apple on Saturday "suspended the social media platform Parler from the App Store for what it deems the company’s lack of moderation of threats of violence." In a statement, Apple told The Hill, "We have always supported diverse points of view being represented on the App Store, but there is no place on our platform for threats of violence and illegal activity." Apple added, "Parler has not taken adequate measures to address the proliferation of these threats to people’s safety. We have suspended Parler from the App Store until they resolve these issues." According to The Hill, Google "suspended Parler from Google Play in wake of the riot, due to ‘continued posting’ in the app that ‘seeks to incite ongoing violence in the U.S.’"

In addition, the Wall Street Journal (1/9, Hagey, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Amazon on Saturday halted cloud computing services for Parler. The Hill (1/9, Polus, 5.69M) reports that Amazon Web Services "is the latest tech giant to take steps to limit the social networking app favored by conservatives and right-wing groups for lack of content moderation." Bloomberg (1/9, Day, 3.57M) reports Amazon employees earlier Saturday had "called for the company’s cloud unit to cut ties with Parler after reports that the social media network was used by those who planned Wednesday’s riot at the U.S. Capitol."

Fox News Seeking To Convince Trump Supporters To Stick With Network. The New York Times (1/9, Grynbaum, 20.6M) reports the "Imminent end of the Trump presidency has presented a challenge to the enormously popular, enormously profitable Fox News – the crown jewel of Rupert Murdoch’s American empire – whose right-wing stars yoked themselves to Mr. Trump more tightly than any other mainstream pundits over the past four years." The Times adds Fox News executives are "unfazed by the lamentations of liberal critics, but the defection of conservative viewers to fringier pro-Trump outlets like Newsmax was more concerning," and so the network is focused on "finding a path forward: sympathize with the grievances of a Trump-adoring audience that has finally acknowledged its tribune has fallen. Become a MAGA safe space."

Gab Sees New Users After Trump's Twitter Ban. The Hill (1/9, Lonas, 5.69M) reports social networking website Gab, which is "popular among far-right users," has recorded "a spike in website traffic and growth after the Capitol attacks and...Trump’s suspension from Twitter this week." Gab CEO Andrew Torba "said that the platform saw a 40 percent increase in traffic during the riot that killed five people, and resulted in dozens of arrests, according to NPR."

Republicans Who Opposed Electoral Certification “Denounced By Critics” At Home.
The AP (1/10, Collins) reports, "Republican members of Congress who voted against certifying Joe Biden's presidential victory, even after a mob broke into the Capitol, are being denounced by critics in their home districts who demand that they resign or be ousted. Protesters, newspaper editorial boards and local-level Democrats have urged the lawmakers to step down or for their colleagues" to expel them.

The Arizona Republic (1/10, 1.05M) reports that pro-Trump election protest organizer Ali Alexander said in an online video that Reps. Andy Biggs (R-AZ) and Paul Gosar (R-AZ) "help[ed] make Wednesday’s pro-Trump gathering in Washington happen. ... Biggs strenuously denies any involvement with the Wednesday event. Gosar's chief of staff did not respond to an inquiry."

Businesses Suspend Donations To Legislators Who Opposed Certification. The AP (1/10, Ortutay) reports, "Businesses are rethinking political contributions in the wake of the deadly Capitol siege." The Arizona Republic (1/10, 1.05M) reports the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association is also suspending donations to lawmakers who voted against certification. The Washington Post (1/10, Frankel, Stein, 10.52M) reports Commerce Bank "also said in a statement that its PAC has 'suspended all support for officials who have impeded the peaceful transfer of power.'"

The Wall Street Journal (1/10, Glazer, Francis, Cutter, Subscription Publication, 6.41M) reports Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase announced they are halting all PAC donations to all candidates in the coming months. Bloomberg (1/10, 3.57M) and Axios (1/10, Allassan, 1.26M) also report.

Law School Alumni And Students Push For Cruz And Hawley To Be Disbarred. The Washington Post (1/10, Strauss, 10.52M) reports, "More than 5,000 law school alumni and students have signed a petition" calling for Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) to be disbarred over what they say "were their efforts to undermine the peaceful transition of power after a free and fair election."

On CNN's State Of The Union (1/10, 1.21M), Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) said of Cruz and Hawley, "I think they are going to pay a big price for this. I think their reputations have been affected." On NBC's Meet The Press (1/10, 1.58M), Toomey said, "They're going to have a lot of soul-searching to do. The problem is they were complicit in the big lie, this big lie that Donald Trump won the election in a landslide and it was all stolen. They compounded that with this notion that somehow this could all be reversed in the final moments of the congressional proceedings. So that's going to haunt them for a very long time."

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), on CBS, Face The Nation (1/10, 2.91M), said, "I've called for them to resign, and what I'll be looking for in the coming days and weeks is whether they take any accountability, whether they take any actions that will actually persuade some of their many voters and supporters and constituents that they know what they did was wrong."

Attending Physician Warns Lawmakers Were Potentially Exposed To COVID.

The Washington Post (1/10, Wang, Firozi, DeBonis, 10.52M) reports lawmakers who "hunkered down together for safety while a pro-Trump mob attacked the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday may have been exposed to someone in the same room who was infected with the coronavirus, according to the Office of Attending Physician." In an email on Sunday, Brian Monahan, the attending physician to Congress, said, "On Wednesday January 6, many members of the House community were in protective isolation in room located in a large committee hearing space." Monahan added, "The time in this room was several hours for some and briefer for others. During this time, individuals may have been exposed to another occupant with coronavirus infection."

According to the AP (1/10, Mascaro), "Dozens of lawmakers were whisked to the secure location after pro-Trump insurrectionists stormed the Capitol that day, breaking through barricades to roam the halls and offices and ransacking the building." Politico (1/10, Tamborrino, 6.73M) reports "several" Republicans "were seen without masks while in the crowded room, despite being offered extras by Democrats." In addition, the New York Times (1/10, Cochrane, 20.6M) reports that "before the mob breached the Capitol," House Speaker Pelosi, overseeing the certification of Joe Biden's victory and debate over a Republican effort to subvert those results in
certain states, admonished Republicans for having too many people on the floor and for some objectors refusing to wear masks as they spoke.”

Warner Tells Facebook To Preserve Digital Evidence.
The Hill (1/9, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), the ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, “is calling on mobile carriers and social media companies to preserve content and data connected with Wednesday’s pro-Trump riot at the Capitol.” The Hill says Warner’s office on Saturday “announced that the Senate Democrat sent letters to CEOs of 11 companies, including AT&T, Verizon, Apple, Facebook, Google, Twitter and Parler, telling them to ‘immediately preserve content and associated meta-data connected to Wednesday’s insurrectionist attack on the United States Capitol.’”

Warnock Uses Post-Election Sermon To Condemn Capitol Riot.
The AP (1/10, Morrison) reports Sen.-elect Raphael Warnock (D-GA) on Sunday focused “his first sermon since being declared a winner in Georgia’s U.S. Senate runoff election” on “last week’s deadly Capitol Hill riot that all but overshadowed his historic victory.” Warnock said, “We saw the crude, the angry, the disrespectful, and the violent break their way into the people’s house – some carrying Confederate flags, signs and symbols of an old world order passing away.” The Atlanta Journal-Constition (1/10, Judd, 1.46M) reports that although Warnock “referred to Trump only as ‘the current occupant of the White House,’” other pastors who spoke on Sunday “more directly criticized Trump’s role in the Capitol assault, which left five people, including a police officer, dead.”

Schwarzenegger Compares Capitol Riot To Kristallnacht.
USA Today (1/10, Willis, 12.7M) reports former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) on Sunday “came out swinging his ‘Conan the Barbarian’ sword against” President Trump “and the ‘spinelessness’ of Republican politicians,” while the AP (1/10, Calvan) reports Schwarzenegger compared the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol to the Nazis and called... Trump a failed leader who “will go down in history as the worst president ever.”

The New York Times (1/10, Fuchs, 20.6M) reports Schwarzenegger “compared the riot at the Capitol last week to Kristallnacht, a rampage in Germany in 1938 in which Nazi-inspired mobs burned synagogues and destroyed Jewish-owned shops.” The Times adds that he “wove his experiences growing up in Austria after World War II to what he was witnessing in the United States.” Meanwhile, the Washington Post (1/10, Barr, 10.52M) reports Schwarzenegger “argued that Trump "identified with the gullible" in his baseless attempt to overturn the results of the presidential election, won by former vice president Joe Biden.” Schwarzenegger predicted Trump “will go down in history as the worst president ever” and “soon will be as irrelevant as an old tweet.”

The Los Angeles Times (1/10, Wigglesworth, 3.37M) also reports Schwarzenegger “said that those politicians who stood behind Trump are ‘complicit with those who carried the flag of self-righteous insurrection into the Capitol.’” The Times adds that he “called for elected representatives and citizens to look past their political parties and personal disagreements, put democracy first and work together toward healing by accepting... Biden as the country’s next leader and wishing him success.”

Apple, Google, Amazon Shut Down Parler.
The AP (1/10, Bajak, Ortutay) reports, “President Donald Trump has been kicked off of most mainstream social media platforms” and “it remains to be seen how fast or where – if anywhere – on the internet he will be able to reach his followers.” The AP adds that what it calls “the far right-friendly Parler had been the leading candidate... until Google and Apple removed it from their app stores and Amazon decided to boot it off its web hosting service,” which the company said “could knock it offline for a week, though that might prove optimistic,” and “without a smartphone app,
it’s hard to imagine Parler gaining mainstream success.” The AP also reports that Parler, which it
calls a “magnet for the far right claims more than 12 million users” compared to “the 89 million
followers Trump had on Twitter.” Parler CEO John Matze said the moves by Google, Apple, and
Amazon are “a coordinated attack by the tech giants to kill competition in the marketplace.”

USA Today (1/10, Menton, Tyko, 12.7M) reports, “Far-right-friendly Parler...reportedly
removed a post by pro-Trump lawyer Lin Wood, where he threatened violence against Vice
President Mike Pence.” Wood wrote in response, “The use of rhetorical hyperbole is NOT unlawful.”
USA Today adds that “losing access to the app stores of Google and Apple - whose operating
systems power hundreds of millions of smartphones - severely limits Parler’s reach, though it will
continue to be accessible via web browser.”

The New York Times (1/10, Nicas, Alba, 20.6M) reports, “Parler’s plight immediately drew
condemnation from those on the right,” and “Parler has now become a test case in a renewed
national debate over free speech on the internet and whether tech giants such as Facebook,
Google, Apple and Amazon have too much power.” The Times says that “for years, Facebook and
Twitter had defended people’s ability to speak freely on their sites, while Amazon, Apple, Google
and others had stayed mostly hands-off with apps like Parler” and “that allowed misinformation
and falsehoods to flow across online networks.” American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Ben Wirner
said Parler’s situation was troubling.” He said, “I think we should recognize the importance of
neutrality when we’re talking about the infrastructure of the internet.” The Times also reports that
many “right-wing personalities” will “still have ample followings on Facebook, Twitter and
YouTube.”

The Washington Post (1/10, Romm, Lerman, 10.52M) reports that Amazon’s
“move...threatens to darken the site indefinitely after its users glorified the recent riot at the U.S.
Capitol.” Parler, adds the Post, “has emerged as a haven for conservative users who have fled
more mainstream Silicon Valley sites that crack down on harmful, viral falsehoods online.”

Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), on Fox News’ Sunday Morning Futures (1/10), said, “The effect of
this is that there’s no longer a free and open social media company or site for any American to get
on any longer because these big companies - Apple, Amazon, Google - they have just destroyed
Parler. ... If you don’t want to be regulated by left-wingers, they get to decide what’s violent and
not violent. It’s preposterous. ... This is clearly a violation of antitrust, civil rights, the RICO
statute, there should be a racketeering investigation on all the people who coordinated this attack
on not only a company but on all of those like us.”

Breitbart (1/10, 1.26M) cites Nunes’ appearance on Fox, in which he “called on
the Department of Justice to launch an investigation into tech companies’ efforts to remove Parler as a
platform from the internet.” Nunes said, “These big companies, Apple, Amazon, Google, they have
just destroyed a - what was likely - Parler is likely a billion-dollar company. Poof, it’s gone.”

Parler CEO John Matze, on Fox News’ Sunday Morning Futures (1/10), said, “It’s devastating,
it’s what it is. It’s an assault on everybody. They all work together to make sure at the same time
we would lose access to not only our apps but they are actually shutting all of our servers off
tonight, off the internet. They made an attempt to not only kill the app, but actually destroy the
entire company and it’s not just these three companies, every vendor from text message services
to e-mail providers to our lawyers, all ditched us too on the same day and they are trying to falsely
claim that we were somehow responsible for the events that occurred on the sixth. ... every vendor we talked to say they won’t work with us because if Apple doesn’t approve or Google
doesn’t approve, they won’t. They have given us no legitimate remedy.”

The Daily Caller (1/10, Lyman, 375K) reports that Apple stated, “Parler has not upheld its
commitment to moderate and remove harmful or dangerous content encouraging violence and
illegal activity, and is not in compliance with the App Store Review Guidelines.” Parler CEO Matze
said, “Apple will be banning Parler until we give up free speech, institute broad and invasive
policies like Twitter and Facebook, and we become a surveillance platform.”

WSJournal: Tech Companies’ Attack On Right-wing Populism Likely To Strengthen It. The Wall Street Journal (1/10, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) in an editorial says that the
tech giants are seeking to destroy right-wing populism through Parler, adding that Parler is taking
an approach similar to that of other social-media companies a few years ago, and that it recently
increased the number of volunteer content moderators it uses. The Journal also says that actions by tech companies are an important cause of populism in recent years and such actions will only intensify opposition. The Journal further says that these actions may be in violation of antitrust laws.

**Some US Diplomats Write Cables Condemning Trump.**

The AP (1/10) reports, "In a highly unusual move, American diplomats have drafted two cables condemning President Donald Trump’s incitement of the deadly assault on the Capitol and calling for administration officials to possibly support invoking the 25th Amendment to remove him from office." The cables were drafted in the State Department’s ‘dissent channel.’ The AP calls them “an extraordinary protest against a sitting U.S. president by American diplomats.” Meanwhile, Secretary of State Pompeo "condemned the violence at the Capitol but has pointedly not addressed the role Trump played in encouraging his supporters who stormed the building."

**EU Foreign Policy Chief Says Capitol Violence Shows Danger Of “Disinformation.”**

Reuters (1/10, Abnett) reports that EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Sunday said “that last week’s siege of the U.S. Capitol exposed the dangers of allowing the degradation of democratic values to go unchecked and disinformation to spread on social media.” Borrell called it “a wake-up call for all democracy advocates.” Borrell also said, “the events in Washington also show that disinformation constitutes a real threat for democracies.”

**Pope Offers Prayers For Victims Of Violence, Urges US Leaders To Promote Calm.**

The AP (1/10, D’Emilio) reports on Sunday, Pope Francis said “that he is praying for those who died in the U.S. Capitol rioting and has appealed for calm to prevail in the United States.” Francis said, “I exhort the authorities of the state and the entire population to maintain a high sense of responsibility with the aim of calming souls, promoting national reconciliation and safeguarding the democratic values rooted in American society.”

NPR (1/10, Schwartz, 3.69M) reports on its website that the Pope “offered prayers Sunday for those who lost their lives during the siege at the U.S. Capitol – and encouraged Americans to come together in a spirit of reconciliation.”

**Average US COVID Death Toll Exceeding 3,000 Per Day.**

On ABC World News Tonight (1/10, story 4, 2:05, 4.76M) Tom Llamas said, “As bad as the COVID surge is now, it’s expected to get even worse, with the effect of the holidays.” ABC’s Zohreen Shah added that frontline medical workers are “desperately racing to save lives as the average daily death toll soars above 3,000.“ On the CBS Weekend News (1/10, story 4, 2:05, 13.72M), Jericka Duncan said, “The raging COVID crisis is still breaking records. For a second straight day, the US reported a record number of cases on Saturday, with more than 278,000 new infections. More than 3,600 people died.” Lilia Luciano added Los Angeles County “is smashing COVID records with 900,000 infected and 12,000 deaths. Right now, about 200 Angelenos a day are dying from COVID, more than from all other causes combined." Meagan Fitzgerald reported on NBC Nightly News (1/10, story 4, 2:50, Snow, 3.76M) that in Los Angeles County, “more people are dying from the virus than all other causes combined. A similar scene at some hospitals in neighboring Arizona.”

Meanwhile, the AP (1/10, Thompson) reports California “desperately needs more medical workers,” but “almost no help is coming from a volunteer program” that Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) “created at the start of the pandemic.” According to the AP, “An army of 95,000 initially raised their hands, and just 14 are now working in the field.” The AP adds, “Very few volunteers actually met qualifications for the California Health Corps, and only a tiny sliver have the high-level experience needed to help with the most serious virus cases that are stretching intensive care units to the limit.”

The Los Angeles Times (1/10, Mejia, 3.37M) also reports on the dilemma facing hospital discharge planners as hospitals in California fill up with patients with COVID. According to the
Times, these workers are trying “to free up beds in dangerously full hospitals confronting a deluge of” COVID patients, which requires them to “juggle family preferences, healthcare plans and intake restrictions at nursing homes while trying to free up beds.”

**Slow COVID Vaccine Rollout In US Highlights Challenges Of Decentralized Distribution Plan.**

The *Wall Street Journal* (1/10, Smith, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that a slow rollout of COVID vaccines across the US demonstrates “the challenges of a decentralized distribution plan that relies on states and localities to handle the complicated last-mile logistics of getting shots into people’s arms, supply-chain experts say.”

USA Today (1/10, Ball, 12.7M) reports, “Anger and frustration are surging across the country as the federal government leaves states to handle the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Through Friday, states had received 22.1 million doses of the vaccines. Of those doses, “about 6.7 million—less than one-third—had been administered.” On ABC World News Tonight (1/10, story 3, 2:35, Llamas, 4.76M), Trevor Ault similarly reported the vaccine rollout nationwide “has gotten off to a sluggish start. Of the 22 million doses distributed, less than seven million shots have been administered so far.”

CNN (1/10, Waldrop, 89.21M) reports on its website that NIAID Director Fauci told Newsday’s Randi Marshall this week in a virtual event: “It got off to a slow start and we need to do better at every level, but I believe that we will pick up momentum as we get beyond the holiday season into the first couple of weeks in January.” Fauci warned against jumping to conclusions about the pace of the vaccine rollout in such a short time period, saying “we just started.”

According to the AP (1/10, Choi), “Public health officials sounded the alarm for months, complaining that they did not have enough support or money to get COVID-19 vaccines quickly into arms. Now the slower-than-expected start to the largest vaccination effort in U.S. history is proving them right.” On *CBS’ Face The Nation* (1/10, 2.17M), former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said, “It’s a distribution issue now, and it will be supply issue in a few weeks. The feds say it is with the states, and the states say it is with the feds. You have 40 million doses on the shelves. We have 50 million Americans above the age of 65. We have supply to push it out to that population. We need to use the big box stores, and the federal sites that the administration is talking about. We need to try everything to create multiple distribution points. A lot of senior citizens are not going to want to go to a stadium to get an inoculation. They want to go to a local pharmacy or a doctor’s office. But we need to get them out more aggressively. It will become a supply issue once we get the logistics down right. And we don’t have it right now. We aren’t doing a good job getting it to patients.”

Cuomo Expands COVID Vaccination Eligibility As New York City Opens Mass Vaccination Sites. The *New York Times* (1/10, Rubinstein, 20.6M) reports that following stories from New York medical providers saying that “they had been forced to throw out precious [COVID] vaccine doses because of difficulties finding patients who matched precisely with the state’s strict vaccination guidelines,” state health officials on Saturday loosened eligibility guidelines. The Times adds, “Now, medical providers can administer the vaccine to any of their employees who interact with the public if there are extra doses in a vial and no one from ‘the priority population can come in before the doses expire,’ the new guidelines read.” This marks the “second time in two days that Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s administration has loosened the restrictions.”

Meanwhile, Reuters (1/10, Caspani) reports that two mass COVID vaccination sites opened in New York City on Sunday, one at Brooklyn Army Terminal and the other at Bathgate Contract Postal Station in the borough of the Bronx. The two sites “were open for part of the day on Sunday before they start operating round the clock, seven days a week on Monday as part of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio’s push to set up 250 vaccination locations to meet the ambitious goal of inoculating 1 million New Yorkers by the end of the month.” Reuters adds, “Three other smaller sites also opened on Sunday in Brooklyn, the Bronx and in Queens.” Separately, the CDC “has said healthcare workers and nursing home residents and staff should have priority for the limited supply of vaccines.”

*Hogan Debating Vaccination Strategy For Maryland.* Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R),...
on CNN’s State Of The Union (1/18, 1.23M), discussed the vaccination strategy for the state, specifically whether doses should be held in reserve. Hogan said, “We are having discussions with both the Biden team, and tomorrow we have a meeting with the coronavirus team at the White House. I met on Friday with [CDC Director] Robert Redfield. I talked with a number of other governors. There is an argument on both sides, look, we want to make sure we don’t run out of the second dose. But it is a gray area as to where can we ramp up the production. Right now we are not getting them out fast enough into people’s arms. I just want to make sure we get as many out as fast as possible without endangering people with regard to the second dose. It is a discussion; everybody is arguing about what is the right path.”

Florida Vaccine Efforts Lead To Long Waits, Confusion Amid COVID Surge. The New York Times (1/10, A1, Mazzei, Adelson, Kelly, 20.6M) reports “Florida is in an alarming new upward spiral” amid its COVID outbreak, “with nearly 20,000 cases of the virus reported on Friday and more than 15,000 on Saturday.” However, its “well-intended effort to throw open the doors of the vaccine program to everyone 65 and older has led to long lines, confusion and disappointment.” The Times adds the state, “which has already prioritized a large swath of its population to receive the vaccine, illustrates the challenges of expanding a vaccination program being developed at record speed and with limited federal assistance.”

Some Prestigious Academic Hospitals In The US Are Vaccinating People Not In High-Priority Groups. The New York Times (1/10, Mandavill, 20.6M) reports some of the “most prestigious academic hospitals” in the US have begun vaccinating employees who are not part of high-priority groups. For example, at Columbia University, Harvard, and Vanderbilt, “workers who have nothing to do with patient care, and who are not 75 or older, have been offered the shots.” While federal officials have said that some states are adhering too closely to guidance about priority groups, FDA Commissioner Hahn said states should still prioritize groups that “make sense.”

Debate Grows Over Merits Of Giving Inmates Priority Vaccine Access. On NBC Nightly News (1/10, story 6, 2:35, Snow, 3.76M), Steve Patterson said that “America’s correctional facilities, COVID may have its highest form of freedom.” Patterson added, “The COVID case rate is 5 1/2 times higher for incarcerated people compared to the general public. So far, more than 325,000 inmates have contracted the virus, with nearly 75,000 staff members getting sick. Nearly 2,000 inmates have died.” He continued, “Advocates say incarcerated people should be among the first prioritized to receive a vaccine. Arguing our jails are overcrowded, filled with aging populations and pre-existing conditions, and several outbreaks started in jail ended up circulating outside.”

Anti-Abortion Leaders Endorsing COVID Vaccines. The AP (1/10, Crary) reports, “In a growing consensus, religious leaders at the forefront of the anti-abortion movement in the United States are telling their followers that the leading vaccines available to combat COVID-19 are acceptable to take, given their remote and indirect connection to lines of cells derived from aborted fetuses.”

Hospitals, Pharmacists Claim Vials Of Pfizer Vaccine Contain More Doses Than Expected. Politico (1/10, Luthi, Roubein, 6.73M) reports some hospitals threw away “doses of Pfizer’s coronavirus vaccine because the federal government is giving some of the facilities syringes that can only extract five doses from vials that often contain more.” Pharmacists in the US have found “that the standard five-dose vials of the vaccine from Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech often contained enough material for six or even seven shots.” In response, “regulators in the U.S. and Europe agreed to allow use of those ‘overfill’ doses to maximize the reach of coronavirus vaccines amid the raging pandemic.”

Chicago Public Schools To Reopen Monday Over Teachers Union’s Criticism. The Washington Post (1/10, Reiss, 10.52M) reported, “Chicago Public Schools will reopen for some students Monday for the first time since last spring amid an escalating clash between city officials, who are threatening to withhold pay from teachers who do not show up, and the powerful Chicago Teachers Union, which contends that schools are not properly outfitted to combat the coronavirus.”
Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot (D) said she is determined to reopen schools Monday, starting a phased return to in-person learning, and that city officials are “doing everything we can to place safety in this pandemic at front and center.” Teachers, however, “said they found conditions unacceptable and called the demand for them to start teaching ‘heartless.’”

Meanwhile, the Washington Post (1/10, Strauss, 10.52M) separately reports, “Scores of nurses in the Chicago Public Schools district have objected to officials’ plans to begin bringing students back to classrooms on Monday, saying they do not think it is safe to do so.” The Post adds, “A statement signed by 147 school nurses...says: ‘Many of us are CPS parents ourselves, and all wish to be back in school buildings, but the simple fact is that it is currently not safe to do this.’”

WSJournal Analysis: Senate Control Will Allow Democrats To Reverse Some Trump Policies.

A Wall Street Journal (1/10, Klernan, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) analysis says that in taking control of the Senate, Democrats will find it “easier for them to reverse parts of outgoing President Trump’s agenda, adding to the Biden administration’s toolbox a little-known congressional procedure to erase executive-branch regulations.”

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), on CNN’s State Of The Union (1/10, 1.23M), discussed his upcoming role as the swing vote in the Senate, and his position on a number of potential issues. When asked about $2,000 relief checks, Manchin said, “If they’re targeted.” On eliminating the filibuster: “I’m basically for making this place work together. I want to make it work.”

Harris To Be Tie-Breaking Vote In Senate. Politico (1/10, Cadelago, 6.73M) reports the “vice presidential portfolio” of Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) “was nebulous before last week. But thanks to Democrats’ upset victories in two Georgia Senate run-offs, Harris has unexpectedly earned a new title: Senate tie breaker.” Axios (1/10, Kight, 1.26M) says the role “has the potential to define her as vice president -- and as a possible 2024 presidential contender.”

DC Presses Statehood Bid.

The New York Times (1/10, Wines, 20.6M) reports the day “after a mob rampaged through the halls of Congress,” District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) “heaped praise on the Metropolitan Police Department officers who had rushed to restore order after the Capitol’s police force was overwhelmed,” and she “saw no small amount of irony in their role.” According to the Times, “Wednesday’s riot, in which 56 city police officers were injured, has become Example One in a renewed and decidedly uphill effort to change the legislators’ minds” on statehood, and “backers are counting on the Democratic Party’s control of Congress and the White House to reinvigorate a push for statehood legislation that Republicans have long bottled up.”

Congressional Waiver For Austin Not Expected Until After Inauguration.

The New York Times (1/10, Steinhauer, 20.6M) reports Joe Biden “is facing an arduous struggle to get his choice for secretary of defense in place by Inauguration Day, a senior national security position that all but one president in modern history has secured by Day 1,” which “stems from the need of the nominee, Lloyd J. Austin III, a retired four-star Army general, to obtain a congressional exemption from a law that bars recently retired active-duty officers from serving in the top Pentagon job.” The Times adds that while “only the Senate votes to confirm the secretary, House approval of General Austin’s waiver is also required. The House Armed Services Committee will not be holding a hearing on the matter until the day after Mr. Biden is sworn in.”

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Countries Facing Economic Crises Over COVID Responses.

The Washington Post (1/10, A1, Wroughton, 10.52M) reports that the pandemic “is hurling heavily leveraged nations into an economic danger zone, threatening to bankrupt the worst-affected,” such as Costa Rica, as worldwide, “the pandemic is racking up a mind-blowing bill: trillions of
dollers in lost tax revenue, ramped-up spending and new borrowing set to burden the next generation with record levels of debt. In the direst cases - low- and middle-income countries, mostly in Africa and Latin America, that are already saddled with backbreaking debt - covering the rising costs is transforming into a high-stakes test of national solvency. The Post adds analysts “call it a ‘debt tsunami’: National accounts are sinking into the red at a record pace.”

NYTimes Analysis: China Ignores Mistakes Of COVID Response.
The New York Times (1/10, Qin, Hernández, 20.6M) reports that China has opened a “sprawling exhibition” at a museum in Wuhan that “paints a stirring tale of how the city’s sacrifices in a brutal 76-day lockdown led to triumph over the coronavirus and, ultimately, rebirth,” although it is “striking for what is not included.” According to the Times, “There is no mention of the whistle-blowing role of Ai Fen, one of the first doctors to sound the alarm in Wuhan, where the virus is believed to have originated, or the decision by Zhang Yongzhen, a Shanghai doctor, to share its genome with the world against official orders.” The Times adds the Chinese Communist Party’s efforts to “spin the narrative” about the pandemic “have taken on new urgency as the Jan. 23 anniversary of Wuhan’s lockdown draws closer.”

Africa Exceeds 3M COVID Cases.
The AP (1/10, Meldrum) reports Africa “passed the milestone of 3 million confirmed cases COVID-19 on Sunday, including more than 72,000 deaths, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.” The AP adds South Africa, “with more than 1.2 million reported cases, including 32,824 deaths, accounts for more than 30% of the total for the continent of 54 countries and 1.3 billion people.” Per the AP, “The high proportion of cases in South Africa, could be because the country carries out more tests than many other African countries.”

UK Government Faces New Criticism For Surge In COVID Cases.
The AP (1/10, Lawless) reports, “The U.K. is the epicenter of Europe’s COVID-19 outbreak once more, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Conservative government is facing questions, and anger, as people demand to know how the country has ended up here - again.” The AP adds a lot “of the blame for Britain’s poor performance has been laid at the door of Johnson, who came down with the virus in the spring and ended up in intensive care.” According to the AP, critics claim “his government’s slow response as the new respiratory virus emerged from China was the first in a string of lethal mistakes.”

WSJournal Analysis: Israel’s Successful Vaccine Effort Offers Lessons For US.
A Wall Street Journal (1/10, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) analysis argues the US should learn from Israel’s COVID vaccination campaign, which has helped the country vaccinate almost one-fifth of its population in three weeks.

Pompeo Expected To Declare Houthi Rebels A Foreign Terrorist Organization.
The New York Times (1/10, Jakes, 20.6M) reports Secretary of State Pompeo “will designate the Houthi rebels in Yemen as a foreign terrorist organization...at the risk of exacerbating a famine in one of the world’s poorest nations.” The result of the declaration would be “that fighters within the relatively decentralized movement will be cut off from financial support and other material resources that are routed through U.S. banks or other American institutions.” That, says the Times, may not affect them much, but “experts said it would chill humanitarian efforts to donate food and medicine to Houthi-controlled areas in northern and western Yemen,” where, according to the UN, about 80% of the population depends on food assistance.

US Ambassador To Israel Reflects On Tenure.
The New York Times (1/10, Halbfinger, 20.6M) reports on US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, who “will complete his tour of duty in Israel this month having etched his name in history as one of America’s most influential envoys.” Friedman “drove the radical overhaul of...
White House policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, dreaming up the seemingly endless list of political giveaways that President Trump bestowed upon Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his supporters on the Israeli right.” Friedman said, “There’s no going back on what we’ve been able to do.”

**US Ambassador Announces First Step Towards Consulate In Western Sahara.**

The AP (1/10, Elshamy) reports US Ambassador to Morocco David Fischer “took part in a ceremony Sunday in Dakhla, the first formal step to open a consulate” in Western Sahara, which “recognizes Morocco’s authority over the land -- in exchange for Morocco normalizing relations with Israel.”

**Kim Elected General Secretary Of North Korea’s Workers’ Party.**

Reuters (3/10, Shin) reports North Korean leader Kim Jong-un “has been elected as general secretary of the ruling Workers’ Party during its ongoing congress, taking over the title from his late father,” it was announced on state media KCNA Monday. It also announced that Kim Yo Jong, Kim’s sister, “remained a member of the Central Committee but was not included in its politburo.”

**Indonesia Says It Has Located Black Boxes Of Jetliner That Crashed Saturday.**

ABC World News Tonight (1/10, story 5, 0:25, Llamas, 4.76M) reported that in Indonesia, “investigators [are] on the scene of that devastating plane crash. They have located the black boxes and will retrieve them when the sun comes up. Underwater footage showing divers searching the bottom of the Java Sea, where pieces of the plane came to rest. One important clue already recovered, what is believed to be one of the engines.”

The CBS Weekend News (1/10, story 6, 0:15, Duncan, 13.72M) reported, “Divers have found parts of the wreckage of a jetliner that crashed into the sea shortly after takeoff [Saturday] in Jakarta, Indonesia. The aircraft, an older model Boeing 737. There were 62 people on board, and no survivors.”

NBC Nightly News (1/10, story 5, 1:25, Snow, 3.76M) reported, “We’re getting our first look at the wreckage scattered under the sea. We have an important update involving the plane’s black boxes.” NBC’s Matt Bradley added, “As Navy divers hunt for clues scattered on the ocean floor, others working late into the night to recover debris, like airplane parts, luggage, clothing, and corpses. This is not a rescue mission. All 62 people on board the Boeing 737 500, including 10 children, were killed.” NBC also reported, “The plane’s black boxes have been located, but not yet recovered.”

The AP (1/10, Milko, Tarigan) reports, “The head of Indonesia’s National Search and Rescue Agency, Bagus Puruhito, said officials believe they identified the location of the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder...because emergency signals transmitted by the devices were detected by a navy ship’s sonar system.”

Reuters (1/10, Nangoy, Christina) reports the plane “was headed on a domestic flight to Pontianak in West Kalimantan on Saturday.” Bloomberg (1/10, 3.57M) reports, “Indonesian investigators...confirmed the plane was intact when it struck the Java Sea.” The New York Times (1/10, Beech, Suhartono, 20.6M) reports the captain was “a former Indonesian Air Force pilot who was widely admired and had more than 30 years of flying experience.” USA Today (1/10, Hines, 12.7M), the Washington Post (1/10, Mellen, 10.52M), and Wall Street Journal (1/10, Emont, Singgih, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also cover the news.

**Japarov Elected President Of Kyrgyzstan.**

The New York Times (1/10, Nechepurenko, 20.6M) reports, “A populist politician and convicted kidnapper won a landslide victory on Sunday in a snap presidential election in Kyrgyzstan.” Sadyr Japarov got nearly 80% of the vote in “the only democracy in Central Asia.” Japarov said, “I call on all opponents to unite; the minority should submit to the majority.” The Wall Street Journal (1/10, Grove, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that voters also approved constitutional changes to increase the president’s powers.
Egypt, Ethiopia, And Sudan Fail To Progress During Negotiations On Blue Nile Dam.
The AP (1/10) reports, “Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia failed to achieve a breakthrough in the African Union-led talks to revolve their years-long dispute over the controversial dam that Ethiopia is building on the Blue Nile.” Officials “of the three nations met online for the second time in a week in efforts to find an agreed approach to resume their talks focused on the filling and operation of the Grand Ethiopia Renaissance Dam.”

Honduran President Accused Of Drug Trafficking To US.
ABC World News Tonight” (1/10, story 8, 0:20, Llamas, 4.76M) reported, “The President of Honduras has been accused of helping traffic cocaine to the United States. Prosecutors citing Juan Orlando Hernandez as a co-conspirator in a drug trafficking case. They allege he took millions of dollars in bribes and used Honduras’ military to protect cocaine laboratories and shipments. He has not been charged and has denied the allegations.”

The Wall Street Journal (1/10, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that federal prosecutors in New York made the allegations.

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:
House To Move To Impeach Trump After Push To Have Pence Remove Him From Office
One Trump Fan's Descent Into The US Capitol Mob
Twitter, Facebook And Others Silenced Trump, Now They Learn What's Next.
Maradona Devotees Created Their Own Church For Hero Worship
Amazon, Walmart Tell Consumers To Skip Returns Of Unwanted Items

New York Times:
Inside A Deadly Siege: How A String Of Failures Led To A Dark Day At The Capitol
House Moves To Force Trump Out, Vowing Impeachment If Pence Won't Act
Police Reassess Security For Inauguration After Capitol Attack
How Parler, A Chosen App Of Trump Fans, Became A Test Of Free Speech
The Art Of The Lie? 'The Bigger The Better'
'It Became Sort Of Lawless': Florida Vaccine Rollout Turns Into A Free-For-All

Washington Post:
Mob Driven By Grievances And Disillusionment
Many Countries Facing 'Debt Tsunami'
Baseless Fraud Claims Cost GOP In Ga.
House Moves Ahead With Bid To Remove Trump
Capitol Police Chief: Backup Was Denied
A Weakened President's Unsure Future

Financial Times:
Vaccine Makers Prepare For Game Of Covid Cat And Mouse
US Senators Balk At Impeaching Trump Over Capital Siege
Iran’s $7BN Battle: 'Tanker Seizure 'Slap In The Face' To South Korea
Saudi Arabia Tries To Lure Multinationals From Dubai

Washington Times:
'Wipe People Out': Republicans Blast Big Tech's Bid To 'Erase' Trump, Supporters
Joe Biden Missed Many Opportunities To Learn About Son's Business Dealings
'Hello, My Wonderful Social Justice Warriors': School Sued Over Critical Race Theory Instruction
We’re Not Revolutionists: Pennsylvania Brewery Champions Fight Against ‘Unlawful Orders’
Pelosi Sets Timetable For Likely Trump Impeachment
North Korea Issues Threat To US As Message To Biden

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:
ABC: Capitol Siege-Fallout; Siege-Violence; Vaccines; COVID; Indonesia-Plane Crash; Chicago-Man On Shooting Spree; Winter Storm; Honduras-Drug Trafficking; EMT Rescues Man From Burning Truck; St. Louis-Family Time Capsule.
CBS: Capitol Siege-Fallout; Siege-Violence; Siege-Worldwide Perception; COVID; Chicago-Man On Shooting Spree; Indonesia-Plane Crash; Winter Storm; Policing Double Standards; Educators Adapt Lesson Plans; Woman’s Basketball; Reflections On Trump’s Presidency.
NBC: Capitol Siege-Fallout; Siege-Violence; Siege-Capitol Police; COVID; Indonesia-Plane Crash; Vaccines; California-Prisoners Escape; Powerball; Shipping Returns; 15 Year Old Creates Charity To Give Kids In Need Shoes.

Network TV At A Glance:
Capital Siege-Fallout – 10 minutes, 45 seconds
Siege-Violence – 7 minutes, 10 seconds
COVID – 7 minutes, 0 seconds
Indonesia-Plane Crash – 2 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Pelosi-Impeachment; Siege-Violence; PGA-Moving Venue From Trump Golf Club; COVID.
CBS: Pelosi-Impeachment; Trump-Social Media Bans; Parler Bans; Siege-Violence; Siege-Capitol Police; COVID; Chicago-Man On Shooting Spree.
FOX: Siege-Capitol Police; Siege-Violence; Parler Bans; Businesses Suspend Political Contributions.
NPR: Pelosi-Impeachment; Trump-Social Media Bans; PGA-Moving Venue From Trump Golf Club; Siege-Violence; Vaccines.

Washington’s Schedule

Today’s Events In Washington.

White House:
• President Trump — Will work from early in the morning until late in the evening. He will make many calls and have many meetings.
• Vice President Pence — Leads a White House Coronavirus Task Force meeting.

US Senate:
• Senate on recess from 7 Jan – 19 Jan

US House:
• House meets in pro forma session – House of Representatives meets in pro forma session *
  Chamber on recess from 8 Jan – 18 Jan
  Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 11:00 AM

Cabinet Officers:
• Transportation Secretary Chao resigns following U.S. Capitol riots – Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao resignation effective, announced last week in the wake of the attacks on the U.S. Capitol following a protest rally addressed by President Donald Trump, which her resignation letter called ‘a traumatic and entirely avoidable event’ and said that they had ‘deeply troubled her in a way that she simply cannot set aside’ * Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos also announced her resignation on the same day, effective last week, telling President Trump in her letter that there was ‘no mistaking the impact his rhetoric had on the situation’. However, critics have suggested that both could be avoiding participating in potential Cabinet responsibilities in declaring that President Trump was ‘unable to discharge the powers
and duties of the office’ and invoking the 25th Amendment, which would remove him from office.

**Visitors:**
- No visitors scheduled.

**This Town:**
- **U.S. Supreme Court releases an order list; 9:30 AM**
- **U.S. Supreme Court hearing – U.S. Supreme Court hearing, via teleconference: ‘Pham v. Guzman Chavez’ (Whether the detention of an alien who is subject to a reinstated removal order and who is pursuing withholding or deferral of removal is governed by Title 8 Section 1231 or Section 1226 of the United States Code?); 10:00 AM**
- **Annual ‘Roadmap to State Highway Safety Laws’ released – Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety unveil ‘2021 Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws’ report – ranking all 50 states and the District of Columbia on the passage of 16 ‘essential’ traffic safety laws, with each state given a green, yellow or red rating based on the number of optimal safety laws enacted; the best and worst states named; and gaps in each state’s traffic safety laws identified. Livestreamed news conference with Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety President Cathy Chase; Democratic Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi; New York state Sen. David Carlucci; Impact Teen Drivers (California) Education Outreach Coordinator Ivette Chaidez; New Jersey state Assemblyman Nicholas Chiaravalloti; Medical College of Wisconsin Comprehensive Injury Center Director Stephen Hargarten; and State Farm Insurance Federal Affairs Vice President and Counsel Alan Maness; 11:00 AM**
- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce co-hosts webinar on ‘Arts & Entertainment in the Pandemic Era’ – ‘Starring Role: Arts & Entertainment in the Pandemic Era’ webinar hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Center in collaboration with Americans for the Arts, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the National Endowment for the Arts, to spotlight the economic and cultural contributions made by those in the arts and entertainment sectors, and the challenges and opportunities they face in the pandemic era. Speakers include actor Annette Bening; U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Suzanne Clark and Strategic Alliances and Outreach Senior Vice President Rick Wade; Musician Verdine White; National Assembly of State Arts Agencies President and CEO Pam Breaux; The Actors Fund President and CEO Joseph Benincasa; National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Mary Anne Carter; and Recording Industry Association of America Chairman and CEO Mitch Glazier; 3:00 PM**
- **2020 Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities report released – Law Enforcement Officer Fatality Report released by National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, providing officer fatality data for 2020. Report details the number of officers killed in firearms-related and traffic-related incidents, as well as deaths due to other causes, along with preliminary data showing circumstances of fatal shootings, trends in traffic-related fatalities, details of deaths due to causes other than traffic and firearms, and other demographic and jurisdictional data points**

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