

From: "Knapp, Larissa L. (NSB) (FBI)" <LLKNAPP@fbi.gov>
To: "Wells, Robert R. (CTD) (FBI)" <rrwells@fbi.gov>
Cc: "Raia, Christopher G. (NSB) (FBI)" <cgraia@fbi.gov>, "Jackson, Leonard D. II (CTD) (FBI)" <ldjackson@fbi.gov>, "Summers, Jennifer (CTD) (FBI)" <JSummers@fbi.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Daily News Briefing - December 11, 2023
Date: Mon, 11 Dec 2023 20:30:29 +0000
Importance: Normal

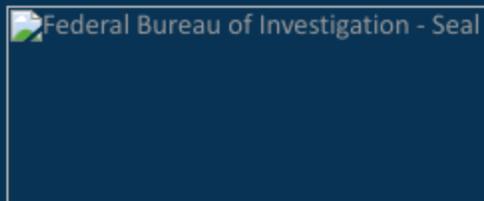
Any insight into this?

Mexican Immigration Agents Detain Two Iranians Who They Say Were Under Observation by the FBI

The [Associated Press](#) (12/08, Staff Writer) reported that Mexico's immigration agency said Friday its agents have detained two Iranians who they say were under observation by the FBI. The article noted that the National Immigration Institute did not say what the supposed FBI investigation was about. The agency said a total of five Iranians were detained along with their Haitian driver, who was acting as their guide on a highway between the Baja California border cities of Tijuana and Tecate on Wednesday.

From: FBI News Briefing <fbnewsbriefing@barbaricum.com>
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 6:25 AM
To: FBI News Briefing <FBI News Briefing@ic.fbi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Daily News Briefing - December 11, 2023

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Federal Bureau of Investigation - Seal

December 11, 2023
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Daily News Briefing

(In coordination with the [Office of Public Affairs](#))

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Director Wray Set to Visit India, First Visit in 12 Years

[WION](#) (12/11, Video) reported that amid the controversy over an attempt to assassinate Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil, U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said on Wednesday that Director Wray is likely to visit India this week. The [Hindustan Times](#) (12/11, Chauhan) specified that when Director Wray meets National Investigation Agency (NIA) chief Dinkar Gupta this week, the latter will take up the issue of extradition of 26/11 Mumbai attacks co-conspirator Tahawwur Rana to India. The article detailed that a U.S. court had, in May, ordered the extradition of the Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman, who is accused of conspiring with David Coleman Headley during the 26/11 attacks, to India but he was allowed time to file a motion against the extradition. The article added that as part of his first official visit to Delhi on Monday and Tuesday, Director Wray will have one-on-one meetings with Gupta, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director Praveen Sood, chiefs of central intelligence agencies, senior officials of the ministries of home and external affairs and a visit to the Delhi Police headquarters. According to the article, during the meeting between Sood and Director Wray, discussions are set to be around cyber-enabled financial crimes, criminals targeting American citizens by operating call centers in India, economic offenders of Indian origin having links here as well as the use of cryptocurrencies by criminal networks and terrorists.

Trump Says He Won't Testify Again at His New York Fraud Trial

The [Associated Press](#) (12/10, Sisak, Colvin) reported that on Sunday, Donald Trump said he has decided against testifying for a second time at his New York civil fraud trial, posting on social media a day before his scheduled appearance that he "very successfully & conclusively" testified last month and saw no need to do so again. The article noted that the former president, the leading contender for the 2024 Republican nomination, had been expected to return to the witness stand Monday as a coda to his defense against New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit. According to the article, Trump wrote on his Truth Social Platform that "I have already testified to everything & have nothing more to say," leaving the final word among defense witnesses to an accounting expert hired by his legal team who testified last week that he found "no evidence, whatsoever, for any accounting fraud" in Trump's financial statements. Trump lawyer Christopher Kise said Sunday that, "President Trump has already testified. There is really nothing more to say to a judge who has imposed an unconstitutional gag order and thus far appears to have ignored President Trump's testimony and that of everyone else involved in the complex financial transactions at issue in the case." The [New York Times](#) (12/10, Bromwich) specified that a defense witness, Eli Bartov, an accounting professor at New York University, is instead expected to conclude the defense's case, to be followed by several rebuttal witnesses called by the attorney general's lawyers. The article mentioned that in January, both parties are expected to file final briefs, after which, the trial judge, Arthur F. Engoron, is expected to deliver his ruling. The article explained that Trump's testimony had been expected to cap off the defense's case, but his last-minute decision reflected some caution on his lawyers' part. The article detailed that when he first testified, in early November, the former president did not allow the witness stand or the formality of the courtroom to impede his usual belligerent style. Instead, the article continued, he lashed out at those he perceived as his enemies — including James and Justice Engoron — while admitting to some involvement in the conduct at the heart of the case. He also defended the financial statements, arguing that they were mere estimates and contained numerous disclaimers — points he was expected to repeat in his testimony Monday. The article added that two people with knowledge of Trump's decision said that his legal advisers were concerned that any further testimony would do more harm than good, given that they believe the judge is biased against the former president. [Fox News](#) (12/10, Stepheny Price), [Reuters](#) (12/10, Staff Writer), [CNN](#) (12/10, Herb, Scannell), [NBC News](#) (12/10, Reiss,

Gregorian), [CBS News](#) (12/10, Kates), [CNBC](#) (12/10, Huddleston), [Axios](#) (12/10, Doherty), [Al Jazeera](#) (12/10, Staff Writer), [Bloomberg](#) (12/10, Diaz), [Business Insider](#) (12/10, Mark, Italiano), [New York Post](#) (12/10, DeGregory, Kochman), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/10, Lepore), [The Guardian](#) (12/10, Aratani, Rushe), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/10, Gershman), the [HuffPost](#) (12/10, Karanth), [UPI](#) (12/10, Jacobson), the [Daily Beast](#) (12/10, McDougall), [Rolling Stone](#) (12/10, Legaspi), the [Washington Post](#) (12/10, Barrett, Stein), the [New York Daily News](#) (12/10, Wilkinson), [The Hill](#) (12/10, Nazzaro, Lee), and [USA Today](#) (12/10, Bagchi, Jackson) also reported on the story

Appeals Court Upholds Gag Order on Trump in Washington Case but Narrows Restrictions on His Speech

The [Associated Press](#) (12/08, Richer, Tucker) reported that a federal appeals court in Washington largely upheld a gag order on Donald Trump in his 2020 election interference case on Friday, but narrowed the restrictions on his speech to allow the former president to criticize the special counsel who brought the case. According to the article, the three-judge panel's ruling modifies the gag order, permitting the Republican 2024 presidential front-runner to make disparaging comments about special counsel Jack Smith, but it reimposes limits on what he can say about known or reasonably foreseeable witnesses in the case and about court staff and other lawyers. The article indicated that the unanimous ruling was mostly a win for Smith's team, with the judges agreeing with prosecutors that Trump's often-incendiary comments about participants in the case could have a damaging practical impact and rejecting claims by defense attorneys that restrictions on the ex-president's speech amount to an unconstitutional muzzling. The [New York Times](#) (12/08, Feuer, Savage) explained that in its ruling, a three-judge panel sought to strike a cautious balance between what it called "two foundational constitutional values": the integrity of the judicial system and Trump's right to speak his mind. To that end, the article continued, the panel kept in place the gag order's original measures restricting Trump from attacking any members of Smith's staff or the court staff involved in the case. The article detailed that it also preserved provisions that allowed Trump to portray the prosecution as a political vendetta and to directly criticize the Biden administration and the Justice Department. The court expanded the restrictions, adding a measure barring Trump from commenting on the relatives of lawyers or court staff members involved in the case if the remarks were intended to interfere with how the trial participants were doing their jobs. However, the article noted, the court cut back on the gag order in two important ways: In addition to freeing Trump to go after Smith, the public face of the prosecution, it relaxed a flat restriction against targeting witnesses — allowing Trump to criticize them if his remarks were not connected to their roles in the case. The [Washington Post](#) (12/08, Weiner) noted that the appellate judges said they were limited in their ruling by the fact that Chutkan justified her order as necessary only to avoid influence on or harassment of participants in the trial. Should Chutkan issue a new gag order citing a need to avoid prejudicing potential jurors through misleading takes on the evidence, the appeals court could rule differently. But during oral argument Pillard suggested that might be a lost cause, saying "it's hard to see how this ... order is going to succeed in preventing a trial in the court of public opinion." [The Hill](#) (12/08, Suter) reported that former President Trump on Friday vowed to appeal a gag order issued by the judge overseeing his case related to efforts to overturn the 2020 election. According to the article, Trump wrote in a Friday post on Truth Social "An Appeals Court has just largely upheld the Gag Order against me in the ridiculous J6 Case, where the Unselect January 6th Committee deleted and destroyed almost all Documents and Evidence, saying that I can be barred from talking and, in effect, telling the truth," and "In other words, people can speak violently and viciously against me, or attack me in any form, but I am not allowed to respond, in kind. What is becoming of our First Amendment, what is becoming of our Country? We will appeal this decision!" [USA Today](#) (12/08, Bagchi), [Reuters](#) (12/08, Goudsward), [The Guardian](#) (12/08, Lowell), [Politico](#) (12/08, Gerstein, Cheney), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/08, Gurman, Barber), the [New York Post](#) (12/08, Christenson), [NBC News](#) (12/08, Barnes, Reilly, Gregorian), [Roll Call](#) (12/08, Macagnone), [NPR](#) (12/08, Johnson), [CNN](#) (12/08, Polantz, Lybrand, Reid), [ABC News](#) (12/08, Faulers, Mallin), [CBS News](#) (12/08, Quinn), [Forbes](#) (12/08, Durkee), [The Hill](#) (12/08, Beitsch), [Slate](#) (12/08, Katzberg), [Axios](#) (12/08, Doherty), [Fox News](#) (12/08, Price, Spunt), [Bloomberg](#) (12/08, Tillman), [Deadline](#) (12/08, Johnson), [MSNBC](#) (12/08, Rubin), the [Daily Beast](#) (12/08, Alfred), the [Independent](#) (12/08, O'Connell, Woodward), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (12/08, Hubbard), [Newsweek](#) (12/08, Dobkin), [New York Daily News](#) (12/08 Goldiner), and [UPI](#) (12/08, Cunningham) also reported on the story.

Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Release Little Use-Of-Force Data

[NBC News](#) (12/08, Kaplan, Murphy) reported that the DOJ's four main law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, operate with limited oversight regarding the use of force, especially in shootings. The article detailed that while the DOJ has compelled local police departments to release detailed data on police shootings through consent decrees, its own agencies are exempt from similar scrutiny. NBC News conducted a five-year analysis of shootings involving the ATF, DEA, FBI, and U.S. Marshals, revealing that from 2018 to 2022, 223 people were shot, resulting in 151 deaths. According to the article, the majority of incidents occurred during U.S. Marshals' operations, often involving large law enforcement teams, including deputized local police. The article specified that federal task force officers fired in about a third of the incidents, and in 47% of cases, federal officers were the only ones to fire. The article added that investigations into these shootings are typically conducted by local law enforcement or prosecutors, with only two cases found to have unjustified use of force. The article underscored that the report emphasizes the lack of transparency and accountability within DOJ agencies, shedding light on the challenges in assessing the frequency and justifiability of shootings involving federal officers.

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COUNTERTERRORISM

Man Who Fired Shotgun Outside New York Synagogue Cited Events in the Mideast, Federal Agent Says

The [Associated Press](#) (12/08, Hill, Khan) reported that a man who fired a shotgun into the air outside a synagogue in New York's capital city is an Iraqi-born U.S. citizen who told investigators he felt affected by events in the Middle East, a federal agent said in a court filing. No one was injured by the gunfire Thursday afternoon outside Albany's Temple Israel, but children attending preschool had to shelter in place while police searched the area. The article noted that Mufid Fawaz Alkhader, 28, was arrested a short distance away from the temple after laying down the shotgun, police said. He said "Free Palestine" when officers arrested him, according to Albany Police Chief Eric Hawkins. The article mentioned that FBI spokesperson Sarah Ruane praised the "swift coordination" between federal, state, and local law enforcement. The [New York Post](#) (12/08, DeGregory), [Epoch Times](#) (12/09, Duchamps), the [Guardian](#) (12/08, Helmore), [Newsweek](#) (12/08, Carbonaro), [USA TODAY](#) (12/08, Osterman), and the [Hill](#) (12/08, Robertson) also reported on the story.

Mexican Immigration Agents Detain Two Iranians Who They Say Were Under Observation by the FBI

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Woman Arrested After Driving Her Vehicle Through a Religious Group on a Sidewalk, Montana Police Say

The [Associated Press](#) (12/10, Staff Writer) reported that a woman has been arrested after she drove her vehicle several times at or through a religious group demonstrating on a sidewalk, hitting and injuring one man, Montana police said Sunday. Genevienne Rancuret, 55, was pulled over by police in Billings on Saturday a few hours after the episode, and taken to jail on charges of felony assault with a weapon — the vehicle — felony criminal mischief, and driving under the influence, police said. The article noted that the 45-year-old man who was struck suffered minor injuries. Members of the group he was with, identified by police as Israelis for Christ, were holding signs and speaking through an amplifier at the time, a police spokesperson, Lt. Matt Lennick, said. Lennick said he did not have enough information to comment on what the motive could be. An update from police said the FBI was also reviewing what happened, along with local prosecutors, suggesting the federal agency was looking into whether it could be a bias-motivated crime.

U.S. Police Agencies Took Intelligence Directly From IDF, Leaked Files Show

The [Guardian](#) (12/08, Wilson) reported that hacked police files show U.S. law enforcement agencies for decades received analysis of incidents in the Israel-Palestine conflict directly from the Israeli Defense Forces and Israeli thinktanks, training on domestic “Muslim extremists” from pro-Israel non-profits, and surveilled social media accounts of pro-Palestine activists in the U.S. The article noted that analysis of documents from the BlueLeaks trove of internal law enforcement documents found no indication that this was balanced by information from other Middle Eastern sources or U.S. Muslim community groups. Nor is there any indication that pro-Israel activists were subject to any specific scrutiny. The article added that the BlueLeaks trove was obtained and released by self-described hacktivists in June 2020. It contains material from more than 200 law enforcement agencies, including intelligence material disseminated by federally sponsored umbrella bodies such as fusion centers and high-intensity drug-trafficking area (Hidta) programs.

FBI Investigating Threat Sent to Local Schools, Across Ohio

[WHIO \(CBS-7\)](#) (12/10, Staff Writer) reported that law enforcement is investigating after multiple schools in Montgomery County and throughout Ohio received an email threat. The matter is currently under investigation by the FBI and the Joint Terrorism Task Force, according to a media release Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office. The article noted that the sheriff’s office said there is no evidence supporting that these threats are credible and no imminent danger has been identified. [Dayton Daily News](#) (12/10, Staff Writer), [Journal News](#) (12/10, Staff Writer), and [WJW \(FOX-8\)](#) (12/10, Laura Morrison) also reported on the story.

Rhode Island Man Charged With Making False Bomb Threat on Airplane

[CNN](#) (12/09, Williams) reported that a Rhode Island man faces federal charges for allegedly making threats that forced a Florida flight bound for Providence to make an emergency landing, according to federal prosecutors in Florida. Evan Sims, 41, was charged with “false information and threats regarding the possession of an explosive on an airplane” after his alleged threats caused the flight to divert to Jacksonville, Florida, the Middle District of Florida US Attorney’s Office said in a news release. The article noted that on December 5, Sims was traveling on Breeze Airways flight 717 from Orlando, Florida, when he began arguing with the woman he was traveling with before takeoff, a criminal complaint filed Wednesday by the office says. According to the article, Sims partially stood in his seat as the plane ascended, exclaiming that he wanted to get off the flight. He said “approximately two times” his travel partner had a bomb on the plane, according to the complaint. The flight was then diverted to Jacksonville International Airport, and a search by bomb-detection dogs did not find a bomb, authorities said. The article mentioned that the TSA, the Jacksonville Aviation Authority Airport Police Department, and the FBI investigated the case. [USA TODAY](#) (12/08, Nathan Diller) also reported on the story.

FBI Says Bomb Threat Emails Sent to Schools Across Texas Are ‘Clearly Hoax Threats’

[KETK \(Fox-51\)](#) (12/08, Good) reported that multiple schools across Texas said they received a bomb threat email on Friday that the FBI has determined to be “clearly hoax threats.” The article noted that many of the school districts said the threat came from someone claiming to be a Russian terrorist. Lufkin ISD said they received one of these threats around 7:42 a.m., and that it was being investigated by multiple law enforcement agencies throughout the state, including the FBI. According to the article, in the email, the sender claimed their partners from the terrorist organization had planted explosives set to detonate at a certain time in retaliation for support given to Ukraine.

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COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

California Man Who Sent Computers To Iran Illegally Sentenced

[Patch](#) (12/08, Ceja) reported that Dana Point resident Johnny Tourino has been sentenced to 18 months in prison and fined \$20,000 for illegally sending computer servers to Iran. The article detailed that Tourino, along with his company, Spectra, and others, violated the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) by purchasing and sending servers to Iran without the required licenses from January 2014 to July 2017. The article explained that the servers were dual-use commercial goods with military or strategic applications, regulated for anti-terrorism and national security reasons. Tourino falsely claimed the servers were destined for Kuwait and Slovenia, but they were intended for Bank Mellat, an Iranian financial institution. The article highlighted that under IEEPA, it is a crime to

willfully export or attempt to export items to Iran without a license from the U.S. government. The article noted that these are items authorities have determined could be detrimental to regional stability and national security. A DOJ [press release](#) quoted Donald Alway, the Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office, who stated that "Defendant Tourino conspired to illegally export restricted equipment to a foreign adversary and took steps to conceal his activities to avoid law enforcement scrutiny," adding that, "Tourino's activity violated U.S. economic and trade sanctions and, in the process, potentially aided an oppressive terrorist regime and put America's long-term security interests at risk."

George Soros Funneled More Than \$50M to Iran-Sympathizer Groups Linked to Robert Malley

The [New York Post](#) (12/09, Calder, Linge) reported that far-left billionaire George Soros has reportedly funneled over \$50 million to Iran-sympathizer groups, influencing the Biden White House's stance on defanging U.S. sanctions and supporting a renewed nuclear deal. According to the article, Soros has donated \$46.7 million since 2016 to the International Crisis Group (ICG), linked to an alleged Iranian plot to manipulate US policy. The article added that Robert Malley, former U.S. special envoy to Iran and under FBI investigation for mishandling classified material, was the ICG's president before joining the Biden administration in 2021. The ICG, funded by Soros, is accused of downplaying Iranian human rights abuses and advancing Iranian propaganda. The article detailed that Soros's financial support has indirectly reached Iran apologists through groups like the Ploughshares Fund and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Ex-U.S. Ambassador Accused of Being a Cuban Spy Rose From Humble Origins

The [New York Times](#) (12/08, Londono, Robles, Adams) reported that the indictment of Manuel Rocha, a former U.S. ambassador accused of spying for Cuba, has raised questions among colleagues about what was real and what was deception in his life. The article specified that Rocha's journey from poverty in Harlem to the State Department's top echelons began with a scholarship to the Taft School in 1965. Federal prosecutors allege that Cuba recruited Rocha in the 1970s, relying on him as he rose through the State Department's ranks. The article detailed that the indictment charges him with acting as an illegal agent of a foreign government, wire fraud, and lying on passport applications, but not espionage. The article added that the FBI may file espionage charges if evidence of disclosing classified information emerges. The article noted that Rocha's 21 years in government provided access to valuable information for Cuba and its allies, prompting concerns about a lengthy damage assessment. [The Guardian](#) (12/10, Tait) stated that the indictment details cloak-and-dagger meetings with an undercover FBI officer, where Rocha openly discussed his work as a Cuban agent, describing how he created a false right-wing persona. According to the article, the revelations have shocked the U.S. intelligence community, prompting an urgent damage assessment.

The U.S. Government's Most Powerful Spying Tool Is Fighting for Its Life

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/10, Volz) reported that the Biden administration's efforts to renew legislation that allows the U.S. to track the electronic communications of terrorists, spies, and hackers overseas is facing an uphill battle amid increasing opposition from some members of both political parties and a looming end-of-year deadline. For years, the article explained, privacy advocates have criticized the law, but Congress renewed the legislation twice with broad bipartisan support. The article detailed that Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is among the most powerful tools wielded by U.S. spy agencies. According to the article, information collected by it contributes to more than half of the intelligence briefed daily to the president. The article stated that Section 702 has faced criticism for its warrantless gathering of communications data from Americans, leading to a polarized political environment. The article added that the FBI has acknowledged past abuses, and the legislation is on the verge of expiration or significant curtailment, with some Republicans and Democrats split on its renewal. The Biden administration is pushing for renewal, emphasizing its importance for national security, but faces skepticism and opposition from lawmakers seeking reforms. [Fox News](#) (12/08, Pergram) specified that Director Wray testified before a Senate panel earlier this week that he had "never seen a time where all the threats or so many of the threats are all elevated, all at exactly the same time." The article stated that the intelligence community is very wary of FISA Section 702 going dark at the end of the year unless Congress renews it amid the current, volatile threat matrix. However, the article indicated that conservatives have crowed for years that they will not reauthorize FISA without significant reforms. The

article mentioned that the House Rules Committee plans to consider two competing proposals to reform FISA on Monday. One is from House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Turner (R-OH). The other is from House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH). The Jordan plan enjoys broad, bipartisan support. The intelligence community prefers the Turner option – as does the Senate.

Cyber Command's Nakasone Urges Renewal of Foreign Spy Law

[C4ISRNET](#) (12/08, Colin Demarest) reported that U.S. Army Gen. Paul Nakasone, the leader of U.S. Cyber Command urged Congress to renew a contentious foreign spy program as lawmakers debate its future. According to the article, Gen. Nakasone, who also heads the National Security Agency, on Dec. 8 described Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act as “the most important authority that we utilize day in, day out.” A lapse, he said at an Intelligence and National Security Alliance event here, would be disastrous. The article noted that Section 702 allows the government to collect and review communications like emails and text messages of foreigners abroad, including when they are in touch with Americans. The article explained that the power is set to expire at the end of the month, following renewal in 2018. The article specified that the Biden administration is pushing for reauthorization while also battling criticism from groups that say it is ripe for abuse and amounts to a warrantless dragnet. Nakasone rejected the criticisms Friday. The article quoted Gen. Nakasone who stated that, “As the director of the National Security Agency, I will tell you that our focus is not only national security. It’s also the protection of our civil liberties and privacy,” adding that, “This is an authority with oversight and transparency that allows both of those things.”

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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Woman Charged With Attempted Arson of Martin Luther King Jr. Birthplace in Atlanta

The [Associated Press](#) (12/08, Staff Writer) reported that Atlanta police have arrested a woman who’s accused of trying to burn down the birthplace of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Atlanta. The article stated that officers arrested the 26-year-old woman around 5:45 p.m. Thursday after responding to a report of vandalism in process at the two-story home in the historic Auburn Avenue Historic District, according to a police statement. Police say a preliminary investigation shows the woman had poured gasoline on the property before people at the site stopped her. The article mentioned that the police report says the woman was taken to a hospital for a psychological evaluation. She’s charged with second-degree attempted arson and interference with government property. The historic site is now a museum owned and operated by the National Park Service. [NBC News](#) (12/08, Burke, Cusumano) reported that the FBI said it was aware of the incident, but could not comment further. The [New York Times](#) (12/08, Yoon), [USA TODAY](#) (12/08, DeLetter, Bragg), the [Hill](#) (12/08, Robertson), [New York Post](#) (12/08, Pollina), [CBS News](#) (12/08, Tanyos), [Huffington Post](#) (12/08, Gologowski), [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/08, Arbel), the [Guardian](#) (12/08, Oladipo), [Fox News](#) (12/08, Mion), [CNN](#) (12/09, Alsup, Elamroussi), [BBC](#) (12/08, Cabral), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/08, Farrell), and the [Washington Post](#) (12/08, Bella) also reported on the story.

Hunter Biden Indictment Alleges Postaddiction Fraud

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/08, Rubin, Linskey, Barber) reported that in early 2020, while his father was on the cusp of a political turnaround that would propel him to the Democratic presidential nomination, Hunter Biden went to his accountants to clean up a lingering personal issue: his failure to have filed taxes for 2017 and 2018. The article noted that by his own account, the younger Biden had been sober since June 2019. But during that attempt to resolve his tax mess, he created a far more serious one for himself, according to federal prosecutors, who charged him Thursday with nine tax offenses, including three felonies. The article mentioned that the six misdemeanors stem from Hunter Biden’s failure to file returns or pay taxes for several years during a drug-fueled spending frenzy, according to prosecutors. But the felony charges all come from that critical period in early 2020 that was, as prosecutors noted, “well after he had regained his sobriety.” The article stated that under the indictment returned Thursday in California, he faces not only allegations covering a longer stretch of time but more serious charges that carry a combined sentence of up to 17 years, although convicted criminal defendants typically receive a fraction of the maximum penalty. Hunter Biden’s lawyers have said his taxes are now paid in full. But that wouldn’t necessarily absolve him of criminal liability for claiming improper deductions or for intentionally not filing on time. The

[Washington Examiner](#) (12/09, Willis), [CNN](#) (12/09, Liptak, Lee, Grayer), the [Hill](#) (12/08, Robertson), [Newsweek](#) (12/08, Plummer), [Forbes](#) (12/08, Erb), an additional [Washington Examiner](#) (12/08, Bedford) article, [Aljazeera](#) (12/08, Staff Writer), [CBS News](#) (12/08, Legare), [MSNBC](#) (12/09, Lim), [NBC News](#) (12/08, Video), and an opinion piece by the [Hill](#) (12/09, Turley) also reported on the story.

Florida Teen Charged With Threatening New York City Subway

The [New York Post](#) (12/10, Gibbon) reported that a man threatened to launch a subway massacre in the Big Apple, claiming he'd shoot "anybody I see" and kill dozens but was busted the day before he vowed to pull off the bloodshed, authorities say Robert Trout III, a 19-year-old New York native who currently lives in St. Petersburg, Fla., allegedly boasted online that he would shoot up New York City's subways on Thanksgiving, saying he had 60 bullets and "that's 60 shots, that's 60 people dead. The article noted that the troubled teen never had a chance to follow through on his disturbing alleged threats. He was busted by the FBI and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office on Nov. 22, just a day before Thanksgiving, and charged with "knowingly transmitting in interstate commerce a true threat," A DOJ [press release](#) stated that this case was investigated by the Pinellas Park Police Department and the FBI. [Fox News](#) (12/10, Price), [UPI](#) (12/09, Hilsman), the [New York Daily News](#) (12/09, Rosen), [CBS News](#) (12/09, Staff Writer), and the [Tampa Bay Times](#) (12/09, Sullivan) also reported on the story.

Maine's Congressional Delegation Calls for Army Investigation Into Lewiston Shooting

The [Associated Press](#) (12/09, Whittle) reported that Maine's congressional delegation is calling for the Army to investigate the events that led up to the October mass shooting - the deadliest in the state's history - by one of its reservists. The article noted that Robert Card killed 18 people in a bowling alley and a restaurant in Lewiston on Oct. 25, authorities said, and his body was found - with a self-inflicted gunshot wound - two days later. Reports soon began to emerge that the 40-year-old Card had spent two weeks in a psychiatric hospital and at roughly the same time was amassing weapons. Members of the Maine delegation called for the Department of the Army Inspector General to investigate following a meeting with families affected by the killings in Washington. According to the article, the delegation said Friday that Army officials have informed them that there will be an administrative investigation into the events that preceded Card's death. The members said in a statement that they have called for a separate, independent, concurrent investigation into the shootings that goes deeper than the administrative inquiry. The [Hill](#) (12/09, Thomas) also reported on the story.

High-Profile Attacks on Derek Chauvin and Larry Nassar Put Spotlight on Violence in Federal Prisons

The [Associated Press](#) (12/08, Sisak, Balsamo) reported that Derek Chauvin was stabbed nearly two dozen times in the law library at a federal prison in Arizona. Larry Nassar was knifed repeatedly in his cell at a federal penitentiary in Florida. The assaults of two notorious, high-profile federal prisoners by fellow inmates in recent months have renewed concerns about whether the chronically understaffed, crisis-plagued Federal Bureau of Prisons is capable of keeping people in its custody safe. The article noted that in the shadow of gangster James "Whitey" Bulger's 2018 beating death at a West Virginia federal penitentiary and financier Jeffrey Epstein's 2019 suicide at a Manhattan federal jail while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges, the Bureau of Prisons is again under scrutiny for failing to protect high-profile prisoners from harm. The article added that Chauvin, 47, the former Minneapolis police officer convicted of murdering George Floyd in 2020, was hospitalized for a week after he was assaulted Nov. 24 at a medium-security federal prison in Tucson, Arizona — the same complex where an inmate tried to shoot a visitor last year with a contraband gun. The article stated that John Turscak, the former Mexican Mafia gang leader and one-time FBI informant accused of attacking Chauvin, told investigators he thought about stabbing him for a month before seeing an opportunity to strike in the law library. The article mentioned that Turscak told the FBI that he attacked Chauvin because he is a high-profile inmate for killing Floyd, prosecutors said. Turscak said he chose Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, as a symbolic connection to the Black Lives Matter movement and the Mexican Mafia's "Black Hand" symbol, prosecutors said. [USA TODAY](#) (12/10, Bragg) also reported on the story.

California Marriage Fraud Scheme Helped Over 300 People Obtain Green Cards

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/08, Karabatur) reported that it was a midsummer day in 2021 when Engilbert Ulan met with a newlywed couple in Los Angeles to help them prepare for questions they expected to face from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. The husband, a 53-year-old foreign national, had begun the process of

applying for a green card and needed to pass an interview scheduled for a few days later. He and his wife, a U.S. citizen, would have to prove their marriage was legitimate. Ulan moved them through the list of 211 possible questions that his boss, Marcialito "Mars" Biol Benitez, had provided. The article noted that according to federal prosecutors, Ulan knew the couple's marriage was bogus. By then, authorities say, he had already met with hundreds of Benitez's clients, who were recruited by brokers in a prolific marriage fraud scheme. The clients, many of whom were Brazilian nationals, paid up to \$30,000 in cash for Benitez's services. The article mentioned that Ulan, 42, was convicted last week by a federal jury in Boston of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud and immigration document fraud. He now faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The 49-year-old Benitez, who pleaded guilty in August to orchestrating the marriage fraud enterprise, testified against his former employee and could ultimately receive a shorter sentence than Ulan. The article added that Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Boston division, said in a statement that Ulan's conviction should "serve as a warning" to others who commit marriage fraud. The article quoted Cohen, who said, "It is the utmost honor and privilege to become an American citizen, but Engilbert Ulan made an absolute sham of that process, Mr. Ulan and his co-conspirators broke immigration laws that are in place to protect public safety and created an unfair disadvantage for those seeking to earn their citizenship lawfully."

Dating Scammer Indicted for Stealing \$1M

[USA TODAY](#) (12/08, Thornton) reported that an Ohio man is scheduled to appear in federal court Friday after being indicted for scamming more than \$1 million from online dating site users who thought they were forming a romantic connection. As part of the alleged crimes, Benjamin Adu Acheampong is accused of conspiring with additional people to create online dating profiles and messaging unwitting users they would later target. After a victim believed they were building a romantic connection, Acheampong and others would convince them to send money by mail or wire transfer, U.S. attorneys allege. The article noted that over the course of two-and-a-half years, Acheampong, 37, scammed online dating connections out of more than \$1 million, officials said. He faces multiple fraud and money laundering charges, each of which is punishable by up to 20 years in prison, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. A DOJ [press release](#) stated that the FBI was involved in announcing the charges.

FBI Special Agent Laurie Giordano Uses Genetic Genealogy to Solve Mysteries Surrounding the Gilgo Beach Case

[Newsday](#) (12/09, DeStefano) reported that when FBI Special Agent Laurie Giordano adopted her son more than a decade ago, she had no idea her decision to become a parent would make her the "angel" who helped solve some of the mysteries surrounding the Gilgo Beach killings. The article noted that after the 2013 adoption of her nearly 11-year-old son — whose name she asked be kept confidential — Giordano began to help others do genealogical searches related to their own adoption experiences. That passion led her to become an expert genetic genealogist working with members of the Gilgo Beach task force which arrested suspected serial killer Rex A. Heuermann in July.

Rapper Quando Rondo Arrested by FBI

[WJCL \(ABC-22\)](#) (12/10, Cole) reported that the Savannah man, also known as rapper Quando Rondo, was arrested by the FBI. An FBI spokesperson said that 24-year-old Tyquian Bowman was taken into custody on federal drug charges. According to the article, Bowman is being accused of violating the Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act for being in a manager role of the Rollin' 60's gang. He is also being charged with the illegal use of communication for using a cell phone to set up the sale of marijuana. The [Rolling Stone](#) (12/09, Legaspi) also reported on the story.

Michigan County Authorities Investigating After Posters of Israeli Hostages Taken Down

[WWJ \(CBS-62\)](#) (12/08, Powers) reported that authorities in an Oakland County community are investigating after two individuals were caught taking down posters of Israeli hostages Thursday afternoon. On Dec. 7, Huntington Woods Public Safety received a report of the incident and went to the scene. The article noted that according to police, two residents approached the two suspects when they saw them taking down the posters of Israeli hostages that were taken on Oct. 7, and a verbal altercation occurred. No one was physically assaulted, and there were no direct threats made toward the residents, police say. When police arrived, the two individuals who were taking

down the posters had already left the area. The article stated that the two people were identified. Huntington Woods officers are working with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office and the FBI to investigate the incident.

Former Jacksonville Jaguars Employee Accused of Stealing More Than \$22 Million Has 'Serious Gambling Addiction,' Says Lawyer

[CNN](#) (12/08, Morse) reported that the former employee of the Jacksonville Jaguars who has been accused of stealing more than \$22 million from the NFL team to fund a lavish lifestyle suffers from a "serious gambling addiction," according to his lawyer. According to court documents filed in US District Court this week, Amit Patel is accused of wire fraud and illegal monetary transaction, stealing millions via the team's virtual credit card (VCC) system over a four-year period. The article added that Patel's attorney Alex King said that his client is "deeply remorseful and apologizes for his conduct" and that "approximately 99% of the funds misappropriated from the Jaguars' VCC were gambling losses." Patel primarily used the money to bet on football gambling websites, according to King, who added that "the losses were most significant in the final months leading up to the NFL's investigation."

Southern California Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Sex Trafficking Minors

[USA TODAY](#) (12/08, Arredondo) reported that a California man was sentenced to life in prison on Thursday for "recruiting and enticing" teenage girls, acting as their pimp, and using them for commercial sex work, the DOJ said Thursday. The article noted that United States District Judge John A. Kronstadt called the acts "inexcusable" and "horrific" and ordered Donavin Dwayne Bradford, 32, of South Los Angeles, to pay more than \$67,000 in restitution fees, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California, said in a release. The article mentioned that Bradford and co-conspirator Layla Kalani Valdivia, 24, of Ventura, California, have been in federal custody since August last year, prosecutors said. Valdivia pleaded guilty last December to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of a minor. They are two of several people arrested for human trafficking in the FBI's "Operation Cross Country," an effort that resulted in officials aiding 200 trafficked people across the nation.

Person Arrested for Allegedly Robbing TD Bank in Florida

[WFOR \(CBS-4\)](#) (12/09, Geisel) reported that a person was arrested Saturday morning after allegedly robbing a bank in Miami-Dade County. According to the FBI, the suspect entered a TD Bank and demanded money from a bank employee. The article noted that money was taken from the bank, but the amount was not disclosed at this time. The suspect was later taken into custody following a joint operation with the Miami-Dade and Pinecrest Police Departments, the South Florida Violent Crime Fugitive Task Force, and the FBI.

Suspect in Multiple Chicago Bank Robberies Strikes Again, Still on the Loose

[WBBM \(CBS-2\)](#) (12/09, Terry, Ortiz) reported that the FBI is looking for a man they say has been going up and down the most iconic parts of Chicago robbing banks on multiple occasions in recent months. The most recent incident happened Friday morning. According to the article, Michigan Avenue along the Mag Mile and downtown is busy at all times – but especially during banking hours. That is when the FBI said the bank robber likes to venture to the glamorous thoroughfare. The article quoted FBI Special Agent Siobhan Johnson, who said, "It's unusual to see a robber stick to one street like this." The article added that the FBI says the man seems to be interested specifically in Citibank branches. Johnson said the robbery on Friday morning was "actually the fourth time we've seen this individual on Michigan Avenue." The article stated that the FBI said the suspect is approximately 60 years old, with a heavy build and a black and gray goatee. He also wore a black puffy jacket with a small white Reebok logo on the left chest, dark pants, and a dark winter beanie hat.

FBI Investigating After Man Robs Bank of America in Illinois While Implying He Had Gun

[Lake & McHenry County Scanner](#) (12/10, Borgia) reported that the FBI has released high-quality surveillance photos of a man wanted after he robbed a bank in Illinois Saturday while implying he had a gun. The article noted that the Waukegan Police Department responded Saturday to Bank of America, in Waukegan, for a bank robbery. The FBI Chicago Field Office said in a statement that a suspect entered the bank and displayed a demand note. The suspect implied he had a handgun but did not display one. The article added that FBI officials said the suspect fled the scene on foot after demanding the money.

Celebrity Cruises Worker Admits to Molesting Four Children in Ship's Youth Center

[WOFL \(Fox-35\)](#) (12/10, Staff Writer) reported that a Celebrity Cruises crew member allegedly admitted to molesting children in the ship's youth center during a week-long trip from Florida to the Caribbean Islands, according to an FBI affidavit. The article noted that Cris John Pentinio Castor, a Philippine civilian, allegedly touched a 6-year-old girl's "private parts" under her clothes while she played video games, the child told investigators. According to the article, Castor admitted to sexually abusing children "on multiple occasions, while consciously hiding acts from the Youth Center's security cameras," the affidavit alleges.

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CYBER DIVISION

FBI Says Cyberattack Was a Targeted 'Escalation' on Overlooked Technology

The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (12/10, Johnson) reported that in the wake of a cyberattack on a Western Pennsylvania water utility, federal officials are urging infrastructure operators to tighten their security — and they're warning that another attack could be coming. The article noted that the cyberattack, which hit a Pittsburgh brewery in addition to the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa, was part of a targeted Thanksgiving campaign by a terrorist group tied to the Iranian government, the FBI said Wednesday. The FBI called the intrusions a "significant escalation" over previous hacks. The article added that another cyberattack could come around Christmas, agent Wolfgang Moser said at a Wednesday webinar hosted with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. He later clarified the FBI has no specific intelligence predicting a holiday attack. The article mentioned that Scott Johnson, an FBI intelligence analyst in the bureau's Middle East unit, said Wednesday that Iran typically favors proportional attacks rather than an escalation.

Some Seattle Cancer Center Patients Are Receiving Threatening Emails After Last Month's Data Breach

The [Associated Press](#) (12/09, Staff Writer) reported that some patients of a Seattle-based cancer center received threatening emails following a data breach last month. Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center officials said a Nov. 19 hack hit a portion of the healthcare system's clinical network, possibly leaking patient data. This week, some former and current patients received threatening emails claiming names, Social Security numbers, medical history, and other data of more than 800,000 patients had been compromised. The article noted that the center encouraged patients to keep a close eye on bank statements and credit reports. The center directed those who received suspicious or threatening calls or emails to report them to the FBI, block senders, and delete messages. If the message demands a ransom, do not pay it, the center instructed.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

GOP Lawmaker's Bill Would Expand DOJ's Genealogy Testing for Cold Case Victims

[Fox News](#) (12/09, Keene) reported that unsolved crimes are a burden on victims, their families, and the police as they try to apprehend criminals when all leads go cold. The article stated that one Pennsylvania Republican lawmaker is aiming to alleviate part of that burden at the federal level. House Republican Chief Deputy Whip Guy Reschenthaler is introducing the Cold Case Modernization Act this week to expand genealogy testing at the federal level for cold case victims. According to the article, Reschenthaler's bill looks to solve cold cases by expanding DOJ criteria for grant funding toward forensic genealogy testing for unidentified human remains. The article quoted Reschenthaler, who said, "Across the United States, investigators lack the critical resources to solve the cases of tens of thousands of unidentified human remains, the Cold Case Modernization Act puts these deceased Americans and their grieving families first, using state-of-the-art DNA technology to uncover answers and find the truth," The article mentioned that Reschenthaler's bill says that any DOJ "grant awarded to States and units of local government for forensic genetic [genealogy] may be used to identify unidentified human remains without regard to whether the manner of death is determined to be a homicide."

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Prosecutors Ask Judge to Deny Trump's Request to Freeze Election Case

The [New York Times](#) (12/10, Feuer) reported that federal prosecutors on Sunday asked the judge handling former President Donald J. Trump's trial on charges of plotting to overturn the 2020 election to reject his request to freeze the case in its entirety as Trump appeals her recent ruling that he is not immune from prosecution. The article detailed that the prosecutors told the judge, Tanya S. Chutkan, that even as the former president's appeal of the immunity decision moved forward, she should continue working on several of the unresolved legal issues in the case and not postpone the trial's current start date of March 4. The article quoted Molly Gaston, a top deputy to Jack Smith, the special counsel who is overseeing Trump's federal prosecutions, who stated that, "During the pendency of the appeal, any number of matters could arise in this case that are not involved in the appeal," adding that, "The court should not enter an order preventing it from handling them." "For its part," Gaston went on, "in light of the public's strong interest in a prompt trial, the government will seek to ensure that trial proceeds as scheduled." The article noted that the three-page filing by Gaston came just days after Trump's lawyers asked Judge Chutkan to pause all of the dates and deadlines associated with the proceeding until the appeal of her decision denying their immunity claims is resolved. In her recent decision, the article added, Judge Chutkan rejected Trump's claims of "absolute immunity," condemning his attempts to undermine the government. According to the article, Trump's legal team plans to challenge this decision through the appeals process, aiming to delay the trial. The article explained that if the trial is postponed until after the election and Trump wins, he could potentially dismiss the charges. The filing also highlighted disputes over speculative and conspiratorial theories raised by Trump, including claims related to the SolarWinds hack and alleged efforts by the "deep state" to mislead the public about election integrity, all of which the prosecutors vehemently dismissed as lacking credible basis. [ABC News](#) (12/10, Faulders), [Axios](#) (12/10, Falconer), [Politico](#) (12/10, Gerstein, Cheney), [The Messenger](#) (12/10, Reilly), and [Newsweek](#) (12/10, Kika) also reported on the story.

Jack Smith Seeks Focus on Before and After in Trump's Election-Interference Trial

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/08, Gurman, Barber) reported that Jack Smith has signaled he intends to go broad and deep to show that the former president broke the law, pursuing a tactic that trial lawyers say could seal his victory but risks putting the case on a more vulnerable footing. The article detailed that in recent court filings in the former president's federal election-interference case, Smith's team said it plans to lay out a history of Trump's making baseless claims of election fraud over more than a decade. According to the article, prosecutors also said they want to present evidence that would more closely tie Trump to the Jan. 6, 2021, attacks on the Capitol, though he is not charged with inciting the day's violence. The article explained that Smith's approach, if allowed by U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, would be to tell an all-encompassing story stretching beyond the indictment to show what prosecutors describe as a long pattern of behavior relevant to the specific crimes charged including conspiring to defraud the U.S., obstructing an official proceeding and conspiring against the rights of voters. The article added that prosecutors have also cited Trump's post-attack statements, indicating potential pardons and support for Capitol rioters, as evidence of his intent. The trial's starting date is set for March 4, with Trump's lawyers seeking a suspension pending an appeal of the charges.

Jack Smith Reveals Sweeping Scope of Bid to Debunk Trump Election Machine Claims

[Politico](#) (12/09, Cheney) reported that on Saturday, special counsel Jack Smith sharply rejected former President Donald Trump's contention that foreign governments may have changed votes in the 2020 election, laying bare new details about his team's extensive probe of the matter and its access to a vast array of senior intelligence officials in Trump's administration. In a 45-page filing, the article added, Smith's team describes interviewing more than a dozen of the top intelligence officials in Trump's administration — from his director of national intelligence to the administrator of the NSA to Trump's personal intelligence briefer — about any evidence that foreign governments had penetrated systems that counted votes in 2020. The article quoted senior assistant special counsel Thomas Windom, who wrote in the filing that, "The answer from every single official was no." The article explained that the filing was part of the special counsel's opposition to a bid by Trump to access a broad swath of classified intelligence as part of his defense against charges that he conspired to subvert the 2020 election and disenfranchise millions of voters, culminating in the violent Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. The article detailed

that Trump has argued that foreign governments fueled his supporters' concerns about election integrity and that some classified evidence revealed potential meddling that justified his own professed fears about fraud. According to the article, prosecutors say Trump's new legal effort is just an extension of his election lies — and that, in fact, intelligence officials unanimously rejected the idea that foreign governments penetrated any systems that counted votes or could have altered the election tally itself. Rather, they said, intel officials documented some breaches of state voter registration databases that permitted various influence campaigns but were not capable of causing the vote-stealing scheme of which Trump has long sought to convince his followers.

Jury Trial Will Decide How Much Giuliani Must Pay Election Workers Over False Election Fraud Claims

The [Associated Press](#) (12/11, Whitehurst, Richer) reported that a trial set to get underway in Washington on Monday will determine how much Rudy Giuliani will have to pay two Georgia election workers whom he falsely accused of fraud while pushing Donald Trump's baseless claims after he lost the 2020 election. The article specified that the former New York City mayor has already been found liable in the defamation lawsuit brought by Ruby Freeman and her daughter, Wandrea "Shaye" Moss, who endured threats and harassment after they became the target of a conspiracy theory spread by Trump and his allies. The article detailed that the only issue to be determined at the trial — which will begin with jury selection in Washington's federal court — is the amount of damages, if any, Giuliani must pay. The article added that Giuliani is also criminally charged alongside Trump and others in the Georgia case accusing them of trying to illegally overturn the results of the election in the state. He has pleaded not guilty and maintains he had every right to raise questions about what he believed to be election fraud. The article noted that Giuliani was sued in September by a former lawyer who alleged Giuliani only paid a fraction of roughly \$1.6 million in legal fees stemming from investigations into his efforts to keep Trump in the White House. According to the article, Giuliani conceded in July that he made public comments falsely claiming Freeman and Moss committed fraud to try to alter the outcome of the race while counting ballots at State Farm Arena in Atlanta. However, the article indicated that Giuliani argued that the statements were protected by the First Amendment. The [New York Times](#) (12/10, Feuer), the [Washington Post](#) (12/10, Hsu, Weiner), [USA Today](#) (12/09, Jansen), [Politico](#) (12/10, Cheney), [ABC News](#) (12/11, Bruggeman), [The Guardian](#) (12/10, Pilkington), and [The Hill](#) (12/10, Lee) also reported on the story.

Former Cleveland Schools Worker Convicted for Role in Capitol Riots Released Early From Prison

[WOIO](#) (CBS-19) (12/08, Sapolin) reported that Christine Priola, the Willoughby woman convicted for her role in the Jan. 6, 2021, riots at the U.S. Capitol has been released early from prison, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. According to the article, Priola was released from custody on Sept. 5 after serving just nine months of her 15-month sentence, a spokesperson for the FBOP confirmed Thursday. The article added that before Priola's release, she was under community confinement overseen by the FBOP's Cincinnati Residential Reentry Management Office. The article detailed that Priola pleaded guilty to obstruction of an official proceeding in July 2022 and was sentenced on Oct. 28, 2022. In addition to the 15-month prison sentence, the article noted that she was also ordered to serve one year of supervised release and pay \$2,000 in restitution. [WKYC](#) (NBC-3) (12/08, Dave DeNatale) also reported on the story.

Former Boston Police Officer to Plead Guilty to Attacking Capitol Police Officer During Jan. 6 Riot

[CBS News](#) (12/10, Staff) reported that Joseph Fisher, a former Boston police officer, will plead guilty to attacking a Capitol police officer during the Jan. 6 riot on the U.S. Capitol. According to the article, Joseph Fisher's attorney said, in a statement, "Mr. Fisher anticipated pleading guilty to the indictment as charged, without a plea agreement." A hearing will take place in January or February. The article added that Fisher was arrested at his Plymouth home back in March on felony charges of assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers, and obstruction of law enforcement during a civil disorder. The article noted that prosecutors said Fisher attacked a Capitol police officer with a chair during the riot. The [Boston Globe](#) (12/10, Gross) detailed that Fisher was indicted in September on eight criminal counts, including assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers and engaging in physical violence in a restricted building or grounds, according to court records. According to the article, an FBI affidavit filed in the case said Fisher, who has a record of "prior employment in the Boston Police Department as a

Boston Police Officer," allegedly entered the Capitol around 2:24 p.m. during the riots seeking to block the certification of President Biden's electoral victory over then-president Donald Trump.

Fox News Pushes Back Against Reporter's Suit Claiming He Was Fired for Challenging Jan. 6 Coverage

The [Associated Press](#) (12/08, Whitehurst) reported that Fox News pushed back Friday against a former reporter's lawsuit saying he was targeted and fired for challenging false claims about the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. According to the article, the network argued that Jason Donner had not shown he faced illegal discrimination. The nation's capital bans discrimination based on political party membership or endorsement, but Donner has not shown he joined a political party, nor that his bosses knew and fired him for it, Fox lawyers said. The article quoted Fox attorneys who stated that "That law does not protect employees of news media organizations based on their differences of opinion over reporting and commentary on matters of public concern." The article noted that Donner said in his lawsuit he was a longtime Republican who affiliated with Democrats more recently. The article added that the network also questioned whether he had properly informed managers when taking sick time after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and whether he filed the lawsuit within the time allowed by the law. The article explained that Donner's lawsuit said he was fired in 2022 as part of a "purge" of employees who refused to only report information that would "appease" former President Donald Trump and his supporters.

Continued Reporting: Former Police Chief Sentenced to 11 Years for Involvement in January 6 Capitol Attack

[CNN](#) (12/08, Beckford) continued to report on Alan Hostetter, a former California police chief who brought a hatchet to the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and gave prior speeches calling for the execution of his perceived political enemies. The article detailed that Hostetter was sentenced to 135 months – a little over 11 years – Thursday by US District Judge Royce C. Lamberth, for his involvement in the Capitol riot. The article specified that in July, Hostetter was found guilty of conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding, obstruction of an official proceeding, entering, and remaining in a restricted building or grounds with a deadly or dangerous weapon, and disorderly or disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds with a deadly or dangerous weapon. The article added that Hostetter co-sponsored a pro-Trump rally a day before the Capitol riot spewing violent rhetoric in speeches in DC on January 5. The next day, Hostetter brought tactical gear, a helmet, hatches, knives, stun batons, pepper spray, and other gear to the Capitol, according to the DOJ. The article explained that upon arrival, he met up with other members of a group known as the "DC Brigade," before joining the "Stop the Steal" rally. The article continued that he later made his way to the Capitol building, where he joined other rioters pushing through law enforcement.

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OTHER FBI NEWS

Alabama Attorney General Criticizes FBI, SPLC Following New Report

[WSFA \(NBC-12\)](#) (12/08, Pitts) reported that "alarming" is how Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall describes a recent report on the FBI. The report is titled, *The FBI's Breach of Religious Freedom: The Weaponization of Law Enforcement Against Catholic Americans*. According to the article, compiled by the Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, the 30-page report details concerns about a memorandum that was sent out FBI-wide. The committee says the memo cited biased and partisan sources like the Southern Poverty Law Center. The report claims the FBI memo painted so-called certain "radical-traditionalist Catholics" as violent extremists. Attorney General Steve Marshall reacted to the report on social media. The article quoted Marshall, who said, "Even during the Obama administration, the FBI disavowed the use of SPLC information, particularly around hate groups, and now, somehow or another, this administration is seemingly embracing a group that, frankly, is much more of an overt fundraiser than they are truly someone that cares about policy." The article quoted the SPLC, who said in a statement, "The House Judiciary Committee report does not allege that the FBI worked with the SPLC to target Catholics. In fact, the SPLC did not provide any information or communicate in any way with any FBI personnel involved in preparing this Richmond Field Office memo. The Committee report documents that the FBI used our website and other open-source resources to compile their report. On our website, we identify fringe Radical Traditionalist Catholic groups as hate groups

because they are deeply antisemitic and subscribe to an ideological view rejected by the Vatican and 70 million mainstream Catholics in the United States.”

Notorious Gambino Mob ‘Gemini Twins’ Hitman Linked to 11 Murders, Dismemberments Paroled After Getting Life Sentence

The [New York Post](#) (12/09, Levine, Linge, Worrell) reported that a “stone cold” Mafia hitman tied to at least 11 bodies, some of them dismembered, will be sprung from federal prison next year after serving just 35 years of a life sentence — outraging the families of his victims. Former Gambino crime family button man Anthony Senter, 68, behind bars in Canaan, PA, was recently given the green light for release by the U.S. Parole Commission. The article quoted a DOJ spokeswoman, who said, “The Commission determined that he had substantially observed the rules of the institution and that his release in June 2024 would not jeopardize the public welfare,” According to the article, Rudy Giuliani, the then-U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York who initially brought the case against Senter and 20 other Gambino family members and associates — including then-godfather “Big Paul” Castellano — was astonished by the parole decision. Senter “should die in jail,” Giuliani declared. “He displayed, without exaggeration, wanton disregard for human life. The article included a picture of Rudy Giuliani when he and then-FBI Director William Webster outlined a sprawling case against New York’s five mafia families in 1985.

Jim Jordan Probes Whether ‘Spies Who Lie’ Letter Signers Were CIA Workers

The [New York Post](#) (12/08, Christenson) reported that House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH) is investigating whether any of the 51 “spies who lie” who signed a statement in October 2020 claiming Hunter Biden’s laptop was likely a Russian disinformation operation were on the CIA’s payroll at the time. The article added that Jordan wrote a letter to CIA Director William Burns and gave him until Dec. 15 to reveal any of the 51 signers who have been on an active contract or consulting for the CIA at any time since Jan. 1, 2020, and in what capacity — especially if their work related to the Biden family. The article stated that the 51 officials said the leaked emails possessed “all the classic earmarks of a Russian information operation,” a claim which Big Tech platforms like Facebook and Twitter used to suppress the story’s reach, saying the Post report violated their policies concerning hacked material. The social media companies censored the Post even after having been informed by the FBI that the contents of the laptop were authentic.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel Says Strikes Are Targeting Three Hamas Strongholds

- New York Times: [Israel Says Strikes Are Targeting Three Hamas Strongholds](#)
- Associated Press: [Battles Rage Across Gaza as Israel Indicates It’s Willing to Fight for Months or More to Beat Hamas](#)
- Associated Press: [Israel Battles Militants in Gaza’s Main Cities, With Civilians Still Stranded Near Front Lines](#)
- Wall Street Journal: [Israel Detains Hundreds of Palestinian Men in Search for Hamas](#)

Drug Lords Go On Killing Spree to Hunt Down Corrupt Officers Who Stole Shipment in Mexico’s Tijuana

- Associated Press: [Drug Lords Go On Killing Spree to Hunt Down Corrupt Officers Who Stole Shipment in Mexico’s Tijuana](#)

International Bodies Reject Moves to Block Guatemala President-Elect From Taking Office

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Life in Russian-Controlled Areas of Ukraine Is Grim. People Are Fleeing Through a Dangerous Corridor

- Associated Press: [Life in Russian-Controlled Areas of Ukraine Is Grim. People Are Fleeing Through a Dangerous Corridor](#)

In Inaugural Speech, Argentina's Javier Milei Prepares Nation for Painful Shock Adjustment

- Associated Press: [In Inaugural Speech, Argentina's Javier Milei Prepares Nation for Painful Shock Adjustment](#)

Officials Say a US Pilot Safely Ejected Before His F-16 Crashed Into the Sea off South Korea

- Associated Press: [Officials Say a US Pilot Safely Ejected Before His F-16 Crashed Into the Sea off South Korea](#)

Alarm Grows Over Weakened Militaries and Empty Arsenals in Europe

- Wall Street Journal: [Alarm Grows Over Weakened Militaries and Empty Arsenals in Europe](#)

TikTok to Invest Over \$1.5 Billion in Deal With Indonesia's GoTo Group

- Wall Street Journal: [TikTok to Invest Over \\$1.5 Billion in Deal With Indonesia's GoTo Group](#)

The Hamas Leader Who Studied Israel's Psyche—and Is Betting His Life on What He Learned

- Wall Street Journal: [The Hamas Leader Who Studied Israel's Psyche—and Is Betting His Life on What He Learned](#)

Pressure Rising on U.S. After Vetoing U.N. Call for a Cease-Fire in Gaza

- New York Times: [Pressure Rising on U.S. After Vetoing U.N. Call for a Cease-Fire in Gaza](#)

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OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

House Impeachment Inquiry Enters Crucial Week as Republicans Prepare for Key Vote

- CNN: [House Impeachment Inquiry Enters Crucial Week as Republicans Prepare for Key Vote](#)
- New York Times: [Hunter Biden Indictment Fuels Impeachment Inquiry at a Critical Time](#)
- CBS News: [Republicans Pressure Hunter Biden to Testify Next Week as House Prepares to Vote on Formalizing Impeachment Inquiry Against Joe Biden](#)

Biden's Foreign-Policy Legacy Is Now Intertwined With Border Crisis at Home

- Wall Street Journal: [Biden's Foreign-Policy Legacy Is Now Intertwined With Border Crisis at Home](#)
- Associated Press: [Biden and Congress Are Mulling Big Changes on Immigration](#)

Trump Takes 2024 Lead as Biden Approval Hits New Low, WSJ Poll Finds

- Wall Street Journal: [Trump Takes 2024 Lead as Biden Approval Hits New Low, WSJ Poll Finds](#)

Senate Heads Into Crucial Week to Strike Deal on Ukraine, Border

- Wall Street Journal: [Senate Heads Into Crucial Week to Strike Deal on Ukraine, Border](#)

If Eric Adams Resigned, Andrew Cuomo Would Lead Pack of Potential Successors, Poll Says

- Politico: [If Eric Adams Resigned, Andrew Cuomo Would Lead Pack of Potential Successors, Poll Says](#)
- New York Times: [Mayor Adams's Swagger Is Diminished. His Foes Are Ready to Pounce](#)

Zelensky to Visit Washington With U.S. Aid to Ukraine in Doubt

- New York Times: [Zelensky to Visit Washington With U.S. Aid to Ukraine in Doubt](#)
- Associated Press: [Zelenskyy Will Meet Biden at the White House Amid a Stepped-up Push for Congress to Approve More Aid](#)

Biden Heads to Philadelphia for Firefighters and Fundraising

- Associated Press: [Biden Heads to Philadelphia for Firefighters and Fundraising](#)

Biden to Host Hanukkah Ceremony at the White House Amid Fears About Rising Antisemitism

- Associated Press: [Biden to Host Hanukkah Ceremony at the White House Amid Fears About Rising Antisemitism](#)

Kevin McCarthy Endorses Trump for President and Would Consider Serving in His Cabinet

- Associated Press: [Kevin McCarthy Endorses Trump for President and Would Consider Serving in His Cabinet](#)

House Votes to Censure Democratic Rep. Bowman for Pulling a Fire Alarm in a Capitol Office Building

- Associated Press: [House Votes to Censure Democratic Rep. Bowman for Pulling a Fire Alarm in a Capitol Office Building](#)

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BIG PICTURE

New York Times

- [Forced To Flee Gaza And Stuck In A Bottleneck](#)
- [Antisemitism on Campus Lets Right Restart a Culture Battle](#)
- [Border Clampdown Severs an Arizona Lifeline](#)
- [Gaza War Has Buoyed Egypt's Leader Ahead of Presidential Vote](#)
- [As Troubles Pile On Adams, Foes Begin to Circle](#)
- [A Mapmaker's Hand-Illustrated Version of a Perfect World](#)

Wall Street Journal

- [Cigna Calls Off Bid for Humana Megadeal](#)
- [Israel Faces Outcry as Photos Of Detainees in Gaza Emerge](#)
- [Colleges' Free Speech Policies Draw More Scrutiny](#)
- [Investor Group Makes Offer Of \\$5.8 Billion to Buy Macy's](#)
- [Hamas Leader Studied His Enemy](#)
- [Great Balls of Fire! Bus-Melting Jet Cars Are Getting Scarce](#)

Washington Post

- [The Online World of Jack Teixeira](#)
- [Houthi Naval Threat Grows](#)
- [Trump's Electors Rethink Roles](#)
- [After 109 Years, Check-Out Time for the Harrington](#)
- [How Veterans in the Senate Helped to End Military Holds](#)
- [Penn Furor Stirs Debate on Limits of Free Speech](#)

Financial Times

- [U.S. Vetoes Un Resolution Calling for Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza](#)
- [U.S. Economy Added 199,000 Jobs in November](#)
- [Republican Rivals Turn On Nikki Haley in Heated Fourth Primary Debate](#)

ABC News

- [At Least 6 Killed in Severe Storms in South; Qatar Warning the Opportunity for a Truce Is Narrowing; Former President Donald Trump Doubles Down on His Controversial Remarks.](#)

CBS News

- At Least 6 Killed in Tennessee as Storms Bring Tornadoes; Trump Says He Will Not Testify at Fraud Trial on Monday.

NBC News

- Deadly Tornadoes Carve Destructive Paths Through Tennessee Neighborhoods; Tens of Millions Under Flood Alerts as Storm System Moves Across Northeast; Gaza's Health System Collapsing, World Health Organization Reports.

Fox News

- VA LT. Gov Winsome Earle-Sears on the Importance of Education: Without It 'You Will Get Nowhere, and You'll Get There Very Fast'; Supporting Ukraine Is Both the 'Right' and 'Smart' Thing to Do: Pål Jonson; Any College President Who Cannot Condemn Jewish Genocide Needs to Be Fired or Resign: Nancy Mace.

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WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

White House

President Biden

- 10:00 AM: The President receives the Presidential Daily Briefing
- 10:40 AM: The President departs the White House en route to Joint Base Andrews
- 11:00 AM: The President departs Joint Base Andrews en route to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 11:45 AM: The President arrives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 12:30 PM: The President delivers remarks at the announcement event for the city of Philadelphia receiving a \$22.4 million SAFER Grant award that will fund firefighters' salary and benefits and enable the Philadelphia Fire Department to reopen three fire companies – Engine 6, Ladder 1, and Ladder 11, and more
- 2:30 PM: The President participates in a campaign reception
- 3:40 PM: The President departs Philadelphia, Pennsylvania en route to Joint Base Andrews
- 4:30 PM: The President departs Joint Base Andrews en route to the White House
- 4:40 PM: The President arrives at the White House
- 7:05 PM: The President and The First Lady host a Hanukkah Holiday Reception; The Second Gentleman attends

Vice President Harris

- No events scheduled.

US Senate

- No events scheduled.

US House of Representatives

- Hearing: Full Committee Member Day – 4:00 PM – Host: Committee on Oversight and Accountability
- Business Meeting: H.R. 357 - Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act; H.R. 1147 - Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023; H.R. 6570 - Protect Liberty and End Warrantless Surveillance Act; H.R. 6611 - FISA Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2023 – 4:00 PM – Host: Committee on Rules

Cabinet Members

- **Secretary of State Blinken** delivers remarks at the Toys for Tots ceremonial presentation at the Department of State at 11:30 AM.
- Secretary Blinken meets with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom at the Department of State at 1:00 PM.

Visitors

- No events scheduled.

General Events

- CSIS: 5G/6G Technology and the Future of Global Security – Monday, December 11, 2023. Location: Online Event, 12:00 PM. Spectrum allocation for licensed use underpins much of modern society, including U.S. national security. The U.S. must move past the false dichotomy of commercial interests vs. natural security when it comes to spectrum. These industries can, and must, work together to achieve mutual interests. Join CSIS for an event on the importance of next generation cellular wireless technologies for economic and national security. The event will feature opening remarks from Member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) and Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH). Panelists include Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission Brendan Carr, founder of the Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy Keith Krach, Senior Vice President for Strand Consult and advisor at the Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy Roslyn Layton, and CSIS Senior Fellow (non-resident) Clete Johnson. The event will also highlight key findings of a series of CSIS reports on spectrum modernization to ensure national security and mitigate cyberattack scenarios on critical infrastructure.
- CSIS: 2023 Energy and Climate Review – Monday, December 11, 2023. Location: Online Event, 1:00 PM. 2023 saw significant action on energy and climate priorities as well as some setbacks: U.S. policy announcements on electric vehicles and hydrogen production, delays for offshore wind projects, as well as major milestones: the first anniversary of the IRA, the first COP meetings to be held in UAE, one year of the Russian price cap. The CSIS Energy Security and Climate Change Program is pleased to host this live recording of our podcast, Energy 360. As COP28 wraps up, Kevin Book, ClearView Energy Partners, Senior Adviser (Non-resident), Energy Security and Climate Change Program, CSIS, and Liam Denning, Opinion Columnist, Bloomberg, will assess what COP28 developments have staying power and look ahead to energy and climate issues to watch next year. Joseph Majkut, Director, Energy Security and Climate Change Program, CSIS will host.
- CSIS: Human-Centered Economics: The Living Standards of Nations – Monday, December 11, 2023. Location: Online Event, 5:00 PM. Please join the Project on Prosperity and Development for a discussion with Richard Samans about his new book, HUMAN-CENTERED ECONOMICS: The Living Standards of Nations. Samans is Director of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Research Department and has served as its Sherpa to the G20, G7, and BRICS processes. He was a Special Assistant to the President and National Security Council Senior Director for international economic policy in the second Clinton-Gore Administration. In this book, Samans proposes a major reform of macroeconomic theory and policy to address the chronic underperformance of economies with respect to inclusion, sustainability, and resilience. Arguing that reform is necessary to revitalize the liberal tradition and multilateral system in a century facing further inequality and dislocation from artificial intelligence, climate change, and other shifts and shocks, he outlines the implications of this rebalanced growth and development model for domestic and international economic policy. Samans discusses an overhaul – comparable in scale to the Marshall Plan and all possible without increases in bilateral aid – of the international financial and trade architecture to triple climate and sustainable development financing for developing countries, double climate research & development, and replace over half of the world's coal plants in the next 15 years. According to Samans, "Many have called for a new Bretton Woods conference to renew the multilateral system and improve the coherence of its economic, social and environmental dimensions. But these appeals have never amounted to much in part

because they have lacked an organizing principle—a new or substantially revised policy model upon which to build a renovated institutional edifice.”

- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: The Israeli-Hamas War: Intelligence, Strategy, and the Day After – Monday, December 11, 2023. Location: Online Event, 9:00 AM. As the Israel-Hamas war enters its second month, the role of intelligence has figured prominently. How did Israel fail to grasp Hamas’s intentions and capabilities and to anticipate the October 7 attack? Was this a failure of imagination or were there structural and bureaucratic impediments that prevented Israel’s intelligence community from identifying the dots and connecting them? Are domestic politics overriding sound intelligence analysis to shape the Israeli government’s campaign against Hamas, its approach toward Gazan civilians, its efforts to free hostages, and its thinking on post-conflict Gaza and the West Bank? Join us as Efraim Halevy, former director of the Mossad, and Ami Ayalon, former director of Shin Bet, engage in conversation with Aaron David Miller on these and other subjects.
- AEI: Writing with AI: Seth Stephens-Davidowitz on Who Makes the NBA – Monday, December 11, 2023. Location: AEI, 12:00 PM. As developments in the field of artificial intelligence continue apace, Seth Stephens-Davidowitz, a former Google data scientist and bestselling author, recently launched his latest book project: an AI-driven exploration of who makes it to the NBA, written in 30 days. At this event, he will reveal how AI has helped him analyze player data, generate relevant illustrations, and ultimately decipher what separates NBA stars from the rest. Join AEI’s Stan Veuger and Dr. Stephens-Davidowitz for a conversation about AI, the writing process, and basketball.
- AEI: The Benefits of Active Parenting in K–12 Education: A Conversation with Eva Moskowitz – Monday, December 11, 2023. Location: AEI, 4:00 PM. Active parenting plays a crucial role in K–12 education, and few know that better than Eva Moskowitz, the founder and CEO of Success Academy Charter Schools. As distrust between parents and schools grows, parents must know how to best engage with their children’s education. Dr. Moskowitz’s new book, *A+ Parenting: The Surprisingly Fun Guide to Raising Surprisingly Smart Kids*, argues that parents should encourage their children’s educational growth, both inside and outside the classroom. Join AEI’s Robert Pondiscio for a conversation with Dr. Moskowitz on the benefits of active parenting in K–12 education. They will discuss the details of successful parent-student relationships, the value of school choice, and broader K–12 issues that would benefit from active parental engagement.
- Wilson Center: Suharto's Cold War: Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and the World – Monday, December 11, 2023. Location: Online Event, 4:00 PM. In *Suharto’s Cold War*, Mattias Fibiger argues that the Indonesian dictator Suharto used the global Cold War to wage his own domestic and regional Cold Wars. Suharto mobilized international aid and investment to construct a counterrevolutionary dictatorship and promote economic development in Indonesia. He then sought to propagate authoritarian reaction elsewhere in Southeast Asia and contain the threat posed by communist China. As he reshaped Indonesia and Southeast Asia, Suharto worked to preserve the link between his domestic and regional Cold Wars and the global Cold War, managing the challenges posed by détente and triangular diplomacy, the oil shocks and the collapse of Bretton Woods, and the human rights revolution.
- The Hudson Institute: Joint Integration and Interoperability Symposium: Technical Innovation for the Future of Joint Warfighting – Monday, December 11, 2023. Location: The Hudson Institute, 9:00 AM. The United States and its allies face an increasingly contested security environment, with wars in Europe and the Middle East and armed confrontations happening every day in the South and East China Seas. Although these conflicts highlight the importance of weapons capacity, they have also demonstrated that superior decision-making and orchestration can allow smaller, less capable forces to gain the upper hand. In response to these challenges, the US military seeks to better integrate forces and enable innovative tactics through its Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2) initiative. JADC2 has not yet delivered on its promise of connecting shooters, sensors, and decision-makers, but it has highlighted that the US military needs to digitally integrate forces, and not just link their networks. In the same way that US forces became joint through training and doctrine in the last century, success today requires that the US integrates its forces at a machine-to-machine level. Please join the National Defense Industrial Association’s Emerging Technology Institute and Hudson Institute’s Center for Defense Concepts and Technology for a daylong symposium in which defense and industry leaders will examine the technical dimensions of joint integration. These experts will explore how

US and allied forces can combine more effectively using emerging technologies for communications, data engineering, network management, and analytics, and how the Pentagon and its industry partners should change to exploit the opportunities joint integration presents.

- The Hudson Institute: Beyond the SCIF: Countering Chinese Influence Operations on American Soil – Monday, December 11, 2023. Location: The Hudson Institute, 12:30 PM. Representative Mike Waltz (FL-6), a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), will moderate a panel on China's influence operations in the United States with Hudson Senior Fellows John Lee and Miles Yu and Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Fellow Craig Singleton as part of the committee's Beyond the SCIF series. Hudson President and CEO John Walters will deliver opening remarks. The panelists will discuss the scope of the Chinese Communist Party's influence campaign and examine opportunities for the US and its allies to counter Beijing's espionage and malign influence. How should Washington respond to Chinese influencers seeking to shape public opinion and manipulate American officials and business leaders into enacting Beijing's policy preferences? How do the influence operations that China aims at the US differ from those it directs at our allies? Should Washington retaliate by amplifying the voices of Chinese dissidents as it did with dissidents in the Soviet Union? Join Hudson for a discussion on these and other questions about national security and the CCP.

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