

Washington State Fusion Center  
**INFOCUS**

THURSDAY – 21 SEP 2017



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**Event Calendar**

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Date	Event	Location/Time	Other Information
9-13 Apr 2018	LEIU/IALEIA Training Event	Marriott Hotel, 700 West Convention Way Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 750-8000	<a href="http://www.ialeia.org/2018_conference.php">http://www.ialeia.org/2018_conference.php</a>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	**indicates new event/new information added during reporting week		

**Events, Opportunities**

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HEADLINE	<b>09/20 NKorea dismisses Trump's threats</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://time.com/4951159/north-korea-trump-threats- united-nations/?xid=homepage">http://time.com/4951159/north-korea-trump-threats- united-nations/?xid=homepage</a>
GIST	<p>North Korea's foreign minister has described as "the sound of a dog barking" President Donald Trump's threat to destroy his country.</p> <p>The comments are the North's first response to <u>Trump's debut speech</u> at the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, during which he vowed to "totally destroy North Korea" if provoked. Trump also called <u>North Korean leader Kim Jong Un</u> "Rocket man."</p> <p>The North's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told reporters in New York late Wednesday that "It would be a dog's dream if he intended to scare us with the sound of a dog barking."</p> <p>South Korean TV footage also showed Ri saying he feels "sorry for his aides" when he was asked about Trump's "Rocket man" comments. Ri was to give a speech at the U.N. General Assembly on Friday, according to Yonhap news agency.</p> <p>Trump has unleashed many strong statements on North Korea including his August warning the North will be met with "fire and fury." The North has responded by a slew of weapons tests and warlike and often-mocking rhetoric against Trump. A top North Korean general called Trump's "fire and fury" threats "a load of nonsense" let out by "a guy bereft of reason."</p> <p>The rhetorical battle came as outside experts say North Korea is getting closer to achieve its long-stated goal of building <u>nuclear-armed missiles</u> capable hitting anywhere in the U.S. mainland.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>09/20 Iran warns US over nuclear deal</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/20/rouhani-blasts-trump-ignorant-over-nuclear-deal/">http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/20/rouhani-blasts-trump-ignorant-over-nuclear-deal/</a>
GIST	<p>Iran's president ridiculed President <u>Trump</u> at the United Nations on Wednesday as an "ignorant" novice in world affairs and said the U.S. would damage its credibility by following through on <u>Mr. Trump's</u> threat to pull out of the nuclear deal with <u>Tehran</u>.</p> <p>Speaking at the same rostrum where <u>Mr. Trump</u> criticized <u>Iran's</u> "rogue" regime a day earlier, Iranian President <u>Hassan Rouhani</u> warned the U.S. that <u>Tehran</u> will "respond decisively" to any violation of the nuclear accord.</p> <p>"It will be a great pity if this agreement were to be destroyed by 'rogue' newcomers to the world of politics," <u>Mr. Rouhani</u> told the U.N. General Assembly. "The world will have lost a great opportunity, but such unfortunate behavior will never impede <u>Iran's</u> course of progress and advancement."</p> <p><u>Mr. Trump</u> told reporters in New York that he has made up his mind about whether to withdraw next month from the nuclear deal, but he is keeping the decision to himself for now.</p> <p>"I have decided," he said with a big smile.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>09/19 FBI probes Seattle police off-duty work</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/fbi-investigating-off-duty-work-by-seattle-police-at-construction-sites-parking-garages/">http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/fbi-investigating-off-duty-work-by-seattle-police-at-construction-sites-parking-garages/</a>
GIST	The FBI is investigating allegations that Seattle police officers, with the help of the Seattle Police Officers' Guild, may have engaged in intimidation and price- fixing while working lucrative off-duty jobs directing traffic at parking garages and construction sites.

Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole confirmed Tuesday that she referred the allegations to the FBI and the department's Office of Police Accountability (OPA), which conducts internal investigations. She said any further comment would be inappropriate.

"We immediately took action," the chief said, adding that she was confident the investigation would leave "no stone unturned."

FBI Special Agent Fred Gutt said the bureau does not acknowledge investigations.

The allegations came from the founders of Blucadia, an Olympia-based startup and competitor to the two private companies that provide most off-duty officers for traffic control and security — Seattle Security, which is aligned with the Seattle Police Officers' Guild (SPOG), and Seattle's Finest.

With Seattle's construction scene exploding, the off-duty jobs at work sites and new garages represent a huge source of income.

The investigation comes at a time the Police Department is looking at ways to gain control over off-duty work, which requires official permission of the department but is difficult to track and monitor.

Seattle police this year endorsed Blucadia as an alternative to Seattle Security and Seattle's Finest, providing the Olympia company a portal on the department's web page that the other operations do not have.

Blucadia officials claim they've been blackballed by SPOG, and cursed at by its president, Kevin Stuckey, and have run up against reluctance among potential business clients afraid of angering police, worried they won't show up for traffic control or emergency calls.

Stuckey did not return telephone messages Tuesday seeking comment.

Rob McDermott, Blucadia's chief executive officer, said Tuesday that he has talked multiple times to the FBI and provided information to OPA. Under department procedures, OPA investigations are put on hold if a criminal investigation arises from alleged officer misconduct.

McDermott said he repeatedly attempted to work with SPOG, but the union sent a memo to its members questioning the business model adopted by Blucadia and whether officers would be insured if they are injured while working off-duty for Blucadia.

McDermott also said Stuckey made a profanity-laced telephone call to him last spring after Blucadia had tried to set up a meeting with SPOG officials.

"At the start of this morning's call raising your voice to me, you said, 'Who the [expletive] do you think you are?'" McDermott wrote in an email response to the telephone call. "I was shocked in the moment by your tone and aggression."

"Your call, actions, and words were incredibly intimidating because yes you do have a gun and badge and are an officer," McDermott wrote in the email, a copy of which was reviewed by The Seattle Times.

Keeping track of off-duty work by Seattle police has been an issue for years, during most of which the police union handled all of the arrangements.

After concerns about the number of hours officers might be working and an exploding overtime budget, the work was farmed out mostly to the two companies that now dominate the market: Seattle's Finest, run by a retired 20-year former police officer, and Seattle Security, a business that spun off from SPOG and has SPOG leaders on its board of directors.

Raleigh Evans, president of Seattle’s Finest, on Tuesday dismissed Blucadia’s concerns as sour grapes “from a company that’s got a failed business model.”

But Blucadia is not the only company complaining, according to Rod Kauffman, executive director of the Seattle King County Building Owners and Managers Association.

Kauffman said he recently heard from several association members who employ off-duty officers and are concerned about rate hikes, the “possibility of price fixing” and possibly excessive “management fees” on top of hourly rates.

“We have agreed to look into how they set their rates. Our members would like to know more about that,” he said.

Evans said Seattle’s Finest hasn’t raised its rates in three years. He would not say how much an officer is paid, except that “it’s more than \$50 an hour” and that officers get a minimum of four hours’ pay for every shift they work, regardless of whether they work that long.

“Otherwise, it’s hard to get them to come into Seattle on their days off,” he said. The company also charges clients to cover insurance and businesses expenses and taxes.

Evans did say, however, that there are some officers “who negotiate and manage their own contracts” with garages or construction companies.

He characterized the competition between Seattle’s Finest and the SPOG-overseen Seattle Security as “friendly.”

“But there is no collusion. We don’t have ties to the Guild,” Evans said. “It’s a competitive arena. “So if there’s any funny stuff going on out there, it’s not us.”

Last June, departing OPA director Pierce Murphy expressed concerns about off-duty employment by Seattle officers in his final remarks to the City Council. Citing private jobs such as traffic and garage control, Murphy said that although the officers work in uniform, the work is unregulated and poorly managed.

The practice, steeped in union contracts, raises ethical and conflict-of-interest issues, liability concerns and questions about workload exhaustion, he said, calling the problem a “ticking time bomb.”

Some officers make more money working off-duty than on their regular jobs, Murphy said, noting Chief O’Toole is concerned about the problem and needs the ability to regulate it.

“This is all about money,” Murphy said.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Wash. state revenue forecast rises</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/758361/revenue-forecast-for-washington-state-up-288-million/">http://mynorthwest.com/758361/revenue-forecast-for-washington-state-up-288-million/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Projected revenue for the state of Washington has increased by about \$288 million through the middle of 2019.</p> <p>Numbers released Wednesday by the Office of Financial Management show the state’s revenue collection will be up, partly because the state’s economy performed better than expected in June.</p> <p>Total revenue generated for the state’s general fund budget for 2017-2019 is predicted to be about \$44 billion.</p>

	<p>In June lawmakers approved a two year, \$43.7 billion state operating budget. It spends \$1.8 billion on K-12 public schools over the next two years. That investment is part of a \$7.3 billion hike over four years designed to satisfy a state Supreme Court ruling that the state had not adequately funded basic education.</p> <p>The budget also adds \$618 million for public employee collective bargaining and pay and \$102 million in mental health spending.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Wash. AG sues Tacoma Detention Center</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/758514/ag-bob-ferguson-sues-countrys-second-largest-private-prison-company/">http://mynorthwest.com/758514/ag-bob-ferguson-sues-countrys-second-largest-private-prison-company/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Washington state attorney general is suing the operator of the <u>Northwest Detention Center</u> in Tacoma for wage violations.</p> <p>Attorney General Bob Ferguson says some detainees get paid either \$1 or receive snacks.</p> <p>The Department of Labor joined the suit, saying workers should be paid the state’s \$11 minimum wage. The suit claims the center has been barely paying workers since at least 2005.</p> <p>Ferguson says that’s because the detention center is a for-profit facility and not state run, they are not exempt from the state’s minimum wage laws. That means anyone they employ, detainee or not, must get at least \$11 per hour.</p> <p>The GEO Group, a Florida-based company, owns and operates the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma under a contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.</p> <p>Detainees since 2005 did laundry, cooked, cleaned and performed other work but were only paid \$1 per day and in some cases did not receive that much because they were paid in food or snacks, the lawsuit said.</p> <p>“The law is clear. They should have been paid the state’s minimum wage at the time they were working,” Ferguson told reporters in Seattle.</p> <p>GEO denied the claims, saying the center has a volunteer work program and minimum wages rates and standards specified exclusively by the federal government under standards set for detainees in 2011.</p> <p>The company in an emailed statement said it “refutes the baseless and meritless allegations made in this lawsuit, and we intend to vigorously defend our company against these claims.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 WHO: world running out antibiotics</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.marketwatch.com/story/who-warns-the-world-is-running-out-of-antibiotics-2017-09-19">http://www.marketwatch.com/story/who-warns-the-world-is-running-out-of-antibiotics-2017-09-19</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Concern about growing global antibiotic resistance has come to a head: The World Health Organization is now warning that the world is running out of antibiotics.</p> <p>There aren’t enough truly new antibiotics being developed, especially for the most concerning antibiotic-resistant infections, according to a WHO report released Tuesday.</p> <p>The United Nations health agency has aired its concerns about antibiotic resistance, which makes it more difficult to treat infections, for some time. Some of the group’s latest moves included <u>updating guidelines</u> for treating sexually transmitted infections and cautioning that just three antibiotics are being developed to treat gonorrhea, a “fairly grim” situation.</p>

	<p>But the latest WHO report takes a broad and prospective look at antibiotic development, and what it describes is not a pretty picture.</p> <p>“Antimicrobial resistance is a global health emergency that will seriously jeopardize progress in modern medicine,” said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO’s director-general. Without more investment in research and development, “we will be forced back to a time when people feared common infections and risked their lives from minor surgery.”</p> <p>Public health officials have long been concerned about antibiotic resistance, which occurs when bacteria mutate and become immune to a given antibiotic. Overuse or incorrect use of antibiotics are key contributing factors, as is <u>antibiotic use in animals</u> that are then consumed by humans.</p> <p>But drug development is lagging behind, especially for drug-resistant tuberculosis and other infections the WHO has designated as high priority, the U.N. health agency said.</p> <p>Of 51 new products in development for antibiotic-resistant infections, the WHO believes that only eight are innovative and add value to current options. And because drug development is a drawn-out process, most of it unsuccessful, current efforts could result in only about 10 new approvals in the next five years, the report said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Maria pummels Puerto Rico</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.yahoo.com/news/puerto-rico-virgin-islands-brace-hurricane-maria-100652998.html">https://www.yahoo.com/news/puerto-rico-virgin-islands-brace-hurricane-maria-100652998.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>San Juan (AFP) - Hurricane Maria made landfall on Puerto Rico on Wednesday, pummeling the US territory after already killing at least two people on its passage through the Caribbean.</p> <p>The US National Hurricane Center warned of "large and destructive waves" as Maria came ashore near Yabucoa on the southeast coast.</p> <p>Puerto Rico's Governor Ricardo Rossello has told residents to brace for "the worst storm of the last century", opening 500 shelters that can accommodate 67,000 people.</p> <p>"The wind sounds like a woman screaming at the top of her lungs!" photographer and storm chaser Mike Theiss posted on Twitter as the hurricane hit.</p> <p>"We are getting absolutely hammered right now."</p> <p>Puerto Ricans had scrambled to board up windows and buy last minute supplies as the storm approached the densely populated island of 3.5 million.</p> <p>Maria made landfall as a Category Four storm on the five-point Saffir-Simpson scale, packing winds of 155 miles (250 kilometers) per hour.</p> <p>The US and British Virgin Islands -- still struggling to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Irma -- are also on alert, along with the Turks and Caicos Islands and parts of the Dominican Republic.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Recall: Ram pickup trucks</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2017/09/20/494-000-ram-trucks-recalled-fire-hazard/684449001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2017/09/20/494-000-ram-trucks-recalled-fire-hazard/684449001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	Fiat Chrysler Automobiles is recalling almost half a million medium- and heavy-duty Ram trucks over a

	<p>water pump issue that could potentially cause a fire.</p> <p>The company said it is not aware of any injuries or accidents related to the issue, which affects 2013-17 Ram 2500 and 3500 pickups and 3500, 4500 and 5500 chassis cabs. The recall is limited to trucks with 6.7-liter engines, the company said in a news release, noting that it no longer equips vehicles with that water pump.</p> <p>The recall affects about 443,712 trucks in the United States, 46,220 in Canada and 4,485 outside North America</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 SPD chief: gave complaints to FBI</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Chief-I-gave-complaints-about-Seattle-cops-12216288.php">http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Chief-I-gave-complaints-about-Seattle-cops-12216288.php</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A complaint about security firms staffed and run by Seattle Police Department officers has been forwarded to the FBI.</p> <p>In a statement Wednesday, Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O’Toole said she passed along a complaint against the after-hours firms to the FBI and the department’s oversight office in April. The head of the Office of Professional Accountability and the FBI special agent in charge agreed to launch investigations.</p> <p>Commissioned police officers currently do off-duty work for two security firms owned and run by officers themselves. The operations, which provide traffic control and other services, have been sanctioned in contracts with police unions.</p> <p>The last major review of off-hours employment rules for police followed another FBI probe more than a decade ago. Several officers were targeted by the bureau’s public integrity task force for their second jobs.</p> <p>Three years ago, the department squared off with a police-owned firm, Seattle’s Finest Police Security &amp; Traffic Control, following a lawsuit by Seattle Police Officer Raleigh Evans. Evans, the firm’s co-owner, ultimately settled the lawsuit in what amounted to a draw.</p> <p>O’Toole on Wednesday called for a new review of the off-duty employment rules, a perennial flashpoint between department management and front-line officers.</p> <p>“SPD managers have long identified secondary employment as a significant risk when reviewing department business practices,” O’Toole said in a statement. “While acknowledging that the business needs of our community often require the engagement of SPD officers off-duty, current practice limits SPD’s visibility into the management, assignment, and performance of this work.”</p> <p>O’Toole and Seattle Police Officer’s Guild are currently bargaining a new contract for the department’s officers, detectives and sergeants. The negotiations have not gone well -- by the guild’s count, 993 days have passed since the last contract expired. With a hefty package of U.S. Justice Department-demanded reforms in the mix, resolution appears distant.</p> <p>O’Toole’s comments <u>followed a Seattle Times report</u> that the FBI was investigating the complaint forwarded by O’Toole in April. Blucadia, an Olympia startup that described itself as Uber for police, claimed that the police guild pressured members not to contract themselves out through Blucadia.</p> <p>If O’Toole gains traction against the police guild-backed contracting firms, she will be the first Seattle chief to manage to do so since 2004. Though police are among the city’s best-paid employees, off-duty work remains a prized, lucrative benefit for many working police and reserve officers.</p> <p>Seattle’s Finest and the guild-operated Seattle Security provide off-duty officers to manage crowds and traffic at large events, including Seattle Seahawks games. A city of Seattle mandate that an off-duty officer</p>

be onsite when construction impacts traffic also guarantees plenty of work for moonlighting police.

A byzantine set of rules currently governs off-duty employment for Seattle police officers. Some notable provisions include:

- Officers working off-duty in uniform or in a law enforcement capacity must be paid at the top pay rate for their rank.
- Officers can work up to 18 hours straight between their official duties and off-hours jobs, though managers can waive that restriction.
- The captain managing the downtown police precinct is in charge of scheduling off-duty officers at Seattle Center.
- Officers must check in and out while working off-duty, reporting their location through the dispatch system.
- Officers cannot work for establishments that sell alcohol or marijuana without special permission, nor can they act as bill collectors or assist defense attorneys.

In 2004, then-Chief Gil Kerlikowske presided over the last large overhaul of the department's off-duty work rules. More popular with City Hall than the rank and file, Kerlikowske spent months drafting regulations prompted in part by an FBI inquiry.

At the time, police brass defended off-hours work as a crime deterrent that put more police in visible positions in the community. Kerlikowske's key revisions were the requirement that off-duty work be approved by an officer's or sergeant's commander, and the prohibition against off-duty police working as nightclub bouncers.

O'Toole on Wednesday said she was "renewing" her request to city leaders that they develop legislation limiting off-duty work. She did not comment directly on the FBI and Office of Professional Accountability investigations, except to say that both are ongoing.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Rosh Hashanah faces rising anti-Semitism</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.newsweek.com/rosh-hashanah-synagogues-worship-anti-semitism-668634">http://www.newsweek.com/rosh-hashanah-synagogues-worship-anti-semitism-668634</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>As the Jewish High Holidays approach, a drastic increase in anti-Semitic incidents and public displays of hatred—such as the recent Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville—have put an increased spotlight on an annual concern for synagogues: keeping congregants safe.</p> <p>“This is something that we’ve dealt with for forever,” said Amy Asin, the vice president of strengthening congregations for the Union for Reform Judaism. “It is unfortunately not the case that we can worship without being in fear.”</p> <p>Many synagogues draw their largest crowds of the year on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and with so many people gathered in one place, congregations worry that they may become targets. “During the holidays, there’s a high degree of anxiety and attention” on security, said Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). “I think the whole country is on notice.”</p> <p>The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) first published “<a href="#">Protecting Your Jewish Institution: Security Strategies for Today’s Dangerous World</a>” in 2003, and put out the most recent edition in 2015.</p> <p>The document recommends having both prevention and reaction plans in place, including an evacuation plan and meeting place, and speaking to local authorities about holiday schedules in advance. Institutions might consider calling in local law enforcement for a security review of the facilities it plans to use, contacting the ADL for a threat assessment or hiring private security or off-duty officers for the big events. They should consider who is invited and whether and how events are publicized. During large gatherings, they should establish a perimeter and maintain a screening center for everyone entering the facility. This year, more than 500 representatives from Jewish communities across the country also took part in an ADL</p>



call on holiday security, said Greenblatt.

In its annual “Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents” released in April, the ADL measured a 34 percent increase in 2016 compared to 2015 and a staggering 86 percent increase during the first quarter of 2017 over the same period in 2016. Last year saw 1,266 acts targeting Jews and Jewish institutions, and there were preliminary reports of 541 incidents during the first three months of this year, including a number of high-profile acts of vandalism at Jewish cemeteries and a series of bomb threats at Jewish community centers. If incidents were to continue at the same rate through December, the final total for the year would surpass 2,000.

“The numbers underscore what we know to be true in the Jewish community,” Greenblatt told *Newsweek* at the time.

“Not necessarily anti-Semitism but the incidences themselves have increased, which leads us to believe that the extremists feel emboldened. And that’s what’s deeply concerning.”

Many of the Jewish leaders *Newsweek* contacted this week said security preparation didn’t greatly differ this year. The URJ’s Asin, however, says she believes that synagogues are ratcheting up their security. “There’s a continuum of protection, and congregations are moving up the continuum,” she said. “The risk of any one institution is very small but the cost of being wrong is a life.”

“It’s sometimes hard to remember... What we’re really here to do,” said Asin, who wants to make sure people “understand that we’re not about building fortresses.” She emphasizes that “despite heightened security, despite our concerns about what may happen, I think we’re all walking into this High Holy Day season as a moment of spiritual renewal, of community, of connection.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Cat-4 Maria hits Dominican Republic</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/09/21/Cat-4-Hurricane-Maria-lashes-Dominican-Republic/9731505656006/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=ls&amp;utm_medium=1">https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/09/21/Cat-4-Hurricane-Maria-lashes-Dominican-Republic/9731505656006/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=ls&amp;utm_medium=1</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Sept. 21 (UPI) -- After pummeling Puerto Rico, Hurricane Maria lashed the Dominican Republic as it swirled just off the northeastern coastline early Thursday as it continues its path north in the Caribbean.</p> <p>In its <u>5 a.m. advisory</u>, the NHC said the center was 70 miles north of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and 70 miles northeast of Las Terrenas. Maximum sustained winds were 115 mph and the storm is heading northwest at 9 mph.</p> <p>A turn toward the north-northwest is expected on Friday.</p> <p>"Hurricane Maria will continue to pass offshore of the northeastern coast of the Dominican Republic today. Maria should then move near the Turks and Caicos Islands and the southeastern Bahamas tonight and Friday," the NHC said.</p> <p>The storm remains a Category 4 hurricane.</p> <p>"Hurricane conditions are expected to begin in portions of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the southeastern Bahamas [Thursday night], with tropical storm conditions beginning in these areas later," the NHC said.</p> <p>Rainfall in several Caribbean islands -- including the Dominican Republic -- could cause life-threatening mudslides and flooding.</p> <p>Hurricane warnings are in effect for the Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos and the Southeastern Bahamas. A hurricane watch is in effect for the Dominican Republic from Isla Saona to Cabo Engano.</p>

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Recent quake swarm under Mt. Rainier</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/science/scientists-say-quake-swarm-at-rainier-is-not-unusual/">http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/science/scientists-say-quake-swarm-at-rainier-is-not-unusual/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Nearly two dozen small earthquakes have rattled Mount Rainier over the past week, but seismologists say there's no cause for worry.</p> <p>"In the past, these swarms last a couple of days to a week or so and then die out," said Paul Bodin, of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network at the University of Washington.</p> <p>The first of the 23 quakes struck on Sept. 11 near the volcano's summit. The largest of the quakes registered magnitude 1.6.</p> <p>Earthquake swarms are common at volcanos, and usually don't signify any threat of eruption, Bodin said in an email. "So I'm treating this as a single eyebrow raised halfway," he wrote. "Yeah, I see you and will be watching, but I don't think you're going to attack."</p> <p>Most volcanic quake swarms originate in the hydrothermal plumbing system, related to slight changes in temperature or groundwater pressure that cause cracking of the rocks, Bodin explained. The recent quakes are shallow, which also suggests they are not connected to the deep movement of magma.</p> <p>Rainier experienced similar upticks in the past two years, and a more sustained episode of seismicity in 2009.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 US to aid Rohingya fleeing Myanmar</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/20/politics/us-aid-rohingya-myanmar/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/20/politics/us-aid-rohingya-myanmar/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Washington (CNN)The US will provide a humanitarian aid package worth nearly \$32 million to Rohingya who have fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in recent weeks, the State Department announced Wednesday during the United Nations General Assembly in New York.</p> <p>The funding "reflects the US commitment to help address the unprecedented magnitude of suffering and urgent humanitarian needs of the Rohingya people," said the State Department's Acting Assistant Secretary Simon Henshaw, noting that over 400,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar, a majority Buddhist nation, for neighboring Bangladesh.</p> <p>He added that the US hoped its contribution would encourage other countries to provide more funding as well.</p> <p>The aid package comes a day after Secretary of State Rex Tillerson spoke with Aung San Suu Kyi, the de facto leader of Myanmar, also known as Burma, and "welcomed the Burmese government's commitment to end the violence in Rakhine State and to allow those displaced by the violence to return home," according to the State Department.</p> <p>Tillerson "urged the Burmese government and military to facilitate humanitarian aid for displaced people in the affected areas, and to address deeply troubling allegations of human rights abuses and violations."</p> <p>The State Department said the aid "will help provide emergency shelter, food security, nutritional assistance, health assistance, psychosocial support, water, sanitation and hygiene, livelihoods, social inclusion, non-food items, disaster and crisis risk reduction, restoring family links, and protection to over 400,000 displaced persons."</p>

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Fla. suspends nursing home license</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hollywood-florida-nursing-home-suspended-license-irma/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hollywood-florida-nursing-home-suspended-license-irma/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p><b>HOLLYWOOD, Fla.</b> -- Florida officials have suspended the license of a <a href="#">nursing home that had nine patients die</a> after Hurricane Irma knocked out its air conditioning.</p> <p>The Agency for Health Care Administration said Wednesday that it suspended the license of the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills.</p> <p>The agency previously banned the facility from admitting new patients and from receiving Medicaid. The home filed a lawsuit trying to block those orders.</p> <p>The findings show residents of the facility did not receive timely medical care because the trained medical professionals delayed calling 911, <a href="#">CBS Miami reports</a>. Facility staff began calling 911 on Tuesday, Sept. 12 -- two days after Irma hit. The facility has insisted it called utility Florida Power &amp; Light 50 times, and said it called an emergency number issued by Florida Gov. Rick Scott.</p> <p>Eight patients died Sept. 13, three days after Irma hit South Florida and knocked out a transformer that powered the home's air conditioner. A ninth died Tuesday.</p> <p>Several residents suffered respiratory or cardiac distress, and at least eight of those patients ultimately died as a result of not receiving the medical attention.</p> <p>In some cases, patients ended up at the hospital with body temperatures of 109.9, 108.5, 108.3 and 107. Home officials say they used coolers, fans, ice and other means to cool the patients.</p> <p><a href="#">Video emerged on Sunday</a> from a relative of a patient that showed suffering in the sweltering heat while staff used fans in an attempt to cool them. At one point, the 34-second video shows a naked woman in a hallway who is hunched over what appears to be a hospital bed.</p> <p>The nursing home is now under a criminal investigation.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 How to help Mexico quake victims</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mexico-earthquake-how-to-help-victims/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mexico-earthquake-how-to-help-victims/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Rescue crews are still sorting through the remnants of collapsed buildings after the deadliest earthquake to strike Mexico City in decades. At least 223 people died in the <a href="#">7.1-magnitude quake</a> that struck outside Mexico City on the 32nd anniversary of the 1985 earthquake that killed thousands.</p> <p>Buildings across the city were reduced to rubble, and many people remain missing. At least 25 people were killed when a portion of a three-story school collapsed, trapping students and teachers. One child was found alive.</p> <p>The Mexican government and aid groups are struggling to respond to the series of disasters. After Hurricane Harvey left much of Houston underwater, the Mexican government offered to send supplies and personnel to aid in the recovery effort. The country rescinded that offer on Sept. 11, citing the need for resources to deal with its own disasters.</p> <p>The White House said Wednesday that President Trump spoke with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto by phone to offer his condolences and pledge to help in the recovery.</p>

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) said Wednesday afternoon that it was deploying a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Mexico "following a formal request for assistance by the Government of Mexico."

For those looking to donate to victims and organizations assisting in the relief effort, a spokesman for USAID said the agency [recommends](#) donating cash to groups working on the ground. Cash donations are considered the most effective way to help after a natural disaster, since donating material goods can tie up resources need to transport and distribute the supplies.

Here's how to donate to several different organizations working on the ground in Mexico to help victims of the earthquake.

### **Oxfam Mexico**

Ricardo Fuentes-Nieva, the executive director of [Oxfam Mexico](#), tells CBS News that the group's first priority is assisting in the search and recovery efforts to find people who may still be alive under trapped buildings. He said finding housing for those who can't return to damaged structures will be the second phase of the group's response.

Oxfam Mexico has launched a fund dedicated to the earthquake response, which can be found [here](#). Oxfam America is also accepting donations for the effort [here](#).

### **Mexican Red Cross**

The Mexican Red Cross deployed 90 ambulances and a rescue unit in the immediate aftermath of Tuesday's earthquake, helping to search for survivors and treating the injured. The organization says it has dozens of doctors and nurses assisting in the effort, and more than 500 volunteers and staff members were working in the hours after the quake.

You can donate to the Mexican Red Cross' earthquake relief efforts [here](#).

### **Save the Children**

Save the Children says it has workers on the ground in Mexico City to assist in the response, with particular concern focused on as many as 100 school children who could be trapped under rubble, the group says.

You can donate to Save the Children [here](#).

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Mexico earthquake scares Californians</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/mexico-earthquake-scares-californians-are-they-prepared-n803296">https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/mexico-earthquake-scares-californians-are-they-prepared-n803296</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>LOS ANGELES — This week's deadly earthquake in Mexico has many Californians asking: What will happen when the proverbial "big one" hits?</p> <p>And their government is telling them two things: You will be on your own. And most of you are not ready.</p> <p>Cities, counties and Gov. Jerry Brown's Office of Emergency Services say a big quake will overwhelm police and fire crews and require citizens to take care of themselves for a week, maybe longer.</p> <p>Emergency management leaders hope that Californians will heed that message now, after weeks of news reports showing how volunteers became primary rescuers and relief workers, not only in Tuesday's 7.1 magnitude quake south of Mexico City — and an earthquake further <a href="#">south earlier this month</a> — but also in the hurricane disasters bedeviling the South and Caribbean.</p> <p>Still, if the past is any guide, the vivid images from Mexico City may not be enough to persuade</p>

Californians to sock away food, water, flashlights and extra cash. Surveys have shown that less than half of Californians have done enough to make their homes safer in advance of a big earthquake.

“That is a big problem for us,” said Kelly Huston, deputy director of the California Office of Emergency Services. “It means ... we will spend a lot of unnecessary time helping people who could have otherwise helped themselves, but decided they didn’t want to or didn’t have time.”

California is overdue for a great quake, possibly starting along the San Andreas Fault — which stretches from the Salton Sea to Monterey County and beyond. Temblors like the 1994 Northridge quake and the 1989 Loma Prieta quake each killed dozens of people. And the latter temporarily stopped the World Series.

“Mexico quake reminds us: science can tell us what the impact can be but society has to take action to prevent catastrophic damage,” tweeted Lucy Jones, the California seismologist who has become a leading worldwide authority on earthquake preparedness.

Residents in earthquake zones are advised to secure heavy objects — like dressers and televisions — to walls. They are also supposed to avoid sleeping beneath mirrors, paintings and other items if they are not securely attached.

Aram Sahakian, general manager of the Los Angeles Emergency Management Department, said hurricanes Harvey and Irma — with their flotilla of amateur boaters — also helped demonstrate how crucial volunteers are in responding to major disasters.

“The first people to assist you are going to be your family and your neighbors,” said Sahakian. He urged Angelenos to meet with people in the 10 to 20 homes closest to theirs and to begin making plans.

Emergency management officials have also upped the amount of water, food and other emergency supplies they recommend be socked away. They used to call for enough supplies to last 72 hours, but now say one week of provisions should be the minimum. Why?

“Because, in these major events, hundreds of thousands of people are going to be displaced,” said Sahakian. “The supply chain is going to be impacted, whether it is transportation, or medical supplies, or food. You need to be prepared to last at least five to seven days.”

Helen Chavez, assistant director of the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, seconded that recommendation and said people especially tend to underestimate how much water they will need.

Emergency management officials recommend from one liter to one gallon of water per person and pet, per day. Those who do not have room to store that much water are advised to consult emergency websites on how to use bleach to disinfect water, she said.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Quake amplification factor: Seattle, Mexico</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.king5.com/news/local/earthquake-amplification-a-factor-in-seattle-and-mexico-city/477416829">http://www.king5.com/news/local/earthquake-amplification-a-factor-in-seattle-and-mexico-city/477416829</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Both Seattle and Mexico City are built on top of soil that's surrounded by rocks. Think of it as a bowl that can trap earthquake energy in the form of waves, even making the earthquake worse for buildings and people living on those soils.</p> <p>There are similarities and big differences between the bowls that the respective cities sit on. Mexico City was built on a shallow bowl, an old dry lake bed with loose sedimentary soils. Seattle's bowl is deeper, made up of glacial leftovers, called “till.” But it is harder, packed down by the weight of massive glaciers, which covered the land the city is built on.</p>

"Their lake-bed sediments are soft clays that are weaker than the glacial soils that underlay most of downtown Seattle," writes Art Frankel of the U.S. Geological Survey in response to an email.

Frankel is also an associate professor in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences at the University of Washington.

"So the Seattle basin will amplify ground shaking in the Seattle and Bellevue areas relative to rock sites outside of the basin," adds Frankel. "This is especially important for tall buildings (10 stories or more). The amplification will be even larger for sites on fill or alluvium in SoDo, and obviously impact URM's there."

URM stands for Unreinforced Masonry Buildings. The City of Seattle tracks how many of those buildings there are and where they're located. The good news is that many of them have been retrofitted, required when they are remodeled. But city records show many of them are yet untouched.

Alluvium are the loose soils, such as river deposits and fill. In the magnitude 6.8 Nisqually earthquake in 2001, the combination of more vulnerable buildings on weaker soil, such as in Pioneer Square, saw some of the worst damage.

In the magnitude 8 earthquake which hit Mexico City in 1985, killing thousands, many of the older unreinforced buildings collapsed or were so severely damaged, they were torn down. They've now been mostly replaced with newer buildings built to modern codes.

Yet, some of the older buildings which remained came down in this quake, which, while smaller, was centered much closer to the capital. The quake energy also came from a different direction than in 1985.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Training law enforcement water pursuits</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.king5.com/news/local/training-law-enforcement-for-water-pursuits/477480451">http://www.king5.com/news/local/training-law-enforcement-for-water-pursuits/477480451</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Marine law enforcement came together from across the country to practice operating vessels at high speeds in Tacoma this week.</p> <p>It's part of the Marine Law Enforcement Training Program through Washington State Parks that works with 53 agencies from across the state.</p> <p>"It does take practice and it does take a certain amount of comfort level to go out on the water and do something like this," said Eric Peffer, a detective and instructor for the conference.</p> <p>They practice operating boats at speeds that they cannot disclose. They do 90 degree turns and figure eights in the water among other exercises to practice responding to a boating incident or catching possible suspects.</p> <p>"We do always have that threat of possible terrorism, so we want to make sure that we are prepared for whatever it is that we have to encounter," said Peffer.</p> <p>"It's great putting better-qualified people out here who are available to assist the public and available to assist during an emergency," said Rodney Rochan, instructor.</p> <p>"We want to make sure that people out on the water are safe and they are safe to other boaters as well," said Peffer.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>09/20 Crews search for Mexico quake survivors</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-20/mexico-quake-toll-tops-200-as-hushed-crews-listen-for-survivors">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-20/mexico-quake-toll-tops-200-as-hushed-crews-listen-for-survivors</a>
GIST	<p>Mexicans labored amid ruins Wednesday to revive their capital and recover the dead the day after an earthquake killed hundreds, reduced buildings to rubble and brought one of the world's largest cities to a halt.</p> <p>Many offices remained shut, but banks and markets resumed normal operations. The state-owned electricity company known as CFE said it <u>restored service</u> to about 92 percent of customers after 4.8 million lost power due to the quake.</p> <p>The quake destroyed dozens of buildings and killed at least 225 people, with an unknown number still missing. Thousands of residents in the hardest-hit areas of Mexico City spent the night at hotels or on the couches of friends or family, and it was unclear when their homes -- if they still stood -- could be safe to live in again.</p> <p>The quake, initially reported as a 7.2 magnitude, was registered as a 7.1 by the U.S. Geological Survey. About 40 buildings in Mexico City have collapsed, with another 45 in danger of falling, according to Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera.</p> <p>Shelters were opened throughout the region to help house the displaced as crews continued to dig for survivors, particularly at a collapsed six-story office building in the Condesa neighborhood and at the Enrique Rebsamen elementary school in the south of the city. Pena Nieto visited the school Tuesday night, where the bodies of 20 children and two adults had been recovered. Thirty others were still missing, according to local media reports.</p> <p>Dozens of soldiers, police officers and volunteers crowded the rescue site. One army truck carted away plastic slides and jungle gyms removed from the site as police called out requests for rescue dogs and tetanus shots. They raised their fists to signal for silence, five minutes at a time, to listen for trapped survivors.</p> <p>Throughout the city, military police, paramedics and volunteers sifted rubble.</p> <p>In the Condesa neighborhood, hundreds of volunteers laid out blankets for survivors Tuesday night and formed bucket brigades to pass water into the disaster zone. Across the street, soldiers marched two-by-two with shovels. Packs of cyclists-turned-volunteers trailed behind trucks to the next site.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>09/20 Opioids on job overwhelm businesses</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-20/overdosing-on-the-job-opioid-crisis-spills-into-the-workplace">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-20/overdosing-on-the-job-opioid-crisis-spills-into-the-workplace</a>
GIST	<p>At Philip Tulkoff's food-processing plant in Baltimore, machines grind tough horseradish roots into puree. "If you put your arm in the wrong place," the owner says, "and you're not paying attention, it's going to pull you in." It's not a good place to be intoxicated.</p> <p>Drug abuse in the workforce is a growing challenge for American business. While economists have paid more attention to the opioid epidemic's role in keeping people out of work, <u>about two-thirds</u> of those who report <u>misusing</u> pain-relievers are on the payroll. In the factory or office, such employees can be a drag on productivity, one of the U.S. economy's sore spots.</p> <p>In the worst case, they can endanger themselves and their colleagues.</p> <p>That's why Tulkoff practices zero-tolerance. One randomly chosen employee gets tested every month, "and we're gonna move it to two." The costs mount up: He has to hire a third-party company to select the</p>

worker, and pay the clinic to conduct tests. Money is wasted training workers who subsequently drop out when they fail the screening.

Then there are the added care costs. Castlight Health, a benefits platform, estimates that opioid abusers cost employers nearly twice as much in health-care expenses as their clean co-workers -- an extra \$8,600 a year.

It's no wonder that not every boss is as rigorous as Tulkoff. "I know people who've said, 'I can't do it, I would lose too many people,'" he says.

At the moment, 57 percent of employers say they perform drug tests, according to the National Safety Council. Out of those, more than 40 percent don't screen for synthetic opioids like oxycodone -- among the most widely abused narcotics, and one of the substances that new federal rules are targeting.

Starting next month, many federal government employees who take drug tests will have to submit to a more extensive screening -- one response to a spiraling crisis. Opioids killed about 33,000 Americans in 2015, more than any other year on record. Private companies aren't obliged to follow Washington's lead, but in such areas they often do.

Factories, with their heavy machinery, are where drug-abusing workers can do the most immediate harm to themselves and their colleagues. Even there, employers are tempted to look the other way, according to Mike Galiazzo, president of the Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland.

"I have heard manufacturers over the years say, 'We wish we didn't have to test for drugs,' because they lose money when they can't fill those positions," he said.

Hiring is becoming tougher in any case. While the economy has steadily added jobs since the financial crisis ended, the available pool of workers hasn't expanded to match. The share of working-age Americans in the labor market is stuck at about 63 percent, down more than four percentage points since 2000 -- the same period in which the opioid epidemic took off. There's an "extreme shortage of skilled workers," Galiazzo says -- even in a city like Baltimore, where the unemployment rate is almost 2 percentage points higher than the national average.

Drugs are probably at least partly to blame for that, too. There's a growing consensus among economists that opioid abuse has contributed to the shrinking workforce. Fed chair Janet Yellen has flagged the issue. Princeton's Alan Krueger estimates that drugs may account for one-fifth of the drop among men.

For businesses, the labor squeeze plus the opioid crisis are making it especially hard to expand quickly when they get new orders, says Drew Greenblatt, owner and president of Marlin Steel Wire Products LLC in Baltimore, which makes industrial-strength metal baskets used in factories. "We just nailed a huge job and we need to hire three people," he said. "We're banging our heads against the wall."

And there's no guarantee that new hires will stick around. Drug problems are accelerating the turnover among staff.

Productivity growth in the U.S. economy has been slowing for decades. There's little consensus about the causes. But there are signs that the spread of drug-abuse could be contributing to the problem.

The National Safety Council survey found that 29 percent of employers reported impaired job performance due to prescription-painkiller use, while 15 percent cited an injury or near miss that they attributed to the drugs. As many as 70 percent said their workforce had been affected in some way. In some cases, the growing drug problem puts employers in the position of having to fire employees who'd been doing their jobs perfectly well.

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HEADLINE	<b>09/21 Philippine protesters slam martial law</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/1000s-protesters-slam-martial-law-killings-duterte-49996361?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/1000s-protesters-slam-martial-law-killings-duterte-49996361?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
GIST	<p>Thousands of protesters marked the anniversary of the 1972 martial law declaration by late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos with an outcry against what they say is the current president's authoritarian tendencies and his brutal crackdown on illegal drugs.</p> <p>Hundreds of riot police deployed to secure the marches and rallies, which are expected to be among the largest against President <u>Rodrigo Duterte</u> since he took office last year.</p> <p>Pro-Duterte followers also staged rallies in Manila and police say they would guard against possible confrontations.</p> <p>Duterte has warned he would use force or expand nationwide his martial law declaration in the country's south if anti-government protesters threaten public order. He placed the entire southern third of the largely Roman Catholic nation under martial law in May to deal with a bloody siege by pro-Islamic State group militants in southern Marawi city that has dragged on for nearly four months.</p> <p>Marcos' martial law era, which ended in 1981, had been marked by massive human rights violations and muzzling of civil liberties.</p> <p>According to left-wing group Karapatan, "Duterte and his security cluster have utilized narratives and tactics straight out of Marcos's playbook of repression, repeating and justifying rights violations, with increasing frequency and intensity.</p> <p>Known for bombastic remarks, Duterte has said activists can stage street protests without government permits, and that even communist guerrillas can join as long as they don't bring their guns. He said he was also ready to turn in his resignation to Congress anytime if the military agrees.</p> <p>He warned protesters not to break the law. "I will not hesitate to use force even if it would mean my downfall as president of this country, remember that," Duterte said Friday on state TV.</p> <p>Washington and European Union officials, along with the <u>United Nations</u> and human rights watchdogs, have expressed alarm over the drug killings in the <u>Philippines</u>, sparking expletives-laden outbursts from Duterte. The unorthodox president, however, has remained popular in his crime-weary country, helped by his common-guy demeanor and populist rhetoric.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>09/21 Hurricane Maria strengthens back to Cat-3</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/hurricane-maria-strengthens-category-destroying-puerto-rico/story?id=49997188&amp;cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/hurricane-maria-strengthens-category-destroying-puerto-rico/story?id=49997188&amp;cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
GIST	<p>Hurricane Maria re-strengthened to a major hurricane early Thursday after laying waste to Puerto Rico and leaving the island totally in the dark.</p> <p>The latest update from the National Hurricane Center at 2 a.m. shows maximum sustained winds for Maria are now 115 mph. The storm returned to major hurricane status after moving back over open water before it is expected to slam Turks and Caicos Thursday night.</p> <p>At least nine people have died in the storm, including two in Guadeloupe and one in Puerto Rico.</p> <p>The storm is expected to strengthen over the next day or two as it moves north, the National Weather Service said. Maria is not expected to threaten the United States mainland.</p> <p>Maria was lashing the eastern end of the Dominican Republic with strong winds and heavy rain overnight.</p>

	<p>The eye was about 55 miles north of the resort town of Punta Cana at 2 a.m. and moving northwest at about 9 mph.</p> <p>Even as the storm moved away from Puerto Rico, the island was still being hit with heavy rain bands Thursday. Storm surge was receding from Puerto Rico Thursday, but the U.S. territory was hit with 20 to 30 inches of rain in 24 hours, with some areas seeing 35 inches locally. Maria came ashore as a powerful Category 4 hurricane with 155 mph winds, the strongest to hit the island since 1932.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Puerto Rico 'destroyed' by Maria</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/hurricane-maria-leaves-puerto-rico-power-striking/story?id=49971859">http://abcnews.go.com/International/hurricane-maria-leaves-puerto-rico-power-striking/story?id=49971859</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The island of Puerto Rico has been "destroyed" after Hurricane Maria made landfall there as a Category 4 storm Wednesday morning, according to emergency officials.</p> <p>Puerto Rico's office of emergency management confirmed that 100 percent of the U.S. territory had lost power, noting that anyone with electricity was using a generator.</p> <p>A spokesperson with the Puerto Rico governor's office confirmed one person has died in the storm. They were killed in Bayamon, just southwest of San Juan, after being hit in the head by a wooden panel.</p> <p>Multiple transmission lines sustained damage from the storm, said Ricardo Ramos, director of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority. Ramos said he hopes to begin launching helicopters by this weekends to begin inspecting the transmission lines.</p> <p>Telecommunications throughout the island have "collapsed," Abner Gomez Cortes, executive director of Puerto Rico's office of emergency management and disaster administration agency, told ABC News.</p> <p>As of 11 p.m. ET, Maria had weakened to a Category 2 hurricane with maximum sustained wind of 110 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center. It was located about 55 miles northeast of Punta Cana, a popular tourist destination in the Dominican Republic.</p> <p>The hurricane warning for Puerto Rico was officially discontinued at 11 p.m., according to the National Weather Service, but heavy rain continued overnight.</p> <p>Conditions on the eastern side of the Dominican Republic were further deteriorating overnight Wednesday into Thursday.</p> <p>Some strengthening is possible now that the storm is back over the ocean, so Maria has potential to become a Category 3 hurricane again. Maria is forecast to churn past off the eastern shore of the Dominican Republic into Thursday before moving near Turks and Caicos and the southeast Bahamas Thursday night through Friday.</p>
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## Cyber Awareness

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Equifax victim? Identity fight to last years</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.bankrate.com/personal-finance/credit/equifax-data-breach-victim-the-fight-for-your-identity-will-last-years/">http://www.bankrate.com/personal-finance/credit/equifax-data-breach-victim-the-fight-for-your-identity-will-last-years/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	Protecting yourself from the <u>Equifax data breach</u> is not something that's going to end tomorrow. Or next month. Or next year.

Crooks stole credit card numbers, Social Security numbers and addresses. They swiped birth dates and downloaded driver's license numbers.

If cyber criminals have your personal information, there's no limit — both in time and scope — to how they can use it. Avoiding identity theft and fraud is something you could be fighting for years to come.

Here's what the bad guys can do with your data and what you should do to protect yourself.

### **Stealing your identity**

With access to your Social Security number, address and birth date, a crook could take out a mortgage or open a credit card. Someone could even file a tax return for you, hoping to collect a refund.

A criminal could ruin your credit by applying for multiple accounts in your name and failing to pay back borrowed money. Bad credit could keep you from qualifying for a loan or favorable rates.

Luckily, there are ways to avoid such nightmares. Start by checking your credit report. A free one is available each year from the three big credit reporting bureaus, including Equifax.

A credit monitoring service can help you keep tabs on your credit reports. But you should freeze your credit to prevent new accounts from being opened in your name and place a fraud alert to protect yourself from identity theft.

“There's no one thing you need to do,” says Matthew Gardiner, senior product marketing manager at Mimecast, a tech company providing cloud email services. “It's always about having levels of security controls or multiple layers of security controls.”

You should regularly check your bank account and credit card statements. Call your bank or issuer as soon possible about any fraudulent credit or debit card transactions. Instances of identity theft should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission and the Internal Revenue Service, says Fran Rosch, executive vice president and general manager of consumer business at Symantec.

### **Other potential threats**

Hackers may use your stolen data to open accounts and sell it to other crooks. They can also do these other three things with the information taken from Equifax.

#### Hack into other accounts

With enough information, Brian Vecci, a technical evangelist at a software company called Varonis, says it's possible to gain access to your email inbox.

Two-factor authentication — which, for example, uses both a username/password combo and a text message to your phone to confirm your identity — can protect your email accounts. And it never hurts to have strong passwords that you change frequently. Sites that offer random passwords each time you log in can be helpful, Vecci says.

To find out whether your email address has been compromised, Vecci recommends using a website like haveibeenpwned.com. The site can also notify you of other cyber threats.

#### Attempt a phishing attack

A phishing attack happens when a scammer pretends to be someone they're not, says Sean Tierney, director of threat intelligence at Infoblox.

Look out for signs of phishing scams such as typos. Avoid clicking on links coming from domains that don't seem credible. Secure sites should include “https” in their URLs.

The FTC issued an alert warning consumers about phone calls and emails from people claiming to be

	<p>Equifax representatives. If you're contacted by a scammer, file a complaint.</p> <p><u>Commit other types of fraud</u>          Bold criminals could use your data to engage in all sorts of crimes, like gaining access to corporate online networks and medical services.</p> <p>Some private information is only valuable for a brief period, Tierney says. Other data — like Social Security numbers — could be used long after the Equifax breach fades away. That's why getting into the habit of monitoring your accounts is key.</p> <p>"Being vigilant for a few months will not be enough," Rosch says. "Some scammers will wait a year or longer to act on this information."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Cost of cyberattacks on businesses</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.csoonline.com/article/3227065/security/cyber-attacks-cost-us-enterprises-13-million-on-average-in-2017.html">https://www.csoonline.com/article/3227065/security/cyber-attacks-cost-us-enterprises-13-million-on-average-in-2017.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>In 2017, the average cost of a data breach in North America is \$1.3 million for enterprises and \$117 million for small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs), according to a report from Kaspersky Lab.</p> <p>Globally, the cost of a data breach for enterprises has risen 11 percent in 2017. In the U.S., the average cost of a cyber attack for enterprises grew from \$1.2 million in 2016 to \$1.3 million in 2017. That's 10 times higher than the \$117 million cost of a breach for SMBs.</p> <p>Overall, businesses are looking at IT security as more of an investment in 2017. In fact, IT security budgets are up, reaching 18 percent for enterprises compared to 16 percent in 2016. Even small businesses with fewer resources are investing more in IT security budgets this year — 14 percent compared to 13 percent in 2016.</p> <p>In North America, the Kaspersky Lab study found that the following incidents have the most severe financial impact in 2017:</p> <p><b>Financial impact on enterprises</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical loss of devices or media containing data (\$2.8 million)</li> <li>• Incidents affecting IT infrastructure hosted by a third party (\$2.2 million)</li> <li>• Electronic leakage of data (\$1.9 million)</li> <li>• Inappropriate IT resource use by employees (\$1.1 million)</li> <li>• Viruses and malware (\$519,000)</li> </ul> <p><b>Financial impact on SMBs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted attacks (\$188,000)</li> <li>• Incidents involving non-computing connected devices (\$152,000)</li> <li>• Physical loss of devices or media containing data (\$83,000)</li> <li>• Inappropriate IT resource use by employees (\$79,000)</li> <li>• Viruses and malware (\$68,000)</li> </ul> <p>The top "pain points" with the largest average costs after a breach for enterprises include \$207,000 for internal staff wages, \$172,000 for improved software/infrastructure, and \$153,000 spent on cybersecurity training.</p> <p>The top pain points for SMBs in 2017 include \$21,000 in lost business and another \$21,000 in costs related to employing external professionals.</p> <p>When a third party is breached, that security failure is one of the most damaging to enterprises.</p>

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 More UK councils hit by cyberattacks</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.computerweekly.com/news/450426631/Most-UK-councils-hit-by-cyber-attacks">http://www.computerweekly.com/news/450426631/Most-UK-councils-hit-by-cyber-attacks</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A study has revealed that most UK local authorities have suffered cyber attacks in the past year, showing local government is a key target for cyber criminals and that legacy software is a top security concern.</p> <p>An iGov survey of 38 local government departments has revealed that 76% have experienced a cyber attack and 50% have been hit by a <u>ransomware</u> attack in the past year.</p> <p>The survey revealed a lack of understanding about cyber attacks and how to counter them at a local government level, according to the <u>report</u> commissioned by cyber security firm <u>Malwarebytes</u>.</p> <p>In turn, this has led to falling confidence in a number of measures currently employed to combat cyber attacks, the report said, with most councils saying their existing legacy systems were inadequate to deal with modern threats.</p> <p>“The threat of cyber crime is on the up, driven by career criminals who are highly skilled, innovative and will stop at nothing to target organisations that hold people’s private information,” said Anthony O’Mara, vice-president for Europe at Malwarebytes. “This was perfectly demonstrated by the recent <u>WannaCry</u> attack and the devastating effect it had on the NHS.”</p> <p>According to O’Mara, other high-profile incidents, such as the ransomware that crippled Lincolnshire City Council, provide further evidence of just how devastating this type of crime can be.</p> <p>The report also revealed that legacy systems in local councils are a major cause for concern, with 72% of respondents saying it was either “difficult” or “very difficult” to integrate new systems and applications.</p> <p>This shows that for many local government organisations, old, outdated technology is having a negative impact on managing cyber risk, the report said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Singapore leads world in cyberattacks</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.tnp.sg/news/singapore/singapore-leads-world-cyber-attacks">http://www.tnp.sg/news/singapore/singapore-leads-world-cyber-attacks</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Singapore has achieved another first, but being called the world's top launcher of cyber attacks is not something to crow about.</p> <p>Cyber security firm Check Point's Threat Map shows that the Republic now ranks as the top "attacking country", ahead of China, Russia and the United States.</p> <p>Check Point, an Israeli multinational company, handles threat intelligence, protection and management for organisations around the world.</p> <p>Its Threat Map, launched in 2015, is used to consolidate cyber attack intelligence, which is then fed to the gateways of customers for instant protection.</p> <p>Singapore has been in top position on the tracker since Monday, after being in the top five for at least two weeks prior.</p> <p>The map tracks more than 10 million global cyber attacks every day.</p> <p>Check Point spokesman Eying Wee, its head of marketing for Asia-Pacific and Japan, told The New Paper</p>

	<p>that the live map is generated based on data gathered from global sensors such as VirusTotal, an antivirus and online scan engine.</p> <p>She added that Singapore often appears among the top attacking countries but declined to provide exact figures.</p> <p>Ms Wee said that while the attacks are launched from computer systems in Singapore, the masterminds behind the attacks are unlikely to be based here.</p> <p>"As a major business hub in Asia, a lot of traffic runs through Singapore," she said.</p> <p>"With the volume of traffic, it is not unusual for Singapore to be higher in the threat index because it does look like the attacks are coming from Singapore even though they do not originate here."</p> <p>The large amount of computing power in Singapore makes it a popular gateway for hackers to launch attacks all over the world, Ms Wee added.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 UK access jihadist content frequently</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/uk-biggest-market-in-europe-for/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/uk-biggest-market-in-europe-for/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Jihadist web content is accessed more frequently from the UK than any other European country, a new report has revealed, with Prime Minister Theresa May today set to urge tech firms to go “further and faster” to take down such content.</p> <p><u><a href="#">The report</a></u>, <i>The New Netwar: Countering Extremism Online</i>, was compiled by UK think tank <u><a href="#">Policy Exchange</a></u>.</p> <p>It claims that the decline of ISIS online has been “significantly overstated”, with around 100 new pieces of content produced each week and around 2,000 ‘official’ videos already disseminated.</p> <p>The report added:  <i>“In many cases, content production is decentralised – driven by ISIS’ autonomous ‘provinces’. This feature has been missed, or underappreciated by other analyses of the movement...Jihadist content is disseminated online by means of a ‘Swarmcast’ – an interconnected network that constantly reconfigures itself, much like a swarm of bees or flock of birds in mid-flight. That Swarmcast is defined by its speed, agility and resilience. It has allowed ISIS and their sympathisers to outmanoeuvre all efforts to-date to reduce significantly their online presence.”</i></p> <p>Core supporters receive such content via end-to-end encrypted messaging service Telegram, although ISIS PR efforts also use Facebook, Google and Twitter, the latter responsible for around 40% of traffic, the report claimed.</p> <p>Tens of thousands of jihadists access extremist content from around the globe, with the UK apparently the fifth most frequent location from which it’s viewed, after Turkey, the US, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.</p> <p>Efforts by the security services to disrupt the “strategic dissemination” of such content have amounted to little more than “whack-a-mole”, with some media and academics actually making content more “findable”, the report warned.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Small business class action suit Equifax</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/small-business-class-action/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/small-business-class-action/</a>

<p>GIST</p>	<p>The Equifax fallout is continuing, with the latest being a class-action suit leveled at the credit rating company representing the interests of small businesses.</p> <p>The <u>complaint</u>, filed by attorneys with <u>The Doss Firm</u>, argues that an estimated 28 million small business operators in the US face special risk of suffering multiple damages arising from <u>the spectacularly wide-ranging data breach</u> first uncovered in early Sept.</p> <p>Filed in the U.S. District Court for the North District of the Atlanta division, the class action complaint alleges that Equifax unduly put small business operators at risk in terms of the cost of Equifax business reports, the availability of credit and exposure to business identity theft, which often is directly linked for small business owners to their personal credit.</p> <p>As the complaint notes: "Unlike consumers who are entitled under federal law to obtain one free credit report annually, businesses must pay for their credit reports (\$99 from Equifax) ... Many of the 143 million individuals whose [personally identifiable information] was hacked are also owners of small businesses that heavily rely on personal and business credit to operate and provide for families across this country."</p> <p>Attorney Jason Doss added: "This is a real double-whammy situation for small business owners whose access to credit can often live or die in terms of their personal creditworthiness. The breach could either damage the business directly through identify theft or it could cripple access to small business credit by damaging the 'linked' credit of the individual who owns the enterprise."</p>
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<p>HEADLINE</p>	<p><b>09/20 Twitter report on suspension of accounts</b></p>
<p>SOURCE</p>	<p><a href="http://www.securityweek.com/twitter-suspends-nearly-1-million-accounts-associated-terrorism">http://www.securityweek.com/twitter-suspends-nearly-1-million-accounts-associated-terrorism</a></p>
<p>GIST</p>	<p>Twitter has suspended a total of 935,897 accounts for the promotion of terrorism between August 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017, the company says in its latest transparency report.</p> <p>A total of 299,649 accounts were suspended during the first half of 2017, marking a 20% decrease compared to the previous six-month period, the company reveals. 95% of the account suspensions were the result of internal efforts, the social platform claims.</p> <p>These are “accounts that actively incite or promote violence associated with internationally recognized terrorist organizations, promote internationally recognized terrorist organizations, and accounts attempting to evade prior enforcement,” Twitter <u>explains</u>.</p> <p>According to the social media network, 75% of the accounts suspended during the January-June 2017 timeframe were blocked before posting their first tweet. The sustained effort to eliminate such activity from the platform has resulted in an 80% drop in government reports on such accounts, compared to the previous six months.</p> <p>However, government requests accounted for less than 1% of account suspensions, as they only amounted to 338 reports referring to 1,200 accounts. They also represented only 2% of the reports received from governments around the world, which summed up to 16,818 reports in the six-month period.</p> <p>The largest number of such reports were received for abusive behavior, at 16,414, which represented 98% of global government TOS (Terms of Service) reports. These referred to 6,299 accounts, only 12% of which were actioned on, but the majority of requests didn’t result in content removal.</p> <p>Twitter also received 37 requests related to copyright, and 29 reports related to trademark. These are non-legal requests submitted by government representatives about content that might violate the company’s rules against copyright and trademark infringement.</p> <p>In its <u>transparency report</u>, the social platform says it received a total of 6,448 global government requests</p>

for account information from January through June, 2017, up 6% from the previous period, but affecting 3% fewer accounts. Some of the requests originated from four new countries, namely Nepal, Paraguay, Panama, and Uruguay.

Twitter also reveals that it received around 10% more global legal requests to remove content, and that these impacted roughly 12% more accounts compared to the previous reporting period. Such requests came from various countries, including nine new ones: Bahrain, China, Croatia, Finland, Nepal, Paraguay, Poland, Qatar, Ukraine, and Uruguay.

In the United States, the company received a total of 2,111 account information requests that specified 4,594 accounts, and also received 118 removal requests. The U.S. continues to account for the majority of global government requests for account information.

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**HEADLINE** 09/20 Hospital attacks 'crossed the line'

**SOURCE** <https://www.scmagazine.com/wannacry-and-hollywood-hospital-ransomware-attacks-crossed-a-line-for-some-cybercriminals/article/690110/>

**GIST** The ransomware infection that [disrupted Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center](#) in 2016 and the worldwide [WannaCry](#) attack in 2017 caused an ethical and philosophical rift among members of the Russian and Eastern European cybercriminal community, according to a new [report](#).

Based on an [analysis](#) of dark-web chatter conducted by [Flashpoint](#) and [Anomali](#), both of these ransomware incidents crossed a line with certain cybercrime forum administrators and members, causing them to condemn the attacks and in at least one case even call for the banning of ransomware. Others showed no mercy, asserting that ransomware is a lucrative business, and the end justifies the means.

Those who disavowed or showed distaste for ransomware following the attacks often did so for one of two key reasons: the potential of causing actual physical harm to individuals, and the negative impact that ransomware incidents could have on their future business prospects.

Concerns over causing physical harm emerged after the February 2016 Hollywood hospital attack, which disabled computer systems at the medical facility, affecting daily operations and forcing administrators to transfer some patients elsewhere.

According to the report, a "majority" of the Russian and Eastern European cybercriminal community condemned the attack, with one reputable member of a top-tier Russian cybercrime forum declaring, "From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely wish that the mothers of all ransomware distributors end up in the hospital, and that the computer responsible for the resuscitation machine gets infected with [the ransomware]..."

However, others were unmoved, with one forum member arguing that, ultimately, the attack worked, as the hospital paid the \$17,000 (or 40 bitcoin) ransom.

The May 2017 WannaCry attack also triggered a new round of ethical debates. But on a more pragmatic level, cybercriminals also expressed concern that ransomware attacks were becoming too high-profile and could ultimately damage their other revenue streams.

"We're digging our own grave," lamented one threat actor, who suggested prohibiting ransomware from cybercriminal forums. Nearly half of the responses to this comment – 48.5 percent – were in favor of such a ban.

This same actor said that high-profile ransomware attacks were motivating companies to improve their security measures and improving the public's awareness of information security issues. He (or she) also complained that ransomware "kills malware tools predicated on loaders, js (javascript execution), doc



macro (payloads) etc., as these get blocked everywhere.”

The individual also griped that the ransomware business lacks sophistication, noting that it's "built not on intelligence and mental dexterity, but on brute-force and luck.”

Researchers also observed cybercriminals expressing concern that ransomware attacks could easily inflict damage on organizations in Russia and other former Soviet nations comprising the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). If that happens, Russian authorities could crack down heavily on local cybercriminal forums, which experts say are normally left alone as long as CIS assets are not impacted.

Again, not all forum members agreed, with one threat actor calling one's use of ransomware, including who gets victimized, a personal decision.

“There is only one rule: don't target Russia," the actor said.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Mobile devices not immune ransomware</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/mobile-ransomware-hits-browsers-with-old-school-techniques/d/d-id/1329934?">https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/mobile-ransomware-hits-browsers-with-old-school-techniques/d/d-id/1329934?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Mobile devices are not immune to ransomware. Researchers anticipate smartphones and tablets increasingly will be targeted as spying and information theft capabilities are becoming more widely available in the dark Web.</p> <p>Researchers from SecureWorks' Counter Threat Unit (CTU) discovered 200 new ransomware variants last year, a 122% increase from the year prior. There is potential for mobile ransomware to become a significant threat, according to the firm's new 2017 State of Cybercrime Report.</p> <p>CTU researchers found several types of malware for sale, some advertising the ability to spy on all functions of an Android phone as well as to encrypt files and demand payment, the hallmark of a ransomware attack. One malicious Android package kit (APK) file, containing a bot and ransomware, sells for about \$1,000 USD on Russian-speaking forums.</p> <p>Android devices are at greatest risk for users downloading applications that could potentially be malicious because users can access third-party markets (not Google Android's) where anyone can upload an app.</p> <p>"By virtue of Google's decision to make a semi-open ecosystem, it's inevitable they're going to be most at risk for these types of applications," says Keith Jarvis, senior security researcher with SecureWorks' CTU. That said, most mobile ransomware threats are browser-based and affect any device with a built-in browser, he adds.</p> <p>Mobile ransomware geared toward individuals is a less targeted and smaller-value approach than ransomware targeting businesses - but it could also prove more effective. Individuals don't have the security knowledge and resources businesses have to defend against ransomware.</p> <p>"What a lot of people are seeing on mobile is ransomware we saw before 2013 - for example, scareware and popups in the browser saying 'You've got a virus,'" Jarvis explains. "It locks the screen, encrypts files, demands payment."</p> <p>Browser-based threats can't access many facilities on the devices, which is why attackers rely on old techniques like screen freezing. Researchers also saw an increase in SMS phishing, where threats arrive via text. Banking malware Exobot, for example, is a malware/spyware combination targeting Android with SMS messages containing malicious links.</p> <p>With the rise of SMS phishing and advanced exploit kits, researchers expect there could be a rise of</p>

	attacks focused on encrypting Android devices and leaving victims with no access to contacts, photos, or other personal information.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Exposed: 1.9B data records in 2017</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/19-billion-data-records-exposed-in-first-half-of-2017/d/d-id/1329929?">https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/19-billion-data-records-exposed-in-first-half-of-2017/d/d-id/1329929?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>More than 10 million data records are pilfered or lost every day around the world, a rate of more than 7,000 per minute: and that's only the numbers from breaches that go public.</p> <p>Some 1.9 billion data records were exposed in breaches in the first half of this year, a dramatic increase of 164% from the second half of 2016, according to the Breach Level Index for the first half of 2017, compiled by Gemalto.</p> <p>"It blows me away at this moment that every single day, more than 10 million pieces of data are exposed," says Jason Hart, vice president and CTO for data protection at Gemalto.</p> <p>If you (rightfully) think those numbers are dire, just wait until after the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) kicks in next year and European organizations are required to report breaches of information that previously may have been kept under wraps.</p> <p>"With GDPR kicking in next year in Europe, you'll have noticeable data breach" reporting increases, Hart notes. "This is just a drop in the ocean compared to what we're going to see."</p> <p>Gemalto's midyear report crunches data from all publicly disclosed data breaches around the globe. There were a total of 918 data breaches reported, and more than 500 of those involved an unknown number of compromised accounts, so the full number of exposed records for the first half is actually not available. The company has counted more than 9 billion exposed data records from breaches since 2013 when it first began its Breach Level Index.</p> <p>The report does not include the most recent big data breach revelation from Equifax.</p> <p>Personally identifiable information, payment card data, financial data, and medical information were among the types of information exposed in the breaches. Nearly three-fourths of the breaches involved exposure of data that could be used for identity theft, and 74% came from outside attackers, an increase of 23% from last year. Just under 20% were the result of internal inadvertent data loss or exposure.</p> <p>Encryption remains a missing link for protecting data: less than 1% of the exposed data in the first half of 2017 was encrypted. That's actually a decline of 4% in encryption from the last half of 2016. Overall, 42 of the publicly revealed breaches in the first half of 2017 involved data that was either fully or partially encrypted, which kept the data secured and useless to attackers.</p> <p>"The annoying thing from my point of view is people just think by applying privacy controls, they are going to solve the problem" of breaches, Hart says. "It's not. That's a false sense of security. Security should be closest to the actual data" you're trying to protect, he says.</p> <p>The education sector experienced a 103% increase in breaches and a 4,000% jump in the number of resulting exposed data records. That was mostly due to a major insider breach at a Chinese private educational firm earlier this year.</p> <p>Healthcare suffered the highest number of breaches (228) worldwide, accounting for one-fourth of all such incidents.</p> <p>Geographically, North America ranked at the top for the number of breaches and exposed data records,</p>

	with more than 86% of the share in both cases. Breaches there were up 23% and the number of records, up 201%, according to the Breach Level Index.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Seattle parent creates needle website</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/758151/with-nothing-but-horror-stories-available-seattle-parent-creates-needle-website/">http://mynorthwest.com/758151/with-nothing-but-horror-stories-available-seattle-parent-creates-needle-website/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Lauri Watkins is raising her 9-year-old son Oscar in Seattle’s Capitol Hill neighborhood where part of their daily life includes trips to Cal Anderson Park.</p> <p>It’s a park that has become notorious for drug use.</p> <p>“In 2015, there were three overdoses over the course of one weekend in the park,” Watkins said. “So, that’s our park and he’s seen some stuff.”</p> <p>Piles of used needles are a continuing problem and something she first experienced with her son years ago. “I don’t remember whether I saw it first or we were together ... He was around three or four and I thought, OK, let’s have this conversation because I don’t want him touching it.”</p> <p>But she admits she didn’t know exactly how to handle it back then.</p> <p>“I didn’t know what to do with it. I feel terrible admitting it, but the first dozen times [I saw] a needle [I was] like, OK, let’s not touch it and kept walking and I didn’t deal with the problem. And now, I’m like, great, I left it for other people.”</p> <p>Last year, a pathway at <a href="#">Lowell Elementary</a> — her son’s school — was closed down because of issues with waste, including needles. That’s when she realized just how big an issue this was.</p> <p>Watkins points out that schools send home packets of information about nutrition and other issues families may face. Why not send home information about needles, too?</p> <p>During a PTA meeting, the school district gave an update on the cleanup efforts and measures being taken, such as installing fencing, to keep drug users off the path. But Lauri had another question: Is the issue being talked about at school?</p> <p>“I kind of got that look like, oh gosh, that’s a thing we should do, isn’t it?”</p> <p>Watkins took to the Internet, hoping to find something quickly. After a few hours, she realized there was no “one-stop shop” for information on dealing with used needles. There were just hundreds of “horror stories” about children finding them.</p> <p>Watkins, being a believer in taking action when she sees a problem, took the matter into her own hands. She did more research and compiled it all on her website <a href="#">See A Needle</a>. It launched just in time for the school year.</p> <p>The site includes the basics on what children should do if they find a needle. It also includes information for adults and additional resources.</p> <p>Watkins knows not all parents are going to want to address these issues with their children. She says that as long as their children know enough not to touch the needles, their parents are protecting them.</p> <p>Lauri says she would like to see information like what’s on the website in school districts. But for now, she just wants to get the word out.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>09/20 Iran-linked hackers target aviation sector</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/news/mideast/iran-linked-hackers-hit-oil-aviation-firms-u-s-saudi-n802716">https://www.nbcnews.com/news/mideast/iran-linked-hackers-hit-oil-aviation-firms-u-s-saudi-n802716</a>
GIST	<p>A private cybersecurity firm has identified what it says is an Iranian-government-sponsored hacking group that has targeted organizations in the U.S., the Middle East and Asia.</p> <p><a href="#">FireEye</a>, which gathers cyber intelligence — and responds to incidents through its Mandiant subsidiary — says <a href="#">in a report out Wednesday</a> that the Iranian hacking group has targeted companies involved in the petrochemical industry and in military and commercial aviation — perhaps seeking an edge in its regional rivalry with Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>FireEye dubbed the group APT33 — APT stands for "advanced persistent threat" — and says it has hacked targets through spearphishing emails.</p> <p>"These campaigns demonstrate the depth of Iran's cyber capabilities," said John Hultquist, director of intelligence analysis for FireEye. "Actors like APT33, now narrowly focused on the Middle East, are the tools Iran will reach for if they choose to carry out attacks in the future."</p> <p>Attributing cyber activity is a matter of detective work. FireEye traced the hackers to Iran in part through a handle, "xman_1365_x," that the firm linked to an Iranian government software engineer.</p> <p>The report also notes that the hackers' workday appeared to correspond to Iran's time zone, and Iran's Saturday to Wednesday work week.</p> <p>"APT33's focus on aviation may indicate the group's desire to gain insight into regional military aviation capabilities to enhance Iran's aviation capabilities or to support Iran's military and strategic decision making," the report says.</p> <p>"Their targeting of multiple holding companies and organizations in the energy sectors align with Iranian national priorities for growth, especially as it relates to increasing petrochemical production. We expect APT33 activity will continue to cover a broad scope of targeted entities, and may spread into other regions and sectors as Iranian interests dictate."</p> <p>From mid-2016 through early 2017, APT33 compromised an unnamed U.S. aerospace organization, FireEye said, and it targeted a Saudi Arabian company with aviation holdings.</p> <p>During the same time period, APT33 also targeted a South Korean company involved in oil refining and petrochemicals, the report says.</p> <p>More recently, in May 2017, APT33 appeared to target a Saudi organization and a South Korean company using a malicious email that attempted to entice victims with job vacancies for a Saudi Arabian petrochemical company.</p> <p>"We assess the targeting of multiple companies with aviation-related partnerships to Saudi Arabia indicates that APT33 may possibly be looking to gain insights on Saudi Arabia's military aviation capabilities to enhance Iran's domestic aviation capabilities or to support Iran's military and strategic decision making vis a vis Saudi Arabia," the report says.</p> <p>FireEye found some links in the malware used by APT33 to Shamoon, the name of an Iran-linked cyber attack that wiped out three quarters of the computers at the Saudi oil company in 2012, leaving only a picture of a burning American flag.</p> <p>Iran is considered one of the West's most dangerous cyber adversaries, along with Russia, China and North</p>

	Korea.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Equifax sent victims to wrong site</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/equifax-breach-company-sent-customers-to-wrong-site-for-weeks-report/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/equifax-breach-company-sent-customers-to-wrong-site-for-weeks-report/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Nearly two weeks after Equifax revealed that data from 143 million people had been compromised, it turns out the company has been sending people to the wrong site to check if their data was compromised, <a href="#">The Verge</a> reports.</p> <p>After the breach was revealed on Sept. 7, the company -- one of the nation's three biggest credit bureaus -- set up the website equifaxsecurity2017.com for customers to check if they had been affected.</p> <p>But several tweets dating as far back as Sept. 9n show that the company's customer service team mistakenly sent users to a different site, securityequifax2017.com.</p> <p>The tweets were taken down, but some had remained posted for over 24 hours, as Twitter users noted.</p> <p>Luckily, the incorrect domain wasn't a nefarious phishing site, but a site built to make a point. <a href="#">Nick Sweeting</a> registered the domain, which reverses the words "security" and "equifax," to draw attention to the vulnerability of the actual Equifax site. The fact that the security site is on a separate domain, and not on equifax.com, "makes it ridiculously easy for scammers to come in and build clones," he told the outlet.</p> <p>He told The Verge that data that duped consumers had entered into his page and would not leave it.</p> <p>Equifax has been roundly criticized for its response to the <a href="#">breach</a> from the day it was revealed. The decision to create a separate website drew ire in the tech community, with Gizmodo calling it "monumentally stupid." The separate site asked consumers to enter their last names and the last 6 digits of their Social Security numbers to check if their data was stolen, but it gave responses even for bogus names and numbers (such as "Trump" and "123456"), leaving many to question its accuracy. And when Equifax offered breach victims a free year of its credit-monitoring service, the initial terms of use required consumers to sign away their legal rights to sue the company. (Equifax later <a href="#">backed away from that requirement</a>.)</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 US allies force NSA to back down</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-cyber-standards-insight/distrustful-u-s-allies-force-spy-agency-to-back-down-in-encryption-row-idUSKCN1BW0GV">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-cyber-standards-insight/distrustful-u-s-allies-force-spy-agency-to-back-down-in-encryption-row-idUSKCN1BW0GV</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - An international group of cryptography experts has forced the U.S. National Security Agency to back down over two data encryption techniques it wanted set as global industry standards, reflecting deep mistrust among close U.S. allies.</p> <p>In interviews and emails seen by Reuters, academic and industry experts from countries including Germany, Japan and Israel worried that the U.S. electronic spy agency was pushing the new techniques not because they were good encryption tools, but because it knew how to break them.</p> <p>The NSA has now agreed to drop all but the most powerful versions of the techniques - those least likely to be vulnerable to hacks - to address the concerns.</p> <p>The dispute, which has played out in a series of closed-door meetings around the world over the past three years and has not been previously reported, turns on whether the International Organization of Standards should approve two NSA data encryption techniques, known as Simon and Speck.</p>

	<p>The U.S. delegation to the ISO on encryption issues includes a handful of NSA officials, though it is controlled by an American standards body, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).</p> <p>The presence of the NSA officials and former NSA contractor Edward Snowden’s revelations about the agency’s penetration of global electronic systems have made a number of delegates suspicious of the U.S. delegation’s motives, according to interviews with a dozen current and former delegates.</p> <p>A number of them voiced their distrust in emails to one another, seen by Reuters, and in written comments that are part of the process. The suspicions stem largely from internal NSA documents disclosed by Snowden that showed the agency had previously plotted to manipulate standards and promote technology it could penetrate. Budget documents, for example, sought funding to “insert vulnerabilities into commercial encryption systems.”</p> <p>More than a dozen of the experts involved in the approval process for Simon and Speck feared that if the NSA was able to crack the encryption techniques, it would gain a “back door” into coded transmissions, according to the interviews and emails and other documents seen by Reuters.</p> <p>“I don’t trust the designers,” Israeli delegate Orr Dunkelman, a computer science professor at the University of Haifa, told Reuters, citing Snowden’s papers. “There are quite a lot of people in NSA who think their job is to subvert standards. My job is to secure standards.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Europe leaders set goal for tech firms</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/leaders-tech-firms-yank-terror-postings-hours-49995377">http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/leaders-tech-firms-yank-terror-postings-hours-49995377</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The heads of Britain, France and Italy are setting an ambitious goal for tech companies to tackle online postings that promote terrorism: Take them down within an hour or two.</p> <p>Convening world and tech leaders Wednesday at the <u>United Nations</u>, British Prime Minister <u>Theresa May</u> said that internet companies are making progress but need to go "further and faster" to keep violent extremist material from spreading online.</p> <p>The average lifetime of Islamic State extremists' online propaganda shrank from six days to 36 hours in the first six months of this year, May said.</p> <p>"That is still 36 hours too long," she said.</p> <p>French President <u>Emmanuel Macron</u> and Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni joined May in leading what she called a first-of-its-kind session on the sidelines of annual U.N. General Assembly meeting of global leaders.</p> <p>It comes as internet services are facing increasing pressure to rid themselves of messages that, authorities say, provide inspiration and instructions for militant attacks. With potential legal consequences looming — May and Macron have suggested their countries could impose legal liability and fines if tech companies don't do enough to deal with extremist material — online giants are eager to show they're taking the issue seriously.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 SEC investigates 2016 breach</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/sec-reveals-2016-hack-breached-filing-system-49994574?cid=clicksource 4380645 1 hero headlines headlines hed">http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/sec-reveals-2016-hack-breached-filing-system-49994574?cid=clicksource 4380645 1 hero headlines headlines hed</a>

GIST	<p>The Securities and Exchange Commission said Wednesday that a cyber breach of a filing system it uses may have provided the basis for some illegal trading in 2016.</p> <p>In a statement posted on the SEC's website, Chairman Jay Clayton said a review of the agency's cybersecurity risk profile determined that the previously detected "incident" was caused by "a software vulnerability" in its EDGAR filing system.</p> <p>The statement said the software was patched quickly after the hack was uncovered in 2016, although the possibility that some may have used it to make illegal profits was only discovered last month.</p> <p>The SEC revelation comes as Americans continue to grapple with the repercussions of a massive, months-long hack of <u>Equifax</u>, a credit reporting agency, which exposed highly sensitive personal information of 143 million people.</p> <p>The SEC chairman said this breach did not result in exposing personally identifiable information.</p> <p>The SEC files financial market disclosure documents through its EDGAR system, which processes over 1.7 million electronic filings in any given year according to the agency's 4,000-word statement.</p> <p>Clayton's statement also mentioned that a 2014 internal review was unable to locate some agency laptops that may have contained confidential information.</p> <p>The agency also discovered instances in which its personnel used private, unsecured email accounts to transmit confidential information.</p> <p>The SEC is continuing to investigate the breach and its possible consequences and coordinating with the "appropriate authorities," according to the statement.</p>
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## Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	09/20 Terror suspect faces new charges
SOURCE	<a href="http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-sb-gregory-hubbard-amended-charges-20170920-story.html">http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-sb-gregory-hubbard-amended-charges-20170920-story.html</a>
GIST	<p>Federal prosecutors have filed a new criminal charge against a Palm Beach County man accused of trying to join <u>Islamic State</u> group terrorists.</p> <p><u>Gregory Hubbard</u>, a former U.S. Marine and sculptor from West Palm Beach, was arrested in a terrorism sting last year on allegations that carry a maximum punishment of 20 years in prison.</p> <p>Hubbard faces charges of conspiring — and attempting — to provide support to a foreign terrorist organization. He faces trial possibly later this year in federal court in West Palm Beach. Prosecutors on Tuesday added a charge of supplying ammunition to a felon, which could add another 10 years to his prison sentence if convicted.</p> <p>He already has pleaded not guilty to charges he tried to help Islamic State terrorists and tried to go fight with them in Syria.</p> <p>Prosecutors said he turned over a .22-caliber Marlin rifle and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition to Dayne Antani Christian, who prosecutors said told an informant he wanted to kill a Marine who went to his gym, and played recorded lectures on his phone advocating jihad, a holy war.</p> <p>Hubbard, Christian and another man <u>were befriended by an informant who pretended to be a supporter of Islamic State terrorists</u>, according to court records filed in the case last year. Agents said the men practiced</p>

	<p>shooting guns and spoke approvingly of terrorist acts.</p> <p>The men used the code word "soccer team" when talking about the Islamic State group and "playing soccer" when talking about their plans to take part in a violent jihad, according to the criminal complaint.</p> <p>Hubbard said it would be "a big splash if the 'soccer team' would attack the Pentagon ... it would be a glorious day for 'the movement,'" the complaint said.</p> <p>Hubbard allegedly made "explosion noises" when talking about blowing up the White House or Pentagon.</p> <p>Hubbard was arrested July 21, 2016, at Miami International Airport as he prepared to board a flight to Germany, where he planned to take a train to Turkey and then make his way to Syria to fight alongside Islamic State terrorists, <u>according to the allegations in the indictment</u>.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Expert: NY bomber not a 'lone wolf'</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/712978/new-york-bomber-not-working-alone-terror-expert">http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/712978/new-york-bomber-not-working-alone-terror-expert</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>THE Afghan-born man accused of the Manhattan and New Jersey terror attacks was not working as a "lone wolf" according to a counter-terrorism expert.</p> <p>Ahmad Rahami, who has been charged with using weapons of mass destruction and bombing a place of public use, was arrested following a dramatic shootout with police.</p> <p>The terror suspect told police he planted the deadly pipe bombs because he was following orders from "terrorist leaders... to attack non-believers where they live."</p> <p>Investigators believe Rahami planted two bombs in Chelsea, Manhattan, but one failed to detonate. He is also believed to have placed a rucksack containing five IEDs in a bin at a New Jersey train station.</p> <p>Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, called the bombings the actions of a lone wolf.</p> <p>Speaking on talkRADIO, a counter-terrorism expert has warned that Rahami wasn't working as a "lone wolf" in New York because he was caught.</p> <p>David Videcette said: "It is difficult to make these sorts of claims. This man, who's born in Afghanistan, and has spent most of his adult life in New York. He's been travelling backwards and forwards between Afghanistan and is rumoured to have spent a year there. That's clearly where he's been radicalised and he's learnt how to make bombs.</p> <p>"That doesn't sound to me as if he's a lone wolf in my opinion.</p> <p>"The whole process of becoming radicalised it does tend to separate you from the rest of the community and you do start to stand out. There are things on display that make you recognisable as someone different."</p> <p>He went on to question whether a man acting on his own would use sophisticated bombs, like those used by Rahami.</p> <p>Mr Videcette added: "To travel to Afghanistan and learn to make bombs, which you can set off using mobile telephones - He's learnt to do that somewhere.</p> <p>"I really can't understand how the US authorities are saying he's not on any form of radar, it's a bit like saying he's a lone wolf and there's nobody else involved. I think as time goes on and the investigation progresses I think he will have been on a radar and there will be other people involved."</p>



	<p>Rahami reportedly attended jihadi training camps in Pakistan along with his brother on numerous occasions, allegedly becoming radicalised by Islamist extremists.</p> <p>The 28-year-old's brother Mohammad and sister, Aziza, have also posted pro-ISIS material on Facebook supported the terror group and renouncing democracy.</p> <p>Their mother's whereabouts are also unknown after she apparently travelled to Turkey just three days before the bomb attacks, prompting claims she knew about the bombings beforehand.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Syria: battle for ISIS capital 'final stage'</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/syria-battle-for-isis-capital-reaches-final-stages-1.488573#.WcOVOVWGNGE">https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/syria-battle-for-isis-capital-reaches-final-stages-1.488573#.WcOVOVWGNGE</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BEIRUT — The battle for the Islamic State group's de-facto Syria capital, Raqqa, has reached its "final stages," the Syrian Democratic Forces said Wednesday, almost four months after the U.S.-backed force launched an assault on the self-proclaimed capital of the militant group.</p> <p>The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said it captured Raqqa's last grain silos from the militants in a surprise offensive on the city's northern neighborhoods, mounted five days ago. Less than 300 militants remain holed up in the city, which has witnessed an intense bombing campaign, particularly in the last few days, according to the head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory that monitors the war.</p> <p>The campaign to take Raqqa began in June in a quick advance after a breach of the wall of the Old City, a major fortification for the militants. But it has since slowed down as the forces faced mounting resistance from the militants.</p> <p>Three months after the Raqqa campaign began, the SDF began a separate campaign earlier this month to take the other IS stronghold in Syria, Deir el-Zour.</p> <p>The SDF's campaign for oil-rich Deir el-Zour province, which straddles the border with Iraq, is caught up in a race with Syrian government forces and allied troops, who are also vying for control.</p> <p>In the past two weeks, the pro-government forces, backed by Russian air cover and Iranian-allied militia, gained control of most of the city of the same name and crossed over the Euphrates River to the area of operations of the SDF.</p> <p>Coalition and SDF officials say they want to avoid clashes with pro-Syrian government forces, which crossed to the eastern side of the river earlier this week, bringing them just kilometers (miles) away from SDF forces.</p> <p>An SDF commander in Deir el-Zour told The Associated Press his troops have redirected their battles away from the river for now to fight IS militants deeper in the eastern desert. He said with the Raqqa battle nearing an end, he hopes troops fighting there would come to boost his ranks.</p> <p>"We hope that the SDF fighting in Raqqa, including our own fighters taking part in Raqqa, finish there so they can come and boost our advance on the eastern bank of the river," said Ahmed Abu Khawla, the commander of the SDF unit Deir el-Zour Military Council, which is leading the fight on the oil-rich province.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the U.S. and its international coalition partners intensified their air raids on the militants' last remaining enclave in Raqqa, according the Observatory. The U.S. also has hundreds of forces embedded with the Syrian fighters who provide artillery fire and other support.</p>

	Observatory director Rami Abdurrahman said there are less than 300 remaining in an enclave in Raqqa, which is now 90 percent controlled by the SDF.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 UK police: 6<sup>th</sup> arrest in attack probe</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41343301?ns_mchannel=social&amp;ns_campaign=bbc_breaking&amp;ns_source=twitter&amp;ns_linkname=news_central">http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41343301?ns_mchannel=social&amp;ns_campaign=bbc_breaking&amp;ns_source=twitter&amp;ns_linkname=news_central</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Police have arrested a 17-year-old boy in south London in connection with last Friday's terror attack on a Tube train.</p> <p>The teenager was detained after officers executed a warrant in Thornton Heath at around midnight on Thursday.</p> <p>It takes the total number of arrests in the investigation to six, all of whom remain in custody at a south London police station.</p> <p>A homemade bomb partially exploded on a rush hour District Line train at Parsons Green, injuring 30 people.</p> <p>Police have begun a search of the property where the teenager was arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act.</p> <p>Commander Dean Haydon, head of Scotland Yard's Counter Terrorism Command, said: "This continues to be a fast-moving investigation. A significant amount of activity has taken place since the attack on Friday.</p> <p>"We now have six males in custody and searches are continuing at five addresses. Detectives are carrying out extensive inquiries to determine the full facts behind the attack."</p> <p>Further searches are continuing at two addresses in Surrey and are expected to last some days, the police said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Report outlines US bombing of Raqqa</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/20/us-bombs-dropped-raqqa-campaign-exceeded-total-air/">http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/20/us-bombs-dropped-raqqa-campaign-exceeded-total-air/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>American and coalition aircraft dropped more bombs inside the Islamic State-held Syrian city of Raqqa in a single month than U.S. warplanes fired on Taliban and other extremist groups across all of Afghanistan during the same time frame, a recently released independent report on the coalition air war in Syria says.</p> <p>Officials at Airwars.com, a nonprofit research group focused on tracking civilian casualties tied to the offensive, say just over 6,000 bombs, shells and missiles targeting fighters from the terror group known as ISIS or ISIL were fired into Raqqa in August.</p> <p>In comparison, U.S., Afghan and NATO forces in Afghanistan fired just over 500 munitions against Taliban targets and those associated with the ISIS' Afghan cell, known as Islamic State in Iraq and Syria — Khorasan Group or ISIL-K, during that same time frame.</p> <p>The ten-fold increase of air and artillery strikes launched in the anti-ISIS offensive — which Airwars officials say resulted in 400 civilian casualties — compared to U.S. operations in Afghanistan, reflects the growing intensity of the Raqqa campaign, which is entering its fourth month.</p>

“Using explosive weapons such as bombs and missiles in populated areas poses a predictable risk to civilians,” Ole Solvang, deputy director of the emergencies division at Human Rights Watch, told Airwars. “The amount of munitions the coalition is firing into Raqqa raises serious concerns whether the coalition is taking all feasible precautions to minimize civilian casualties,” he added.

U.N. officials and international human rights advocates have been sounding the alarm over potentially high civilian casualties in the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, since the U.S. and coalition air campaign ramped up in 2014. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi raised the issue of civilian casualties during the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York this week.

Since 2014, American and allied forces have carried out over 26,000 airstrikes against suspected Islamic State targets in the region, according to figures compiled by the Defense Department. Officially, U.S. military officials claim coalition airstrikes have resulted in just over 600 civilian deaths, but unofficial tallies by independent nongovernmental organizations say the number of innocent civilians killed in the air war is in the thousands.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 ISIS changes to guerilla warfare tactics</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/20/isis-changes-war-tactics-after-losing-territory/">http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/20/isis-changes-war-tactics-after-losing-territory/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Islamic State command is calling for a big shift in battlefield tactics to guerrilla warfare, acknowledging that the U.S.-led coalition’s precise air campaign is methodically picking apart its clustered forces.</p> <p>A retired U.S. Army infantryman told The Washington Times that the new tactics may well be preparation for a metamorphosis. Islamic State will transform itself from an occupation force defending territory to an insurgency trying to undermine the authority of the governments of <a href="#">Iraq</a> and <a href="#">Syria</a>.</p> <p>The marching orders are contained in the Islamic State’s authoritative Al-Naba publication, which regularly releases guidance to fighters trying to retain the terrorist army’s weakening hold on land and people.</p> <p>Islamic State terrorists have been in retreat for months. The predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces — advised by American special operations forces and guided by blanket aerial surveillance — have taken large swaths of territory and liberated almost all of Raqqa, Islamic State’s proclaimed capital in central <a href="#">Syria</a>. With Syrian government forces besieging the city on another front, an <a href="#">SDF</a> military commander this week told The Associated Press that the fight to retake Raqqa was “in its final stages.”</p> <p>The Al-Naba directive is headlined, “How Do We Fight Under the Watchful Eye of the Crusader Planes?” according to a translation by the Middle East Media Research Institute, which monitors jihadi media.</p> <p>The article discloses a purported American/coalition tactic: The allies fire randomly to prompt Islamic State fighters to return bullets, which surveillance aircraft spot to pinpoint enemy positions. It also notes the role of ground spotters who conduct reconnaissance to find the exact GPS coordinates to call in air bombardment.</p> <p>U.S. Central Command said it believes the coalition has killed thousands of Islamic State fighters. The Islamic State publication said a big mistake for its fighters has been to try to hold territory using fortified stagnant positions, which make for easy air targets. The new orders tell followers to return to guerrilla-type warfare, staying on the move to ambush the allies while evading aerial detection.</p> <p>Other new tactics outlined in the piece:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dispatch a drone to draw coalition fire to find the opposition’s location.</li><li>• Use more camouflage and cut back on supply deliveries.</li><li>• Reduce the number of fighters stationed on the front lines.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refrain from firing until coalition forces get close enough that allied aircraft will not risk bombing friendly troops.</li> </ul> <p>“This is all good tactical advice and could ultimately help the jihadi to sustain an insurgency for a long period,” said Robert Maginnis, a retired Army colonel and counterterrorism author.</p> <p>“ISIS is exercising good operational security given the nature of its enemy and its decreased capabilities,” he said. “It must minimize its exposure to enemy detection in order to survive and continue to have a meaningful effect. Deception is key to survival for an insurgent force. ISIS will learn what draws fire without losses. That’s a lesson the Viet Cong learned to good effect against American forces during our long war.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Islamists lure Philippine youth</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-militants-recruitment-ins/islamists-lure-youngsters-in-the-philippines-with-payments-promise-of-paradise-idUSKCN1BW05N">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-militants-recruitment-ins/islamists-lure-youngsters-in-the-philippines-with-payments-promise-of-paradise-idUSKCN1BW05N</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>MARAWI CITY, Philippines (Reuters) - When he saw his commander holding the severed head of one of his neighbors, teenage Islamist fighter Jalil knew it was time to escape from Marawi City.</p> <p>Churches and homes had been ransacked, people had been shot or taken hostage, and now Philippines government troops, planes and helicopters were pounding the Islamic State loyalists who had taken over large parts of the town on May 23.</p> <p>Six days into the occupation, 17-year-old Jalil said he came across a crowd of fellow fighters led by rebel chief Abdullah Maute, including a boy who looked about 10. They were cheering the beheading of a Christian from Jalil’s neighborhood who was accused of being a spy.</p> <p>“Abdullah Maute was holding a man’s head, he was shouting ‘Allahu akbar’ (God is Greatest),” said Jalil, who spoke on condition his identity was not revealed to protect him from reprisals. “They chanted with him. At that point, I realized I had to get away. I wanted no part in this.”</p> <p>Jalil’s story could not be independently verified. Authorities have placed him in protective custody and say he has helped identify militants fighting in Marawi.</p> <p>Jalil is one of hundreds of Muslim youths lured by Islamic State followers in Mindanao, a poverty-plagued southern island of the Philippines that governments in Southeast Asia fear could become a regional stronghold for the ultra-radical group as it loses territory in Syria and Iraq.</p> <p>Rommel Banlaoi, executive director of the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research (PIPVTR), says foreign recruiters have been active in Mindanao for years but Islamic State’s powerful propaganda and the rise of the local Maute clan of militants have brought a surge in followers.</p> <p>“The recruitment is now happening very, very rapidly,” said Banlaoi, who monitors mobilization in Mindanao via informants and police interrogation reports of militants. “They’re very sophisticated. They are serious community organizers and serious recruiters.”</p> <p>Schools, madrassas (Islamic schools) and even day-care centers with extremist leanings have been identified as recruiting grounds.</p> <p>Authorities are working with religious teachers to keep radical ideas out of mosques and off curriculums, according to army spokesman Colonel Romeo Brawner. But provincial leaders and some military officers say the efforts are weak, partly because militants have plenty of money to reel youths into their ranks.</p> <p>The government says poor and uneducated males like Abdul and Faisal are easy prey in the Autonomous</p>

Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which comprises five of Mindanao's 27 provinces.

In 2015-2016, the ARMM had the lowest secondary-school enrolment and the highest dropout rate, according to the education ministry, with just 32.4 percent of ARMM youth in school compared to the national average of 68 percent.

Nearly half of ARMM families live in poverty, under the government's monthly income threshold of 9,064 pesos (\$177), according to official data, compared to the national average of 16.5 percent. In Lanao del Sur, where Marawi is located, 66.3 percent of families live in poverty.

But not all targets are poor, rural and uneducated.

Urban youth and students are also on the radar of recruiters who have infiltrated schools and universities and mastered social media, both to spread propaganda and to spot candidates for radicalization among Mindanao Muslims, known as Moros.

Prime targets, said Banlaoi, are those posting on social media about economic and social exclusion, or historical injustice. A hot topic is the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF) peace deal with the government, which promised to make ARMM a self-governing region called Bangsamoro (nation of Moros) but has been dogged by delays, breakdowns and mistrust.

Mohagher Iqbal, the MILF's top negotiator, said extremists exploit disillusionment with the Bangsamoro plan and promote violence by teaching only selected verses of the Koran.

"We monitor them, but because the recruitment is so secretive, we cannot manage to do everything," he told Reuters.

Banlaoi said extremists had access to technology used in the Middle East by Islamic State to track chatter on platforms like Facebook and Telegram, find suitable candidates and probe their friend networks. These recruiters included Indonesians and Malaysian militants who were "very persistent".

The government's fight is as much about winning hearts and minds among the Bangsamoro people as it is the battle for Marawi that has now ground on for nearly four months.

Militants try to sway public opinion with slick videos celebrating their triumph over "crusaders" they say are destroying Muslim homes and businesses in Marawi with artillery and air strikes.

The military says its focus groups have shown some displaced Marawi children "idolise" the militants. It has sent female soldiers to counsel children in evacuation camps and identify those already radicalized.

Jalil, the teen fighter said he was at first inspired by the rousing speeches of Abdullah Maute and his brother, Omarkhayam. But he was appalled by the bloodletting that ensued.

"I can't forget what I saw. Every street corner there were dead bodies, Christians and Muslims," he said. On the night of the execution he witnesses, Jalil abandoned his post guarding a bridge and rode a motorcycle for 50 km (31 miles) to evade army checkpoints. He turned himself in to police two weeks later.

A former military intelligence officer who has tracked the Maute clan said the military under-estimated them as a "ragtag group". But the Mautes have demonstrated a capacity to regroup and, thanks to deep pockets and the respect they command among local youth, would probably strengthen after Marawi is retaken by "filling vacancies" left by hundreds of dead fighters.

The worst-case scenario, the officer said, was if the Maute brothers survive. "Recruitment will be massive," he said. "There are lots of students idolizing them."

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Russia warns: will target US-backed militia</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-russia/russia-warns-u-s-it-will-target-u-s-backed-fighters-in-syria-if-provoked-idUSKCN1BW14U">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-russia/russia-warns-u-s-it-will-target-u-s-backed-fighters-in-syria-if-provoked-idUSKCN1BW14U</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia said on Thursday it had warned the United States it would target areas in Syria where U.S. special forces and U.S.-backed militia were operating if its own forces came under fire from them, something it said had already happened twice.</p> <p>Russia was referring to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias fighting with the U.S.-led coalition, which Moscow said had diverted from the battle to take Raqqa to Deir al-Zor, where Russian special forces are helping the Syrian army push out Islamic State militants.</p> <p>The Russian Defence Ministry said the SDF had taken up positions on the eastern banks of the Euphrates with U.S. special forces, and had twice opened fire with mortars and artillery on Syrian troops who were working alongside Russian special forces.</p> <p>“A representative of the U.S. military command in Al Udeid (the U.S. operations center in Qatar) was told in no uncertain terms that any attempts to open fire from areas where SDF fighters are located would be quickly shut down,” Major-General Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.</p> <p>“Fire points in those areas will be immediately suppressed with all military means.”</p> <p>In Deir al-Zor province of eastern Syria, Islamic State is battling two separate offensives, launched by the SDF on one side and the Syrian army and its allies on the other.</p> <p>The Syrian army, backed by Russian and Syrian war planes, has captured about 100 km (160 miles) of the west bank of the Euphrates this month, reaching the Raqqa provincial border on Wednesday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported.</p> <p>Syrian troops also crossed to the eastern side of the river on Monday. The SDF’s advances have been on the eastern bank of the river.</p> <p>The convergence of the two rival offensives has increased tensions in Deir al-Zor. The U.S.-backed militia said on Saturday they had come under attack from Russian jets and Syrian government forces, something Moscow denied.</p> <p>The SDF warned on Monday against any further Syrian army advances on the eastern riverbank.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Russia special forces aid Syria troops</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russian-special-forces-helping-syrian-troops-key-city-49997112?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russian-special-forces-helping-syrian-troops-key-city-49997112?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Russian special forces are helping Syrian government troops fight Islamic State militants in the battle underway for the strategic city of Deir el-Zour in eastern <u>Syria</u>, the defense ministry in Moscow said on Thursday.</p> <p><u>Russia</u> began its operation to support President Bashar Assad's offensive against the IS in Syria in 2015 but has mostly focused on providing air cover to government troops on the ground.</p> <p>The campaign for Deir el-Zour, Syria's largest eastern city, is caught up in a race between government troops and the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces.</p>

	<p>In the past two weeks, the pro-government forces, backed by Russian air cover and Iranian-allied militiamen, gained control of most of the city and crossed the Euphrates River to the area of SDF operations.</p> <p>Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, the Russian defense ministry's spokesman, said in a statement that Russian special forces have been deployed to help Syrian government forces fighting the IS militants outside Deir el-Zour.</p> <p>A Syrian government offensive late on Wednesday captured two villages on the Euphrates' western bank, liberating about 16 square kilometers (6 square miles) of land, Konashenkov said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Iraq forces attack last ISIS stronghold</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraqi-forces-begin-operation-retake-hawija-group-49995382?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraqi-forces-begin-operation-retake-hawija-group-49995382?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>In a push at dawn, Iraqi forces launched an operation on Thursday to retake the town of Hawija — one of the last extremist strongholds in Iraq — from the Islamic State group, according to a statement from the Iraqi prime minister's office.</p> <p>The operation began just two days after Iraqi forces began an offensive against IS holdouts in Iraq's vast western <u>Anbar province</u>, said Prime Minister <u>Haider al-Abadi</u>.</p> <p>Hawija, 240 kilometers (150 miles) north of Baghdad, is one of the last pockets of territory held by the extremist group in the country. IS has been steadily losing ground and seeing its sprawling caliphate that in 2014 spanned a third of the territory of Iraq and also neighboring Syria crumbling fast.</p> <p>Earlier this month, Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition planes stepped up a campaign of airstrikes on Hawija, targeting IS bases and weapons facilities.</p> <p>The Islamic State group "now faces the mighty (<u>Iraqi security forces</u> in) the last two areas where they hold any territory in Iraq," U.S.-led coalition spokesman Col. Ryan Dillon said Thursday morning in a statement posted on Twitter.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Malaysia arrests 7 suspected militants</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/malaysia-arrests-philipinos-suspected-abu-sayyaf-links-49997004?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/malaysia-arrests-philipinos-suspected-abu-sayyaf-links-49997004?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Malaysian police said Thursday they have arrested seven Filipinos believed to be members of the <u>Abu Sayyaf</u> militant group, as part of a crackdown on suspected terrorists in the country.</p> <p>National police chief Mohamad Fuzi Harun said the seven men, aged between 22 and 38, worked as security guards with private companies in Kuala Lumpur and surrounding areas. He said a 22-year-old suspect had formerly engaged in battles against Filipino troops and was involved in kidnappings in southern <u>Philippines</u>.</p> <p>Abu Sayyaf, which is notorious for bombings, ransom kidnappings and beheadings, is supportive of the Islamic State terror group and blacklisted as a terrorist organization by the United States and the Philippines.</p> <p>Mohamad Fuzi said in a statement that the men sneaked into <u>Malaysia</u> from eastern Sabah state on Borneo island, which is a short boat ride from the southern Philippines, in September 2015 and used false travel documents to fly to Kuala Lumpur.</p>

	He said their arrests came from information obtained following the Aug. 30 detention of eight suspected Abu Sayyaf members — two Filipinos and six Malaysian. Police have said one of the Filipinos was planning to attack the Aug. 30 closing ceremony of the Southeast Asian Games as well as an Independence Day parade the next day.
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## Suspicious, Unusual

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 B.C. police eye new 'Savages' biker club</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://vancouversun.com/news/crime/new-savages-biker-club-riding-out-of-hells-angels-island-hangout-gang-police-say">http://vancouversun.com/news/crime/new-savages-biker-club-riding-out-of-hells-angels-island-hangout-gang-police-say</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>VICTORIA — B.C.'s anti-gang unit is monitoring a new motorcycle club called the Savages operating out of the Langford clubhouse previously used by the Devil's Army.</p> <p>The Savages are believed to be a puppet club of the Nanaimo chapter of the Hells Angels, said Sgt. Brenda Winpenny, spokeswoman for B.C.'s Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, which targets organized crime groups.</p> <p>The Savages have set up headquarters at 2775 Spencer Rd., which was vacated by fellow Hells Angels puppet club the Devil's Army a few months after it opened in May 2015.</p> <p>Surveillance officers have spotted members of the new motorcycle club during group rides with the Hells Angels and its affiliates.</p> <p>"We have seen them on the last couple of rides the Hells Angels have had on the Island," Winpenny said. "So they are out there, they are publicly announcing themselves as being associated with the Hells Angels."</p> <p>About 100 bikers, including full-patch Hells Angels, rumbled through Langford on April 1 during a memorial ride for Mike Widner, a prospect for the motorcycle gang who was killed in March in what police believe was a targeted hit.</p> <p>On April 30, bikers rode from Nanaimo to Victoria in the annual ride in memory of Michael (Zeke) Mickle, the Nanaimo Hells Angels president who disappeared in 1993 and is presumed dead.</p> <p>It's unclear how many members are in the Savages. Their patch features a muscular man who resembles a Viking sporting a long blond beard and wielding an axe.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Fall to usher in summer-like weather</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2017/09/20/fall-will-usher-in-summer-like-weather-with-highs-of-80-in-places/">http://q13fox.com/2017/09/20/fall-will-usher-in-summer-like-weather-with-highs-of-80-in-places/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE – Summer's not ready to die quite yet.</p> <p>Though the fall equinox happens Friday just after 1 p.m., Q13 News meteorologist Walter Kelley said it will usher in one more stretch of <u>sunny, warm weather</u>.</p> <p>Some areas could even hit 80 degrees next week.</p> <p>"Don't you worry – there are some great days ahead with ample sunshine and highs in the lower 70s," Kelly said Wednesday evening. "A few next week, in areas like Auburn, Darrington and Packwood, will even get up to 80 degrees."</p>



“Enjoy some nice fall days!”

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**HEADLINE** 09/20 China chance for foothold near Europe

**SOURCE** <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/azores-withdrawal-gives-china-foothold-between-us-europe/>

**GIST** **Praia da Vitória, Terceira, the Azores** — João Meneses stares out the front passenger-side window as we speed past countless rows of nearly identical beige houses with orange, clay tile roofs, a picturesque suburban-style development overlooking the eastern coast of this small island.

"They had everything here, and now it's completely abandoned. You see all the tall grass?" Meneses says. "Everything's empty, there's not a single person living here."

We're looking at hundreds of American-owned, and nearly new, military family homes abandoned by the Department of Defense. It's a void that has pushed this strategically significant island to the brink, leaving an economic and political vacuum that may lead to a previously unthinkable circumstance: the government of China with a perch in the North Atlantic, between the United States and Europe.

Meneses works for the tourism office in this small town tucked between farm-checked green hills, the ocean and a large Portuguese Air Force base called Lajes Field, where the U.S. has long had an installation. The tour he's leading my wife and me on is unusual for everyone involved. Meneses is used to bringing tourists to scenic overlooks showcasing this historic village's narrow winding streets, its classic European town square, and of course the beach. But on this windy afternoon in mid-June, we're looking over a nearly empty air base and driving on the wide roads that mark American developments around the world.

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We're on vacation in the Azores, a beautiful nine-island archipelago about 1,000 miles west of Lisbon, Portugal, and 2,000 miles east of Boston. For most of our trip, we spend our days on the Azores' largest island, São Miguel, exploring its lush forests, swimming in oceanic hot springs, eating stew cooked in pots buried underground, where volcanic steam does the work of ovens, and marveling at the countless herds of cows that seem to defy gravity as they graze on steep emerald mountainsides.

But a phone call before our trip with Francisco Semião, the Virginia-based president of the Portuguese-American Association, convinces us to take the half-hour flight on a commuter plane between São Miguel and Terceira. He says a decision by the Defense Department to draw down forces on the island, removing most of a massive American military apparatus that had been a mainstay for decades, has led to desperate times.

"It's been devastated," Semião said. "There's kind of a run-on joke that there are more cows there now than people."

Azoreans feel betrayed, he said, and who could blame them?

The Azores are an autonomous region of Portugal, which after World War II negotiated an agreement with the U.S. allowing it to use the Lajes Air Base for 18 months. The U.S. never left.

In the decades since, Lajes has been a critical focal point for the military's operations in the North Atlantic, serving as a convenient launch point and hub of support for the Air Force, and as a crucial location for surveillance of Russian submarine movement.

The base was considered so important during the 1970s that the Pentagon, fearing a possible communist takeover of Portugal, developed plans to seize the Azores and give it independence.

At one point in the early 1990s, the American presence on Terceira included as many as 3,000 personnel

— many who lived on the island with their families — nearly six percent of the island's total population. The base employed hundreds, if not thousands of locals, sustaining businesses that catered to their American neighbors.

Then, in December 2012, everything changed.

The Defense Department announced plans to remove the vast majority of the American presence at Lajes, as part of a wider consolidation of forces in Europe. The change was planned in order to reduce costs, the department said.

By the time I arrived on Terceira, the U.S. had just 150 airmen on site. Hundreds of Portuguese support staff were laid off, and hundreds more American family members had been moved. The Department of Defense no longer allows its personnel to live with their families on the island.

The impact was felt immediately, said Tiberio Dinis, a Praia da Vitória alderman, and the town's culture minister. He said roughly 30 percent of the local economy left with the Americans.

"We have always had a relationship of great friendship with the North American presence and it has gone very well until recently. Ever since the downsizing this relationship has changed," Dinis said.

In the 70-plus years of American presence on Terceira, locals grew to embrace American culture. They ship in turkey to eat on Christmas, and talk about U.S. airmen sneaking them cans of Coke and American music during the 1960s and 1970s, when Portugal suffered under dictators. When a volcano on the Azorean island of Faial erupted for 13 months in 1957 and 1958, then-Senator John F. Kennedy led the charge to pass the Azorean Refugee Act, welcoming thousands of displaced immigrants.

But when it downsized, the U.S. left behind unfinished environmental cleanup projects, Dinis said when we met inside Praia da Vitória's 526-year-old town hall, a two-story stone building and bell tower overlooking the town square. And the island wasn't prepared for the rapid loss of income, not just in employment on the base, but in home rentals, at restaurants and bars, and even tangential services like babysitting.

Residents and public officials are desperate to find someone to fill the American void, Dinis said.

"If (the U.S.) is not available to boost these infrastructures and if there are other countries...everyone will be welcome, because we need them," Dinis said.

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Azores officials know Americans will be uncomfortable with China buying up land on Terceira.

You can't ignore the islands' strategic location, said Graça Castanho, a professor at the University of the Azores and former Regional Director for Azorean Communities Worldwide.

"This is the center of the world in a certain sense. We are talking about a group of islands that are located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, facing Europe, facing the U.S.," Castanho said during an interview at her home in the Azores' capital city, Ponta Delgada. "Everybody wants to have a position in the Azores."

That centrality has been used to explain recent visits to the tiny island by China's two most powerful people. In July 2014, President Xi Jinping flew to the island on his way home from South America. Last September, a delegation of at least 20 Portuguese-speaking Chinese officials spent weeks on the island, culminating in a two-day-long visit by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

Those overtures have raised concerns among U.S. lawmakers.

"The Chinese delegation is reportedly in negotiations to expand China's investments and its overall presence on the islands, including in the shipping port on Terceira," wrote Rep. Devin Nunes, chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, in a letter to then-Secretary of Defense Ashton

Carteron Sept. 20, 2016. "And they have also expressed interest in using the runway at Lajes Field."

China's interest in the Azores is no surprise, said Luís Andrade, who has written several books about the Azores' role in international politics, including one focused on U.S. foreign policy.

"There is one issue in geopolitics, which is if you create a vacuum of power, someone sooner or later will fill it," Andrade said. "China will be involved in the Azores or Portugal for commercial, economic reasons. Research projects, scientific, technological projects, that I can see."

In fact, China indicated last year when its State Oceanic Administration chief visited the Azores, that it was interested in establishing a scientific research facility there.

In a July interview, Nunes warned that China has used science as an excuse for espionage before.

"There's this talk of a research vessel, so that's the danger here, the Chinese moving a white ship that's supposedly a research vessel into the Atlantic," the California Republican said.

The Azores are the latest in a long line of places where in recent years China has sought to gain influence, expanding its reach while gaining access to oil supplies and other raw materials needed to support its rapidly growing middle class. That growth has brought China to countries throughout Africa, South America and the Middle East.

None of those locations were ever used for explicitly military purposes, until July, when ships set sail from China, carrying sailors to the country's first overseas base, in Djibouti.

A second naval base is planned for a Chinese facility in Gwadar, Pakistan, according to a Defense Department report published in May. The Defense Department expects China to continue growing its military presence in countries around the globe.

"China is expanding its access to foreign ports to pre-position the necessary logistics support to regularize and sustain deployments in the 'far seas,' waters as distant as the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, and Atlantic Ocean," the Defense Department wrote in its report.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 State Dept. kept Cuba attacks secret</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/as-number-of-injured-diplomats-soared-state-dept-kept-cuba-attacks-secret/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/as-number-of-injured-diplomats-soared-state-dept-kept-cuba-attacks-secret/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>An internal Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs document obtained by CBS News shows the State Department was fully aware of the extent of the <u>attacks on its diplomats</u> in Havana, Cuba, long before it was forced to acknowledge them.</p> <p>State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert only admitted the attacks were occurring after CBS News Radio first reported them August 9.</p> <p>Nauert told reporters at a delayed briefing that day, she had "some recent updates" on the incidents, but instead read nearly word-for-word from parts of the document that was prepared weeks, and likely months, in advance of the briefing.</p> <p>At the time, Nauert said she didn't believe the number of <u>Americans injured</u> was in the tens or dozens. But a source says that by the time the State Department first publicly acknowledged the attacks, it knew the reports of Americans injured had reached double-digits.</p> <p>"They for sure tried to keep the numbers secret," the source said.</p>

	<p>The State Department now says the incidents have affected at least 21 Americans -- which is higher than the first public tally of 16 that came two weeks after Nauert first addressed the attacks.</p> <p>The State Department responded to a request for comment only after this story was published.</p> <p>"Any suggestion that the department has been less than transparent with those affected by these incidents, their families or our colleagues in Havana is false," Nauert said in a statement to CBS News.</p> <p>"The State Department takes these incidents very seriously and is working with law enforcement authorities from across the U.S. government to determine their cause. We are employing every investigative tool possible. Our focus from the beginning of these incidents has been on the health and well-being of our personnel. They remain our priority."</p> <p>Global Affairs Canada has released even fewer details about Canadians affected.</p> <p>The attacks, which may involve the use of sound, began in late 2016, and investigators are probing whether covert acoustic devices targeting the diplomats caused a range of health issues including mild traumatic brain injury and hearing loss.</p> <p>Cuban officials in Havana and Washington have also been reluctant to answer questions about the attacks.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 SKorea approves aid to North</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-minister/south-korea-approves-aid-to-north-korea-north-calls-trump-barking-dog-idUSKCN1BW08B">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-minister/south-korea-approves-aid-to-north-korea-north-calls-trump-barking-dog-idUSKCN1BW08B</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korea approved a plan on Thursday to send \$8 million worth of aid to North Korea, as China warned the crisis on the Korean peninsula was getting more serious by the day and the war of words between Pyongyang and Washington continued.</p> <p>The decision to send aid to North Korea was not popular in South Korea, hitting President Moon Jae-in's approval rating. It also raised concerns in Japan and the United States, and followed new U.N. sanctions against North Korea over its sixth nuclear test earlier this month.</p> <p>The South's Unification Ministry said its aid policy remained unaffected by geopolitical tensions with the North. The exact timing of when the aid would be sent, as well as its size, would be confirmed later, the ministry said in a statement.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Audiologists skeptical in Cuba attacks</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/embassy-cuba-audiologist-ultrasound/2017/09/20/id/814790/">http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/embassy-cuba-audiologist-ultrasound/2017/09/20/id/814790/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Audiologists are skeptical sound can be used as a weapon as some reports have indicated is happening to U.S. diplomats in Cuba, Mashable reported.</p> <p>Twenty-one U.S. victims have been confirmed, with some reporting hearing loss or concussions, while others have suffered headaches, nausea or ear-ringing. Some are struggling with common word recall and concentration, according to an AP report released Monday.</p> <p>The AP story said inaudible sound was investigated as a possible reason, but an expert who spoke to Mashable said that was not likely.</p> <p>"The problem is that infrasound is very, very diffuse, and so it's not something you can really point at a particular building and localize to a particular embassy," said Colleen LePrell, a professor of hearing and</p>

	<p>science at the University of Texas in Dallas.</p> <p>Ultrasound waves, LePrell said, would only harm someone if the machine they were being transmitted with was right next to its target as the waves cannot get through barriers like infrasound waves can.</p> <p>There are no concrete results, either, that using ultrasound and infrasound as weapons would work according to researchers and military units who have explored it.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/21 Oklahoma cops fatally shoot deaf man</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/police-man-holding-stick-shot-officer-oklahoma-city-49969676">http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/police-man-holding-stick-shot-officer-oklahoma-city-49969676</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Oklahoma City police officers who opened fire on a man in front of his home as he approached them holding a metal pipe didn't hear witnesses yelling that he was deaf, a department official said Wednesday.</p> <p>Magdiel Sanchez, 35, wasn't obeying the officers' commands before one shot him with a gun and the other with a Taser on Tuesday night, police Capt. Bo Mathews said at a news conference. He said witnesses were yelling "he can't hear you" before the officers fired, but they didn't hear them.</p> <p>"In those situations, very volatile situations, you have a weapon out, you can get what they call tunnel vision, or you can really lock in to just the person that has the weapon that'd be the threat against you," Mathews said. "I don't know exactly what the officers were thinking at that point."</p> <p>Sanchez, who had no apparent criminal history, died at the scene. The officer who fired the gun, Sgt. Chris Barnes, has been placed on administrative leave pending an investigation.</p>
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## Crime, Criminals

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 SPD underreport hate crimes?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://kuow.org/post/seattle-police-department-doesnt-track-hate-crimes-well-says-city-auditor">http://kuow.org/post/seattle-police-department-doesnt-track-hate-crimes-well-says-city-auditor</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A new <u>report</u> says Seattle police may have been underreporting hate crimes.</p> <p>This after Police Department's own <u>findings</u> showed a substantial increase in hate crime reporting last year.</p> <p>City of Seattle auditors determined that each of the past four years, officers wrote an average of 17,000 reports that listed the bias category as "unknown."</p> <p>Further, auditors note that four bias categories were never added to the department's records system. The report found that this could have resulted in underreporting.</p> <p>SPD removed the option of using "unknown" from its bias category choices in July.</p> <p>The report also says officers could benefit from more frequent formal training and guidance on hate crimes.</p> <p>City Councilmember Lisa Herbold asked for the report. In a statement, she thanked the police department for responding to the report's recommendations.</p> <p>It's the first of two reports the auditor's office will release. The second will offer suggestions for how the city can improve its use of hate crime data.</p>

	In a statement Seattle police chief Kathleen O’Toole said the department routinely scrutinized its procedures. She said the department would work with the community “to remain a national model in preventing, responding to, and analyzing bias-based incidents.”
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Tacoma PD tickets for car camping</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article174287906.html">http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article174287906.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>In a little over two months since two new laws went into effect, Tacoma police have written dozens of citations and issued hundreds of warnings to people camping in public or sleeping in their cars.</p> <p>In July, the Tacoma City Council <u>adopted a pair of ordinances</u> meant to curb homeless camps and car camping as part of an effort to combat what city officials have called a crisis of homelessness.</p> <p>The goal of the ordinances is to reduce the impacts of homelessness on residential areas and business districts.</p> <p>Since the laws were enacted, the Tacoma Police Department has issued 28 citations for public camping and 37 citations for violations of the new car-camping rules, according to statistics available Tuesday.</p> <p>Before July, there was no law against public camping in Tacoma, and the city had no enforcement tool that would dissuade people who were moved along by officials from setting up somewhere else. The new law essentially bans homeless encampments except where they’re specifically allowed.</p> <p>The other law cut back from seven days to 72 hours the amount of time people can camp in one spot in their cars. That law also requires people to move one mile away after that amount of time to reduce the impact of car camping on certain neighborhoods where it’s prevalent.</p> <p>The new car camping law also comes with escalating fines. The first fine for violating the rules is \$50, the second is \$100, and three or more would result in a fine of \$250.</p> <p>In addition to 37 citations for violations of the car camping law, the owners of 343 vehicles have been warned since July, the city reported.</p> <p>Critics <u>have warned</u> that the law banning public camping criminalizes homelessness and is unconstitutional. When a jurisdiction fails to provide adequate options for shelter and then criminalizes things that homeless people need to do to survive, like sleeping, it could be considered cruel and unusual punishment, a violation of that person’s Eighth Amendment rights, civil-rights advocates have said.</p> <p>With the city’s shelters regularly at capacity with waiting lists, there might not be any place indoors for the homeless in Tacoma to go.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 NKorea owes NYC \$156K parking tickets</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.nbcnewyork.com/investigations/North-Korea-Parking-Tickets-United-Nations-New-York-Diplomat-Vehicle-Investigation-446105633.html?_osource=SocialFlowTwt_NYBrand">http://www.nbcnewyork.com/investigations/North-Korea-Parking-Tickets-United-Nations-New-York-Diplomat-Vehicle-Investigation-446105633.html?_osource=SocialFlowTwt_NYBrand</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>While North Korea's rogue leader, Kim Jong-un, spends untold resources on his nuclear program, there is one thing he is not paying for: His country's parking tickets.</p> <p>An I-Team investigation found North Korea's diplomatic mission to the United Nations has racked up more than 1,300 unpaid New York City parking tickets going back to the 1990s. As of this year, the total debt has climbed to more than \$156,000.</p>

The I-Team sent an inquiry to an email address listed on North Korea's diplomatic website, but a responding message said the email was incorrect.

The I-Team was able to track down a North Korean diplomat near the nation's UN office on 44th Street. He identified himself as Jong Jo, secretary of North Korea's UN mission. Jong Jo told the I-Team he believes there must be an error because New York City has had the right to withhold diplomatic parking privileges from vehicles that accumulate too many unpaid tickets.

A 2002 memorandum of understanding (MOU) between New York City and the U.S. Department of State does make clear New York City can withhold a diplomatic parking decal if a vehicle accumulates three or more unpaid tickets. But most of North Korea's parking debt occurred before 2002, when the nation's diplomatic vehicles regularly racked up dozens of ignored and unpaid violations with little consequence.

And North Korea is far from the only nation appearing to skip out on hefty illegal parking bills. An I-Team analysis found vehicles assigned to diplomatic delegations from a multitude of countries have accumulated more than \$16 million in combined unpaid penalties since the 1990s.

Among the notable scofflaws:

- Syria, with \$362,550 in parking debt
- Iran, with \$184,987 in parking debt
- Russia, with \$104,231 in parking debt
- China, with \$398,736 in parking debt

Since the MOU was signed in 2002, there has been a dramatic decrease in diplomatic parking abuse. The NYC Department of Finance says foreign nations have incurred just \$679,000 worth of parking violation liabilities in the last 15 years compared with millions prior to 2002. The de Blasio administration says parking tickets prior to 2002 are not forgiven -- and diplomatic delegations must still pay their debt.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Police: fatal shooting near Mukilteo</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/758123/police-investigate-fatal-shooting-near-mukilteo/">http://mynorthwest.com/758123/police-investigate-fatal-shooting-near-mukilteo/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>MUKILTEO, Wash. (AP) — A young woman was found dead near Mukilteo, Washington in what authorities believe was a homicide.</p> <p>KOMO-TV reports that Snohomish County sheriff's deputies were called to York Road at about 2 a.m. Wednesday on reports of gunfire in the area.</p> <p>When they arrived, they found a woman in her 20s shot to death inside a home. Another woman and three children were also in the house at the time, but none was injured.</p> <p>Police interviewed the woman, but they say they don't have any suspects in the killing.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Border Patrol arrests men at crossing</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/758079/border-patrol-arrests-men-at-washington-state-crossing/">http://mynorthwest.com/758079/border-patrol-arrests-men-at-washington-state-crossing/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BLAINE, Wash. (AP) — Authorities say officers arrested two wanted men at the border crossing in Blaine, Washington.</p> <p>The Bellingham Herald reported Tuesday that U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested the men at the Peace Arch border crossing last Wednesday.</p> <p>After checking their names in the National Crime Information Center, officers say they learned that 70-</p>

	<p>year-old Roy Sinclair, of Ronan, Montana, had a warrant from the Lake County Sheriff's Office in Polson, Montana, for an assault with a weapon charge.</p> <p>Sinclair was detained and taken to a Bellingham jail. Records show Sinclair was released, but it was unclear whether he had been extradited to Montana.</p> <p>The same day, officers ran 48-year-old Elmer Cross's name through the database and found out Cross had a warrant out of Tumwater issued by the Washington State Department of Corrections. Cross was detained and also taken to jail.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Man jailed 6mo. trafficking whale tusks</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/758595/washington-man-sentenced-for-trafficking-whale-tusks/">http://mynorthwest.com/758595/washington-man-sentenced-for-trafficking-whale-tusks/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — A Brinnon, Washington man was sentenced to six months in prison and fined \$25,000 for trafficking ivory from protected species.</p> <p>U.S. Attorney Annette Hayes says David L. Boone took part in an operation between 2006 and 2008 that smuggled narwhal tusks from Canada into the U.S.</p> <p>Narwhals are Arctic whales that are often called the “Unicorn of the Sea” because of their prominent tusk. Hayes says Boone sold the tusks on the black market at a huge profit.</p> <p>Hayes says Boone, who operates Boone Trading Company, also trafficked in sperm whale teeth and walrus tusks in 2011.</p> <p>The Canadian exporter of the narwhal tusks pleaded guilty to money laundering and was sentenced Wednesday in federal court in Maine to more than five years in prison.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Arrests: stealing purse in school shooting</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/759007/2-more-accused-of-stealing-moms-purse-after-school-shooting/">http://mynorthwest.com/759007/2-more-accused-of-stealing-moms-purse-after-school-shooting/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Authorities have arrested two additional suspects accused of stealing a purse from a car as parents searched for their children after last week's high school shooting in Washington state.</p> <p>The Spokane Sheriff's Office said Wednesday that 37-year-old Renee Mann and 39-year-old Larry Flett were arrested Tuesday evening on investigation of theft and vehicle prowling. Mann also faces identity theft and forgery charges.</p> <p>Another woman, 33-year-old Nicole Jensen, was arrested Monday. She's accused of theft and forgery.</p> <p>Authorities say the three broke into a vehicle belonging to a mother of a Freeman High School student. She had parked her car on Highway 27 and rushed to the school to find out whether her child was safe following the Sept. 13 campus shooting.</p> <p>Authorities earlier said the suspects racked up over \$36,000 dollars in fraudulent charges.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Police: woman serial-killer wannabe</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.heraldnet.com/news/serial-killer-wannabe-admits-trying-to-kill-man-she-met-online/">http://www.heraldnet.com/news/serial-killer-wannabe-admits-trying-to-kill-man-she-met-online/</a>



<b>GIST</b>	<p>EVERETT — An Edmonds woman who fantasized about becoming a serial killer faces more than two decades in prison after admitting that she tried to murder a man she met on Craigslist.</p> <p>Amy Caroline Brown, 24, told a Lynnwood police sergeant in January that she’s a psychopath who’s been plagued by homicidal thoughts since middle school. She said she planned to kill the Lynnwood man she met online, rip out his heart and eat it. Brown <u>stabbed the man</u> in the chest, collapsing a lung, a potentially fatal injury.</p> <p>Brown said she intended to kill until she was caught.</p> <p>“My plan was to not get caught until 50 years from the future when I just say, ‘Hey, I’m a serial killer, put me in prison because I can’t afford retirement,’” Brown said.</p> <p>Brown was charged with attempted first-degree murder. Prosecutors alleged that Brown had shown no remorse for stabbing the man at a Lynnwood motel Jan. 29 after the two met up at Cliffhangers, a local bar.</p> <p>Brown pleaded guilty Friday on the eve of her trial. Snohomish County deputy prosecutor Jarett Goodkin plans to ask a judge to sentence Brown to 18 years in prison. The defense will ask for leniency.</p> <p>Court papers indicate that Brown had been suicidal in the past and had stopped taking her medications before the attack. Because Brown admitted that she’d “demonstrated or displayed an egregious lack of remorse,” a sentencing judge can send her to prison beyond the range established by the state’s Sentencing Guidelines Commission. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced next month.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Slovenia jails 2 for murder streamed live</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/slovenia-sentences-men-murder-streamed-live-49977680?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/slovenia-sentences-men-murder-streamed-live-49977680?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A court in <u>Slovenia</u> has convicted and sentenced two men to prison terms for fatally beating their friend live on <u>Facebook</u>.</p> <p>The court in the eastern town of Krsko on Wednesday found 20-year-old Ales Olovec and 29-year-old Martin Kovac guilty of murder. Olovec was sentenced to 21 years and 11 months in prison, while Kovac received 10 years and 11 months.</p> <p>The two in February beat up 26-year-old Andrej Cekuta after an argument and streamed it live on social media for 23 minutes before the video was removed. Cekuta later died in a hospital.</p> <p>More than 100,000 had seen the video before it was taken offline.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Southwest Pct. homicides hit decade high</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://komonews.com/news/local/homicides-in-seattles-southwest-precinct-hit-decade-high">http://komonews.com/news/local/homicides-in-seattles-southwest-precinct-hit-decade-high</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE -- Detectives from the Seattle Police Department's Southwest Precinct have investigated four homicides so far this year, the most in at least a decade.</p> <p>The Southwest Precinct covers West Seattle and South Park. According to Seattle police crime stats, which look back up to ten years on their website, 2017 has hit a decade high in homicides.</p> <p>Despite the spike in homicides, SPD says violent crime is not on the rise in West Seattle. They don’t believe the homicides reflects a trend.</p>

	<p>Seattle police say families in those neighborhoods will see increased patrols if they haven't already.</p> <p>According to SPD crime stats, violent crime in the Southwest Precinct has not broadly spiked from 2016 to 2017. Rapes and robberies appear to have dropped this year.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Arrest in deadly West Seattle shooting</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.seattlepi.com/local/crime/article/Investigation-on-after-man-shot-dead-in-West-12215123.php">http://www.seattlepi.com/local/crime/article/Investigation-on-after-man-shot-dead-in-West-12215123.php</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A 21-year-old woman has been arrested in connection with a Tuesday night shooting that saw a man killed in West Seattle.</p> <p>The man, who has not been publicly identified, was shot dead shortly before 7 a.m. near the intersection of 31st Avenue Southwest and Southwest Thistle Street. Seattle Fire Department medics attempted to revive him but the man was pronounced dead at the scene.</p> <p>Investigators said the suspect fled the scene on foot and then left the area in a car. A suspect description was not immediately available.</p> <p>Homicide detectives and crime scene investigators responded to the shooting. The investigation is ongoing, though a 21-year-old woman was booked Wednesday morning into King County Jail in connection to the shooting.</p> <p>A Seattle Police Department spokesperson said the woman was arrested in Burien and interviewed by detectives. She is currently jailed on suspicion of murder.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Falsely accused 13yrs; man set free</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/man-falsely-accused-of-murder-freed-after-13-years-behind-bars/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/man-falsely-accused-of-murder-freed-after-13-years-behind-bars/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p><b>BALTIMORE</b> – Prosecutors say a Baltimore man who was convicted of murder 13 years ago was falsely accused, <u>reports CBS Baltimore.</u></p> <p>Lamar Johnson, 34, was freed from prison Tuesday. In 2005, Johnson was convicted of the first-degree murder of Carlos Sawyer, 31, who was gunned down in East Baltimore in 2004. But even after being sentenced to life, lawyers say Johnson always claimed his innocence and never changed his story.</p> <p>Investigators from the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project spent years examining Johnson's case, ultimately finding three new witnesses who said Johnson wasn't the gunman. After reviewing the new evidence, prosecutors with Baltimore's Conviction Integrity Unit realized the mistake that had been made.</p> <p>"First I want to thank God for blessing me with my freedom, then I want to thank my mother for always having my back and believing in my innocence," Johnson said after being released. "Then I would like to thank the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project for believing in my innocence and taking my case."</p> <p>According to a joint motion filed by the conviction integrity unit and the Innocence Project, on the day Sawyer was shot, police followed a lead given to them hours after the shooting that identified the shooter by a certain nickname. The motion says that Johnson was misidentified as the person who went by the nickname, and ultimately became the primary suspect of the murder investigation.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/21 UN mission in Congo forces reckoning
SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mission-congo-forces-reckoning-sex-abuse-scandal-49995620">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mission-congo-forces-reckoning-sex-abuse-scandal-49995620</a>
GIST	<p>She had been orphaned by a brutal conflict, but the 14-year-old girl found refuge in a camp protected by U.N. peacekeepers.</p> <p>The camp should have been safe that day: A delegation from the United Nations was paying a visit, and her grandmother had left her in charge of her siblings. That was the day, the girl says, that a Pakistani peacekeeper slipped inside their home and raped her in front of the other children.</p> <p>It was an attack so brazen it still haunts the U.N.'s top human rights official more than a decade after hearing the girl's story.</p> <p>"What on earth would it take for this soldier not to do it - to have all the heads of the U.N. together, and he still does it?" asked Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein, a member of the delegation that heard the girl's testimony in 2004.</p> <p>One year later, he helped write a landmark report to curb sexual abuse and exploitation within the U.N. system. Yet neither Zeid's outrage nor his report helped the girl.</p> <p>Her case is grimly emblematic of the underbelly of U.N. peacekeeping, and the organization as a whole: In a year-long investigation, the AP found that despite promises of reform for more than a decade, the U.N. failed to meet many of its pledges to stop the abuse or help victims, some of whom have been lost to a sprawling bureaucracy. Cases have disappeared, or have been handed off to the peacekeepers' home countries -- which often do nothing with them.</p> <p>If the U.N. sexual abuse crisis has an epicenter, it is Congo, where the scope of the problem first emerged 13 years ago - and where the promised reforms have most clearly fallen short. Of the 2,000 sexual abuse and exploitation complaints made against the U.N. worldwide over the past 12 years, the AP found that more than 700 occurred in Congo, where the U.N.'s largest peacekeeping force costs a staggering \$1 billion a year.</p> <p>The AP even found a girl who was raped by two peacekeepers; she gave birth to two babies by the time she was 14.</p> <p>With rare exception, the victims interviewed by the AP got no help. Instead, many are banished from their families for having mixed-race children - who also are shunned, becoming a second generation of victims.</p> <p>To this day, the violence continues: Congo already accounts for nearly one-third of the 43 allegations made so far in 2017.</p> <p>But the AP found that victims of car accidents involving U.N. vehicles are more likely to receive compensation than victims of rape. Why? Because those injuries were inflicted during the course of the U.N. worker's "official duties."</p> <p>Although the U.N. has substantiated at least 41 cases of paternity worldwide since 2010, it can only cite one instance in which a paternity payment was made, according to records of allegations online. The AP has independently confirmed a second paternity payment to a Haitian woman earlier this year.</p> <p>Justice is even more elusive, because the cases get referred to the alleged perpetrators' home countries. The AP found that even after a U.N. investigation discovered a three-year child sex ring involving Sri Lankan peacekeepers in Haiti, Sri Lanka prosecuted no one.</p> <p>And yet at this week's yearly U.N. gathering in New York, Sri Lanka was named to the U.N.'s "circle of leadership" for the next reform effort.</p>

	<p>Reform efforts have been hampered by poor record-keeping.</p> <p>A constant criticism has been that the U.N. does not keep proper records, and even in the most updated data from 2010 onward, there are scant details on how cases have been resolved or why some were found to be unsubstantiated. The U.N. has yet to update its database with records before 2010, a period during which allegations were lumped into a wide variety of categories.</p> <p>Even the number of cases is opaque. The United Nations doesn't categorize abuse and exploitation allegations according to the number of victims. Last year, for example, there were 145 allegations but 311 known victims.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>09/20 Coast Guard record \$6B cocaine year</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/inside-coast-guards-record-billion-year-cocaine-seizures/story?id=49988568&amp;cid=clicksource_81_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/US/inside-coast-guards-record-billion-year-cocaine-seizures/story?id=49988568&amp;cid=clicksource_81_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Miles off the coast of California, a Customs and Border Protection aircraft armed with high-powered surveillance cameras locked in on a tiny object glimmering in the horizon. Suspicious, authorities zoomed in closer and observed a triangular submarine-like vessel operating almost completely underwater to avoid observation and radar.</p> <p>The Coast Guard Cutter Steadfast was dispatched to intercept the suspected smuggling boat.</p> <p>It's been a record year for high seas drug seizures like these -- 50,000 pounds of cocaine and <u>heroin</u> valued at more than a half-a-billion dollars have been confiscated since August.</p> <p>A record \$6 billion dollars in drugs have been intercepted this year and nearly 600 suspected traffickers were arrested and turned over to federal authorities for prosecution, according to the U.S. Coast Guard and <u>Department of Justice</u>.</p> <p>On Wednesday, the Coast Guard offloaded 50,550 pounds of cocaine and heroin worth an estimated \$679.3 million in San Diego, CA. This morning's offload, which was attended by Attorney General <u>Jeff Sessions</u>, was the result of 25 separate seizures conducted by four Coast Guard cutters and a Navy ship, which began on Aug. 2, 2017.</p> <p>"We are facing a challenge in this country with <u>drug abuse</u>, addiction like we've never seen before," said Sessions.</p> <p>Sessions credited this rise to the availability, purity and low price of illicit drugs.</p> <p>Including today's offload, more than 455,034 pounds of cocaine, worth over \$6.1 billion, has been intercepted by the Coast Guard in Fiscal Year 2017, which topped the 2016 record of 443,000 pounds.</p> <p>Nearly 600 suspected smugglers were apprehended by the Coast Guard and turned over to federal authorities for prosecution in the U.S. during the year. That's up from 465 suspects in 2016 and 373 in fiscal year 2015.</p>
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