

Washington State Fusion Center  
**INFOCUS**



THURSDAY – 3 MAY 2018



	International	National	Regional and Local
<b>Events, Opportunities</b> <a href="#">Go to articles</a>	<a href="#">05/03 Afghanistan rolls out electronic ID cards</a> <a href="#">05/03 India: rainstorm kills 72, injures 100</a> <a href="#">05/02 Russia military spending drops 17%</a> <a href="#">05/02 Basque ETA announces full dissolution</a> <a href="#">05/02 Canada migrant crisis border crossings</a> <a href="#">05/02 China fortifies artificial islands w/missiles</a> <a href="#">05/02 Armenian mass protests pressure Russia</a> <a href="#">05/02 Palestinian leader remarks spark backlash</a>	<a href="#">05/03 Massive spike in 'deaths of despair'</a> <a href="#">05/03 Ranks of hate group include military</a> <a href="#">05/02 Pentagon: Iran navy lying low in sea lanes</a> <a href="#">05/02 Military cargo plane crashes in Georgia</a> <a href="#">05/02 Amazon flexes muscle over Seattle tax</a> <a href="#">05/02 DHS seeks drones to patrol the border</a> <a href="#">05/02 DOJ sends judges to southern border</a> <a href="#">05/02 Gangs behind, detention in US ahead</a> <a href="#">05/02 Puerto Rico govt. officials face probe</a> <a href="#">05/02 Backup cameras in all new US cars</a> <a href="#">05/02 Boy Scouts new name: Scouts BSA</a> <a href="#">05/02 Allergy season worsens every year</a> <a href="#">05/02 CDC: E. coli outbreak turns deadly</a> <a href="#">05/02 Calif. warns health risk B.C. oysters</a> <a href="#">05/02 More women step up for state office</a> <a href="#">05/02 NFPA active shooter response standard</a> <a href="#">05/02 More businesses mellow out pot in hiring</a>	<a href="#">05/02 Russians demand flag fly consulate site</a> <a href="#">05/02 Tacoma \$1M payout excessive force suit</a> <a href="#">05/02 Seattle govt. reacts to Amazon 'pause'</a> <a href="#">05/02 Amazon push back on Seattle head tax</a> <a href="#">05/02 Seattle homeless problems complaints</a> <a href="#">05/02 Opening Day boating season Saturday</a> <a href="#">05/02 May Day emphasized intersectionality</a> <a href="#">05/02 Spokane FD: drones for water rescues</a> <a href="#">05/02 Renton police, fire to battle for charity</a> <a href="#">05/02 Eastern Wash. teachers armed w/bats</a> <a href="#">05/02 Hanford workers sue for lost pension</a> <a href="#">05/02 Hanford construction milestone</a>
<b>Cyber Awareness</b> <a href="#">Go to articles</a>	<a href="#">05/03 Rise of online disinformation</a> <a href="#">05/03 Brazil hotbed financial cybercrime</a> <a href="#">05/03 Phishing alert: GDPR-theme scam</a> <a href="#">05/03 NKorea denies hacking UN database</a> <a href="#">05/03 Russia strengthening World Cup cyber</a> <a href="#">05/02 Iranians protest Telegram ban</a> <a href="#">05/02 UK police seize £500,000 bitcoin</a> <a href="#">05/02 NKorea antivirus software mystery</a> <a href="#">05/02 Ransomware exploits AnyDesk tool</a> <a href="#">05/02 Survey: sensitive data leaks in email</a> <a href="#">05/02 Claim: Dasan home routers vulnerable</a> <a href="#">05/02 New MassMiner malware targets servers</a>	<a href="#">05/03 Cybercriminals exposing oil, gas industry</a> <a href="#">05/02 How hate speech spreads online</a> <a href="#">05/02 Delaware data breach resource site</a> <a href="#">05/02 Pentagon: Chinese cellphones 'risk'</a> <a href="#">05/02 Fancy Bear behind LoJack malware?</a> <a href="#">05/02 Marines investigate online misconduct</a> <a href="#">05/02 Ransomware attacks jump 400% in 2017</a> <a href="#">05/02 Automation exacerbates cyber skills gap</a> <a href="#">05/02 DDoS interrupts online poker tournaments</a> <a href="#">05/02 Recall: heart implants over hack fears</a> <a href="#">05/01 Why cities are so bad at cybersecurity</a>	
<b>Terror Conditions</b> <a href="#">Go to articles</a>	<a href="#">05/03 UN: 28 females face Iraq death sentences</a> <a href="#">05/02 ISIS bombers attack Libya ballot sites</a> <a href="#">05/02 New ISIS threat against World Cup</a> <a href="#">05/02 Brit 'jihadi' planned vehicle attack</a> <a href="#">05/02 UK arrests British YPG militant</a>	<a href="#">05/03 Green Berets aid Saudis against Houthis</a> <a href="#">05/02 Court: Muslims can sue over No-Fly list</a> <a href="#">05/02 ISIS-inspired teen charged in terror plot</a> <a href="#">05/02 Attack on ISIS media portal short lived</a> <a href="#">05/02 New details of soldiers ambush Niger</a> <a href="#">05/02 Doctor: KSM brain injury claim a ploy</a> <a href="#">05/02 Gitmo detainee transferred to Saudis</a> <a href="#">05/02 Did bin Laden's death help ISIS?</a> <a href="#">05/02 ISIS leader dead or alive?</a>	
<b>Suspicious, Unusual</b> <a href="#">Go to articles</a>	<a href="#">05/03 Canada police investigate public mischief</a> <a href="#">05/02 US: NKorea pull cables out nuke site</a> <a href="#">05/02 NKorea relocates imprisoned Americans?</a>	<a href="#">05/02 Hospitals shortage critical opioid drugs</a> <a href="#">05/02 Hawaii to ban sunscreen lotions?</a> <a href="#">05/02 Hawaii volcano eruption possible</a> <a href="#">05/02 Police plead: end 'paintball wars'</a>	<a href="#">05/02 Dangerous teen trend: JUULing at school</a> <a href="#">05/02 Oregon horse sues former owner \$100K</a> <a href="#">05/02 Boeing: 2M aviation workers needed</a> <a href="#">05/02 Trash closes popular swimming hole</a>
<b>Crime, Criminals</b> <a href="#">Go to articles</a>	<a href="#">05/02 France under fire for May Day chaos</a> <a href="#">05/02 Group: 11,232 flee violence in Mexico</a> <a href="#">05/02 'Kite bombs' set fire to Israel farmland</a> <a href="#">05/02 South Sudan: kidnapped aid workers free</a> <a href="#">05/02 China to crackdown rural organized crime</a>	<a href="#">05/03 'Mexican Mafia' crackdown w/85 arrests</a> <a href="#">05/03 Connecticut: explosion injures 8 police</a> <a href="#">05/02 FBI: cities w/fewest crimes</a> <a href="#">05/02 Men arrested at Starbucks settle</a> <a href="#">05/02 'White Rabbits' charged in bomb plots</a> <a href="#">05/02 Newark NJ mass surveillance program</a> <a href="#">05/02 Vegas shooting body-cam video release</a>	<a href="#">05/02 Vandals strike Olympia after May Day</a> <a href="#">05/02 Arrested May Day protester released</a> <a href="#">05/02 Racial tensions, fights Spanaway HS</a> <a href="#">05/02 Man charged w/bomb threats</a>

[DISCLAIMER and FAIR USE Notice](#)

**Event Calendar**

[Top of page](#)

Date	Event	Location/Time	Other Information
------	-------	---------------	-------------------

<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	**indicates new event/new information added during reporting week		

## Events, Opportunities

[Top of page](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Renton police, fire to battle for charity</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/new-day-northwest/get-fit-renton-police-officers-and-firefighters-preview-and-epic-battle-for-charity/281-547975215">https://www.king5.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/new-day-northwest/get-fit-renton-police-officers-and-firefighters-preview-and-epic-battle-for-charity/281-547975215</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Renton police officers and firefighters are teaming up for a fun charity football game they hope will become a yearly tradition. This weekend's inaugural game benefits Seattle Children's and will include entertainment and some friendly competition on the field.</p> <p>Renton police officers Robert McGruder and Tim Cumming, and Renton firefighters Greg LeBlanc and Bryan Estibal went head to head in a fitness challenge, then chatted about the upcoming game.</p> <p>Event information:</p> <p>Date: Sunday, May 6, 2018 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Location: Renton Memorial Stadium, 405 Logan Ave. N, Renton, WA 98057</p> <p>Entertainment will be provided by Hazen High School's cheer, dance, drumline and DJ Drew.</p> <p>Children 12 and under are free.</p> <p>Ages 12-18 are \$5 and 19+ are \$7.</p> <p>Tickets can be purchased at the event.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 May Day emphasized intersectionality</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattleweekly.com/news/marchers-remark-on-may-days-intersectionality/">https://www.seattleweekly.com/news/marchers-remark-on-may-days-intersectionality/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>On Tuesday, hundreds of people marched through the streets of Downtown Seattle for the 19th annual May Day March for Immigrant and Workers Rights. As they trailed behind dancers wearing headdresses, demonstrators clutched signs that called for livable wages, the end of deportations, and fairer immigration policies.</p> <p>May 1 Action Committee for El Comité led the march that started in Judkins Park, and concluded about two hours later outside of the federal courthouse. Although the police were originally concerned that clashes would break out, there was nary a dispute between anti-capitalist activists and the conservative fraternal group Proud Boys or the pro-Trump Patriot Prayer movement.</p> <p>Malaya Movement organizer Donna Denina, 41, pulled her two children behind her in a caravan as the sound of helicopters buzzed overhead. She joined the march's Womxn of Color and Families Contingent "to highlight that women workers, particularly migrant women, are often the most impacted when it comes to worker's issues in terms of pay, labor exploitation, wage exploitation," Denina said, adding that many immigrant women who are experiencing financial hardship leave their families to work abroad. "Our message is really in solidarity with those ... migrant worker women that have to undergo those particular issues."</p>

Others attended the event to voice their opposition to some of President Trump's immigration policies. The nationwide ban of refugees and immigrants from predominately Muslim countries hit close to home for SEIU Healthcare organizer Baboucarr Njai, a 46-year-old Muslim originally from Gambia. In fact, one of his friends had been deported back to Gambia just last month. Njai ultimately expressed a hope for "equal rights and justice for all."

The theme of intersectionality dominated Tuesday's march, as some demonstrators voiced their support for workers rights as well as their opposition to the construction of a new youth detention center. J.M. Nimocks, a 24-year-old Masters of Social Work student at University of Washington, marched with local environmental justice organization Got Green. Nimocks pulled a caravan filled with snacks for other demonstrators' children as she marched through the International District. Nimocks joined the demonstration to call attention to the displacement of minority communities in South Seattle, and the alleged unfair labor practices at grocer New Seasons Market. "We're definitely in support of making sure that workers rights are being respected, and that they're fairly compensated," Nimocks said, her voice eventually drowned out by the cacophony of drumming and chanting.

Speeches at this year's March for Immigrant and Workers Rights expanded beyond labor issues, remarked Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship pastor Diakonda Gurning. As one of the march's lead organizers since 2006, Gurning cited the Seattle Women's March as a catalyst for greater intersectionality at Tuesday's event in comparison to previous years' gatherings. "I'm here because I have seen that fear has started seeping into our communities. So I think that I'm coming out to remind people that this is the exercise of being in a democracy," Gurning said as he walked down Second Avenue. A moment later he hopped onto a makeshift stage positioned in front of the federal courthouse to share his message with the crowd.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Amazon flexes muscle over Seattle tax</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-amazon-tax-threat-20180502-story.html">http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-amazon-tax-threat-20180502-story.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Amazon.com Inc. is playing hardball with its hometown of Seattle as the City Council nears a vote on a new tax targeting large employers to address homelessness and housing affordability.</p> <p>Amazon, the dominant employer in the city, said it's pausing construction planning on a new office tower in Seattle and is considering subleasing office space it has already leased in another downtown corporate high-rise under construction. The two projects would house about 7,000 employees.</p> <p>Amazon is facing a public reckoning over how much responsibility the company bears for the city's congestion and soaring housing costs.</p> <p>"This is a hometown employer that Seattle is ambivalent about," said Margaret O'Mara, a history professor at the University of Washington. "Amazon has catalyzed so much of the growth, but it has exacerbated the problems that were pre-existing conditions."</p> <p>The company has been hedging its bets spreading its workforce around, most visibly in its search for a second headquarters, which has 20 cities vying to land the new complex. This week, it also announced expansion plans in Boston and Vancouver, Canada.</p> <p>"It's called throwing your weight around," said Scott Galloway, a marketing professor at New York University's Stern School of Business. "Nobody, with the circus that is the HQ2 competition, has done more to inspire a downward spiral of transfer of wealth from municipalities to big tech than Amazon."</p> <p>Amazon has been building out a network of owned and leased office towers as its workforce in Seattle has grown to more than 40,000. As recently as last month, Amazon seemed to be expanding in its hometown. The company confirmed a March tally by the Downtown Seattle Assn. that the company was aiming to have almost 14 million square feet in the city. That was up from a prior plan of 12 million square feet.</p>

The new structure, known as Block 18, is adjacent to its new office complex, including its signature spheres, and contains a motel that Amazon has let a nonprofit use to temporarily house homeless families.

"Pending the outcome of the head tax vote by City Council, Amazon has paused all construction planning on our Block 18 project in downtown Seattle and is evaluating options to sub-lease all space in our recently leased Rainer Square building," Amazon spokesman Drew Herdener said in a statement.

The Seattle City Council has been debating a new per-worker "head tax" on large employers to fund homeless services and affordable housing. The tax would raise an estimated \$75 million a year. The business community has generally opposed new taxation, saying it will impede job creation.

"Seattle has rapidly growing city revenues, record low unemployment, and double the national average in wage growth," said Matt McIlwain, managing director at Seattle-based venture capital firm Madrona Venture Group. "I hope the city government looks for better alignment with the whole community, including the largest employers, to best address the city's priorities going forward."

A task force that the City Council convened to come up with the head-tax proposal clearly had Amazon in its sights. The group's report last month didn't mention the company by name but noted that using net income or profit as a way to gauge whether a company had an ability to pay the tax would probably fall short, since "a rapidly growing business may choose to reinvest large amounts of revenue and report a loss, even though the business may be doing very well indeed."

"This is big powerful rich company, run by the richest man in the world, ratcheting up the pressure on a city," said Richard Florida, a professor at the University of Toronto, who has cautioned cities against giving Amazon too much in the HQ2 search. "They say publicly we want a sustainable community, a community with transit and affordable housing. How do you get that community if you don't pay taxes?"

The Seattle Times earlier reported Amazon's construction pause.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Ranks of hate group include military</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/ranks-of-notorious-hate-group-include-active-duty-military/">https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/ranks-of-notorious-hate-group-include-active-duty-military/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The 18-year-old, excited by his handiwork at the bloody rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, last summer, quickly went online to boast. He used the handle VasillistheGreek.</p> <p>"Today cracked 3 skulls open with virtually no damage to myself," the young man wrote on Aug. 12, 2017.</p> <p>Vasillios Pistolis had come to the now infamous Unite the Right rally eager for such violence. He belonged to a white supremacist group known as Atomwaffen Division, a secretive neo-Nazi organization whose members say they are preparing for a coming race war in the U.S. In online chats leading up to the rally, Pistolis had been encouraged to be vicious with any counter-protestors, maybe even sodomize someone with a knife. He'd responded by saying he was prepared to kill someone "if shit goes down."</p> <p>One of Pistolis' victims that weekend was Emily Gorcenski, a data scientist and transwoman from Charlottesville who had shown up to confront the rally's hundreds of white supremacists. In an online post, Pistolis delighted in how he had "drop kicked" that "tranny" during a violent nighttime march on the campus of the University of Virginia. He also wrote about a blood-soaked flag he'd kept as a memento.</p> <p>"Not my blood," he took care to note.</p> <p>At the end of the weekend that shocked much of the country, Pistolis returned to his everyday life: serving</p>

in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Of the many white supremacist organizations that have sprung up in the past few years, Atomwaffen is among the more extreme, espousing the overthrow of the U.S. government through acts of political violence and guerrilla warfare.

Journalists with ProPublica and FRONTLINE gained insight into Atomwaffen's ideology, aims and membership after obtaining seven months of messages from a confidential chat room used by the group's members. The chat logs, as well as interviews with a former member, reveal Atomwaffen has attracted a mixture of young men — fans of fringe heavy metal music, a private investigator, firearms aficionados — living in more than 20 states.

But a number are current or former members of the U.S. military. ProPublica and FRONTLINE have identified three Atomwaffen members or associates who are currently employed by the Army or Navy. Another three served in the armed forces in the past. Pistolis, who remains an active duty Marine, left Atomwaffen in a dispute late in 2017 and joined up with another white supremacist group. Reporters made the identifications through dozens of interviews, a range of social media and other online posts, and a review of the 250,000 confidential messages obtained earlier this year.

Joshua Beckett, who trained Atomwaffen members in firearms and hand-to-hand combat last fall, served in the Army from 2011 to 2015, according to service records. Online, Beckett, 26, has said that he worked as a combat engineer while in the Army. Combat engineers are the Army's demolitions experts.

In Atomwaffen chats, Beckett, using the handle Johann Donarsson, said he was building assault rifles and would happily construct weapons for his fellow members. "Give me the parts and the receiver and I'll get it all together for you," Beckett wrote in August 2017.

Beckett also wrote about suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of combat in Afghanistan, and how his time in uniform caused him to radically revise his political beliefs, prompting him to abandon mainstream conservatism in favor of National Socialism.

In online discussions, Beckett encouraged Atomwaffen members to enlist in the military, so as to become proficient in the use of weaponry, and then turn their expertise against the U.S. government, which he believed to be controlled by a secret cabal of Jews.

"The army itself woke me up to race and the war woke me up to the Jews," Beckett wrote, adding, "The US military gives great training ... you learn how to fight, and survive."

Another Atomwaffen member used the chats to talk about the combat he saw during the U.S. troop surge in Afghanistan.

"I was in the infantry in the army in Afghanistan and did a lot of ... shit," the member wrote. He said the Army wanted him to become a chemical weapons specialist, but he chose to join the infantry. He spent his time, he wrote, blasting "lead into sand niggers."

ProPublica and FRONTLINE specifically identified Pistolis and Beckett through interviews with a former Atomwaffen member who knew them, their digital footprints, and the group's internal records. In his online activities, Pistolis left many clues to his identity, including pictures of himself he uploaded to private white supremacist chat rooms and photos of himself on his public Facebook page. Beckett's internet handles and Facebook content also helped us to confirm him as the man who had spent five years in the Army before joining Atomwaffen.

Reporters contacted Beckett via phone and Facebook messages, but did not get a response. Beckett's Facebook page features an image of Donald Trump driving a white convertible emblazoned with the number 1488, a white supremacist code, and a call for whites to jump in the car.

In a series of phone and email exchanges, Pistolis claimed he did not attend the Charlottesville rally and did not assault Gorcenski or anyone else. His online messages about Gorcenski, he said, were nothing more than jokes. He admitted to harboring “alt right” or white supremacist beliefs, though he claimed he had “infiltrated” Atomwaffen on behalf of another extremist group and was never actually a member.

Pistolis, who indicated to reporters that he is stationed in North Carolina, pulled down his personal Twitter account shortly after being contacted by ProPublica and FRONTLINE. He also took down his account on Gab, a discussion channel favored by white supremacists, many of whom have been banned from Twitter and other social media platforms. His postings indicate that after leaving Atomwaffen last November — other members accused him of risking unwanted attention for the group by showing up with an Atomwaffen flag at a rally in Tennessee — he became an active participant in online forums involving the Traditionalist Workers Party, another neo-Nazi group.

Since May 2017, three people involved with Atomwaffen have been charged with five murders. Devon Arthurs, an early Atomwaffen recruit, is facing trial for allegedly murdering two other members of the group in Florida. A teenager in Virginia stands accused of killing his ex-girlfriend’s parents, who had tried to keep their daughter away from him; the 17-year-old, who was in the process of joining Atomwaffen, is being tried as a juvenile. Atomwaffen member Samuel Woodward, 20, has pleaded not guilty in the slaying of Blaze Bernstein, a gay, Jewish college student whose body was discovered in a Southern California park early this year. Authorities believe Woodward stabbed Bernstein more than 20 times.

Despite the mounting body count, it is unclear just how aggressive law enforcement — at the federal or local level — has been in investigating the group. None of the men charged in the homicides had a military background.

The FBI had no comment when asked about Atomwaffen.

One Atomwaffen member caught up in a high-profile criminal case has a quite direct link to the armed forces.

Atomwaffen’s founder, Brandon Russell, 22, was arrested last year after investigators discovered a cache of weapons, detonators and volatile chemical compounds in his home, including a cooler full of HMTD, a powerful explosive often used by bomb-makers, and ammonium nitrate, the substance used by Timothy McVeigh in the Oklahoma City attack. Russell was also in possession of two radioactive isotopes, americium and thorium. In September 2017, he pleaded guilty to a single charge of unlawful possession of explosives and was later sentenced to five years in federal prison.

At the time of his arrest, Russell, 22, had been serving in the 53rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion of Florida’s Army National Guard. A spokesman for the Marine Corps, Major Brian Block, said the corps would be looking into Pistolis and would likely open a formal probe into his activities last summer.

“There is no place for racial hatred or extremism in the Marine Corps,” Block said in a written statement. “Bigotry and racial extremism run contrary to our core values.”

He added, “The guidance to Marines is clear: participation in supremacist or extremist organizations or activities is a violation of Department of Defense and Marine Corps orders” and can lead to expulsion from the service.

Contacted by ProPublica and FRONTLINE, Carla Gleason, a Department of Defense spokesperson and Air Force major, said the military relies on its commanders to identify problematic activities and respond judiciously.

“What we’re doing is empowering commanders at every level to counsel service members on their conduct, and take disciplinary action where appropriate,” she said.

“We do recognize the right to free speech and thought,” said Gleason. But, she added, the Department of

Defense insists that service members observe the military's policies prohibiting discrimination and extremist behavior.

ProPublica and FRONTLINE documented Pistolis' role in Charlottesville through an analysis of photos and video footage from the rally and his own online admissions, including a statement Pistolis posted to an Atomwaffen chat room saying he "kicked Emily gorcenski" during the march at the University of Virginia.

ProPublica and FRONTLINE contacted the University of Virginia Police Department to check the accuracy of the material involving Pistolis at the Unite the Right Rally, and to see if there was an investigation underway. Sgt. Casey Acord reviewed the material, and later said his agency would investigate Pistolis' apparent role in the melee that occurred during the torch-lit march on school property.

Reporters also showed pictures, video and chat posts to Gorcenski, the activist attacked in Charlottesville. While she didn't suffer any significant physical injuries that night, the experience, Gorcenski said, was profoundly traumatizing — and she has faced frequent harassment from fascists and white supremacists since the rally. She said she plans to move out of the country.

Gorcenski quickly identified Pistolis as the man who kicked her.

"He's telling the truth in these logs about what happened," she said.

Like many white supremacist groups, Atomwaffen initially coalesced in cyberspace — the founders and early members met each other through a fascist discussion forum called Iron March, which is now defunct. But in the past few years, the organization — it is estimated to have 80 to 100 members — has moved into the real world.

Atomwaffen has conducted weapons and other training exercises in at least four states, according to the chat logs and interviews. Current and former members of the military have found that their skills are highly valued by Atomwaffen and have assumed leadership roles within the group. Drawing on their battlefield experience, Marines and soldiers have helped to shape the group into a loose collection of armed cells, according to the chat logs and people with direct knowledge of the organization.

There has long been a worrisome if not fully understood nexus between the military and the white supremacist movement. Over the past half-century, many of the movement's key leaders have come from the ranks of the military, including George Lincoln Rockwell, commander of the American Nazi Party, Ku Klux Klan leader Louis Beam, and Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler.

Pete Simi, co-author of the book "American Swastika" and an associate professor at Chapman University in California, said white supremacists often draw inspiration from the armed forces.

"Extremist culture tends to be paramilitary — the Klan, for instance, is a clearly paramilitary organization, it was started by former military officers," said Simi. "A lot of traditional neo-Nazi groups tend to emulate military structure ... Some skinhead groups do that as well."

Organizations like Atomwaffen, he said, "need military people who have explosives experience, firearms experience, combat fighting experience" that they can pass on to other members. But there's also another factor, in Simi's view. "I think there's also a credibility aspect to it, in that it gives more credibility to the group to have people who served in the U.S. military. It brings a certain gravitas."

Last year, nearly 25 percent of active duty service members surveyed by the Military Times said they'd encountered white nationalists within the ranks. The publication polled more than 1,000 service members.

The results are jarring in a number of ways, not least because each branch of the armed forces has regulations that bar service members from joining white supremacist organizations. Army policy, for example, forbids soldiers from participating in "extremist groups" that foster "racial, gender, or ethnic

hatred or intolerance.” The Marine Corps has a similar regulation, Order 1900.16, which mandates swift penalties for Marines caught engaging in “extremist or supremacist activities.”

Air Force directives note that airmen who participate in racist organizations can face court martial for disobedience.

For Simi, a key question is whether the Department of Defense and various military branches are effectively enforcing these policies by screening volunteers as they enter the service and thoroughly investigating reports of extremist activity by service members. If the figures in the Military Times survey “are anywhere close to credible, then there’s clearly a problem that isn’t being addressed,” Simi said.

A former Marine who currently works for a government intelligence agency told ProPublica and FRONTLINE that the military’s seriousness about combating white supremacists in its ranks can vary.

“At the command level — and publicly — the military takes any extremism seriously,” the ex-Marine said. “There is a zero-tolerance policy regarding Nazis. We defeated them in World War II, and they have no business currently serving in the US military.”

“At the unit level, I believe there’s a willful ignorance,” the former Marine added. “If neo-Nazis aren’t allowed to enlist in the military, and if nobody I know is a neo-Nazi, there must not be any within my unit” seems to be the standard. It’s difficult to take seriously that which you don’t believe exists.”

Pistolis appears to have got involved in the neo-Nazi movement long before he joined the armed forces. In online conversations with members of Atomwaffen, Pistolis said that he’d started hanging around with the National Socialist Movement “and other skinheads” when he was 16. He listed some of his favorite books: “Mein Kampf” was one; the autobiography of American Nazi Party leader George Lincoln Rockwell was another. A third was “The Turner Diaries,” the notorious 1978 novel about race war in America that inspired McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber.

Pistolis said in the chats he was also a fan of “Siege,” a 563-page tome preaching the virtues of assassination, political terrorism and guerrilla warfare against the U.S. government that has become something of a bible for Atomwaffen members.

After joining Atomwaffen, Pistolis took on a leadership role in the summer of 2017, running the North Carolina cell and vetting new recruits to the group, according to the chat messages as well as a former member.

Before the Unite the Right rally, Pistolis, who is slim with dark close-cropped hair and a distinctive widow’s peak, sketched out designs for two flags he wanted to bring to the event. One was yellow and black and featured a coiled snake poised to strike and the logo of the Golden Dawn, a Greek fascist party linked to murders and violence in that country. On the other flag, he blended the stars-and-bars of the Confederate battle flag with the Sonnenrad, a circular emblem used by the Nazis and adopted by the new generation of white supremacists.

Pistolis paid a company to manufacture the flags and shared a picture of them online in a private chat room for people attending the rally; the chat logs were obtained by Unicorn Riot, a leftist media collective.

Over a span of roughly two months, Pistolis posted at least 82 messages in the chat room, which was hosted by Discord, an online messaging service aimed at video gamers.

His views were quite clear: Charlottesville Vice-Mayor Wes Bellamy, who is African American, was a “monkey” in a fancy suit. He shared photos of Bellamy and Charlottesville Mayor Michael Signer, who is Jewish, captioned with the words, “Niggers, Jews...Bad News.”

In Charlottesville, Pistolis, wearing a black and white Adidas track suit, was among the hundreds of torch-bearing young men who marched onto the campus of the University of Virginia after sunset on Aug. 11



chanting “blood and soil,” a slogan of the Third Reich, and performing straight-arm Nazi salutes. Photos and video from that night show Pistolis participating in the event.

The march ended at a monument to Thomas Jefferson, where the white supremacists were met by a small group of anti-fascist counter-protesters, many of them students, who had gathered at the foot of the statue. There was pushing and punching. Pistolis ran through the crowd and launched a flying kick at Gorcenski.

“He traveled here from out of state with the intent to do violence,” said Gorcenski. “His own statements match up perfectly to what’s happened.

“The military is supposed to protect American civilians and here we see that our soldiers are attacking American civilians — and celebrating it.”

The melee that night immediately intensified, as white supremacists bludgeoned the counter-protesters with lit torches and streams of pepper spray shot in all directions. Dozens of men attacked the anti-fascists.

Pistolis was front and center, according to his post. He told his fellow Atomwaffen members how to spot him in videos of the altercation that were popping up on YouTube. “If you see a guy in a tracksuit that’s me,” Pistolis wrote.

Another Atomwaffen member reminded Pistolis that he could face a court martial if he was arrested for brawling.

“So don’t get caught doing stupid shit,” wrote the Atomwaffen member, an Army soldier.

The day after the torch march, Pistolis was fighting again, this time in the streets surrounding Charlottesville’s Emancipation Park. He was carrying one of the flags he’d had specially made for the rally and wearing a black baseball cap, combat boots and a T-shirt with the stylized skull logo of “The Punisher,” the comic book vigilante.

At least two photos taken by a Getty Images photographer capture him smashing a counter-protester with the wooden flagpole.

Later, Pistolis shared a photo of the aftermath with his friends in Atomwaffen. The blue and red flag was splattered with blood. He said he’d “cracked a skull” and left “3 mother fuckers bleeding.”

Another member asked if he could share the “bloody flag” picture on Atomwaffen’s Twitter account.

About a month after the rally, Pistolis got into an online conversation with an Atomwaffen member from Virginia. Unite the Right was “so much fun,” the Virginia man wrote.

Pistolis promptly uploaded two photos of himself from that weekend.

“I can confir[m],” he wrote.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 DHS seeks drones to patrol border</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://fcw.com/articles/2018/05/02/dhs-border-drones.aspx">https://fcw.com/articles/2018/05/02/dhs-border-drones.aspx</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Department of Homeland Security plans to test small drone aircraft with sensors that can identify people and vehicles from above, track flying objects and collect data on active shooters.</p> <p>Test will take place in controlled airspace at an Army base in Hattiesburg, Miss., according to an April 30 request for information, posted on FedBizOpps.</p>

<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	<p>The Robotic Aircraft Sensor Program – Borders RASP-B is part of an overarching, ongoing effort by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate’s borders and maritime security division to identify UAS capabilities, deficiencies and how the technology can fit into DHS’ many missions.</p> <p>RASP-B is focused primarily border security and law enforcement capabilities, allowing border security agents to test small Unmanned Aerial Systems and sensor supplier systems under "typical border mission scenarios."</p> <p>The assessments will be of flight-proven small drone systems, including rotary and fixed wing vehicles and their integrated sensors, according to the announcement.</p> <p>The small UAS systems will be run through a variety of border-security and law enforcement related scenarios, including their ability to map terrain in 3D and see changes in the terrain.</p>
--------------------------------------	---

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 More women step up for state office</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2018-05-02/women-target-old-boys-networks-in-state-politics">https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2018-05-02/women-target-old-boys-networks-in-state-politics</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Nevada and Arizona could make history this fall, with both states positioned to elect the first female-majority legislative chambers in the nation's history.</p> <p>Nationally, campaign operatives say they cannot name a single state that does not have a record number of women running for state legislatures, and female candidates alone could flip party control of at least seven legislative chambers. The stage is set for a historic year for female political power at a time when state governments are filling the power vacuum left by a feuding Congress.</p> <p>The candidates include teachers, businesswomen, military veterans and lawyers. Some are single mothers, and many are first-time candidates. Some have been inspired by the #MeToo movement, which has unleashed an outpouring of complaints from female legislators, lobbyists and staffers of sexual harassment, abuse and toxic work environments in America's statehouses. Some want to focus more on health and family issues they believe legislatures are ignoring. They are Democrats, Republicans and independents, representing a wide array of views on issues.</p> <p>The women share one mission: to break up the old boys' clubs they see in the nation's statehouses and bring in more female perspectives. While candidates say they're not driven solely by gender, they do believe having more women in state senates, assemblies and houses will change the culture of state legislatures, both in terms of how women are regarded and in terms of public policy.</p> <p>Other female legislators and first-time candidates are frustrated by what they see as a lack of attention to issues important to women and families – whether it's access to birth control, help in caring for elderly parents or sufficient funding for K-12 education. And while they note that not all women have the same views or offer the same solutions, they wonder why their voices have been so underrepresented in the institutions that make policy directly affecting the lives of their states' residents.</p> <p>For some female candidates, the explosion of sexual harassment allegations in statehouses has underscored long-simmering resentments over how women are regarded there.</p> <p>The #MeToo movement has unleashed an outpouring of complaints by female legislators, lobbyists and staffers of sexual harassment and abuse. Nine lawmakers in six states have been accused of sexually harassing, molesting or – in one case – raping another legislator. In one of those states, Pennsylvania, a state representative has secured a protective order against her former boyfriend and fellow House member amid allegations he threatened to kill her. Legislatures are scrambling to write or rewrite sexual harassment policies and penalties, but victim advocates say many fall short. In one state, New York, the initial negotiating team to write a new state sexual harassment policy included no women.</p>

Women now hold 1,874 of the 7,383 state legislative seats nationally, according to a tally by Rutgers University's Center for American Women and Politics. About 61 percent of the female lawmakers are Democrats, and 38 percent are Republicans. While a record number of women are running for Congress this year (471 filed, or are expected to file, for the House, and 57 for the Senate, including women who have already lost primaries, according to CAWP) the potential for expanded female power in state legislatures could have more impact, experts say.

In another sign of female empowerment, two women will face off this fall in the 28th state House district in Washington state. "As the oldest, and the girl, I did a lot of housework. I played the family role" in a traditional Hispanic household, growing up as a military brat, says the single GOP candidate, Maia Espinoza. Now, with two small children of her own, she wants to do more to take care of the military families in her neighborhood. And her husband has been her biggest cheerleader, she says. "I can't praise my husband enough for being supportive, encouraging, and in the end, pushing me to do it," says Espinoza, who started a nonprofit for Latino leadership.

Neither Democratic nor Republican party officials can provide a solid number of how many women are running nationally for state legislative seats, since the filing deadlines have not passed in many states. But they agree there has been a tsunami-level wave of female candidates.

While Democrats have elected more women to office than Republicans, blue states can't claim stronger track records than red states or battleground states. Nor are states consistent in their support for female candidates and political power. Wyoming, for example, was the first state to give women the right to vote in 1869 – when it was still a territory – and one of the first to elect a female governor. Yet it has the lowest percentage nationally (11.1 percent) of women in its state legislature. Vermont, with a 40-percent female legislature, ranks near the top for women in the statehouse. Yet it is the only state in the nation that has never sent a woman to Congress.

Female representation in legislatures in proudly liberal California (22.5 percent), Massachusetts (25 percent) and New York (27.2 percent) hover around the national average. But Western states that only recently have become competitive for Democrats – Arizona (40 percent), Nevada (38.1 percent) and Colorado (38 percent) – have far stronger records in electing women to state legislative seats.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	<b>05/03 Massive spike in 'deaths of despair'</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/3/deaths-despair-suicides-alcohol-or-drug-fueled-dea/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/3/deaths-despair-suicides-alcohol-or-drug-fueled-dea/</a>
GIST	<p>Americans are increasingly succumbing to what researchers call “deaths of despair” — suicides and alcohol- or drug-fueled deaths — according to a study being released Thursday that paints a grim picture of health in the U.S.</p> <p>Despair deaths spiked by 50 percent from 2005 to 2016, the Commonwealth Fund says, with states in the Northeast and Appalachia faring particularly badly.</p> <p>The findings add to a growing body of evidence that feelings of isolation and growing economic anxiety are exacting a significant toll, particularly on less-educated residents of rural America, even as people in other advanced countries live longer.</p> <p>“This is predominately an American problem,” said David Blumenthal, president of the Commonwealth Fund.</p> <p>Researchers said they couldn’t point to a single explanation for the rising despair and the spike in deaths, though states with the highest death rates track with where the opioid crisis has hit the hardest.</p>

West Virginia was by far worst off, with 83 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2016 as a result of suicide, alcohol or drug use. New Hampshire was second at roughly 64 per 100,000, followed by Ohio at 63.

Rates rose in those states and Pennsylvania and Massachusetts by at least 20 percent from 2013 to 2016, as the deadly opioid-synthetic fentanyl hit the streets.

Nebraska fared the best, at 28.5 deaths per 100,000 in 2016, followed by Hawaii, which topped the Commonwealth Fund's broader scorecard on 40 measures related to health outcomes and access to care.

But nationwide, the trend is dour. Federal scientists reported in December that U.S. life expectancy had fallen for a second consecutive year in 2016 — the first multiyear drop since the early 1960s. Even the 1980s HIV/AIDS epidemic didn't create such a drop.

The decrease was driven by a 21 percent spike in deaths from drug overdoses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

John Auerbach, president and CEO of Trust for America's Health, said he can track the uptick in deaths back to the widening supply of prescription opioids in the late 1990s, to widespread addiction and now to the heroin and fentanyl epidemic.

"During that same period of time, that's where we see this widening of the gap between the rich and the poor," he said, attributing despair, suicide and substance abuse to the disparity.

"Your sense of where you are is that much more dramatic," he said. "You're that much more aware of being at the bottom."

Shannon M. Monnat, an associate professor of sociology at Syracuse University, said the roots of the despair run deep.

"Opioids may have been the spark, but a spark needs kindling in order to ignite," she said. "This kindling is decades of economic restructuring, rising income inequality, social disconnection and loss of social cohesion, an emphasis on consumption to satisfy us and give our lives meaning, our demand for quick fixes to medical ailments, and an economic regime that emphasizes the market and maximizing shareholder value over collective societal well-being."

Mr. Auerbach's group earlier this year tallied the number of suicide, alcohol and drug overdose deaths and came up with 142,000 for 2016.

That was up from 91,000 in 2007 and 64,500 in 1999 — more than doubling over the past two decades. The population has grown only 17 percent during that period.

Princeton professors Anne Case and Angus Deaton sounded the alarm over "deaths from despair" two years ago, when they reported that mortality rates among non-Hispanic whites had risen sharply since 1999.

They said the problem appeared to compound itself over time as whites with little education struggled in the job markets and fell prey to family problems and substance abuse issues.

"Ultimately, we see our story as about the collapse of the white working class after its heyday in the early 1970s, and the pathologies that accompany this decline," they wrote last year in the *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, a scholarly journal.

Death rates among blacks and Hispanics have continued to fall, regardless of educational attainment, and Europeans have seen a decline, too.

"Mortality rates in comparably rich countries have continued their premillennial fall at the rates that used

to characterize the United States,” the Princeton professors’ paper said.

Mr. Blumenthal said it is difficult to make “one-to-one” comparisons between the U.S. and the European Union, though higher rates of opioid prescribing could account for the increasing death rate in America, even though many European countries suffer from higher unemployment rates.

European countries tend to have more robust safety nets, he said, so inhabitants are less likely to fall into poverty and despair as a result of unemployment.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Pentagon: Iran navy lying low in sea lanes</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/2/iranian-navy-lies-low-strait-hormuz-us-military-un/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/2/iranian-navy-lies-low-strait-hormuz-us-military-un/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Iran’s once-aggressive navy is lying low in critical sea lanes around the Persian Gulf, and top U.S. military leaders are not sure why.</p> <p>American warships operating in the waterways near the Iranian coastline have routinely been harassed by Tehran’s naval forces in recent years. Tensions came to a head after the capture and brief detention of 10 American sailors who mistakenly entered Iranian waters in January 2016.</p> <p>But the sea lanes in and around the Strait of Hormuz have been relatively calm for U.S. vessels over the past six months, Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, told reporters Wednesday, although antagonism between Washington and Tehran is ratcheting up on virtually every other front.</p> <p>“We’ve seen generally fewer proactive actions by the Iranians in the Persian Gulf recently,” the four-star admiral said alongside Navy Secretary Richard Spencer and Gen. Robert Neller Marine Corps commandant, during a briefing at the Pentagon.</p> <p>Adm. Richardson refused to speculate on why Iranian vessels appear to have stood down in the face of American sea power in the strait while Iran and the rest of the world await President Trump’s decision on whether to effectively pull out of the 2015 accord that curbed Tehran’s nuclear programs in exchange for a lifting of international economic sanctions.</p> <p>Other countries that signed the deal — France, Britain, Germany, China and Russia — say they still support the accord. Iranian diplomats have been trying to position Tehran as the aggrieved party if the U.S. withdraws.</p> <p>Those nuclear tensions were exacerbated after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu unveiled intelligence Monday suggesting that Iran lied about the origins of its nuclear bomb program before signing the 2015 accord and has worked to “expand its nuclear weapons knowledge” since.</p> <p>Adm. Richardson said Wednesday that “it would be pure speculation” to draw any link between Tehran’s naval activities in the region and its efforts to salvage the nuclear pact.</p> <p>Still, the lull in aggression by Iranian naval forces against U.S. and allied warships in the Strait of Hormuz — a key chokepoint for oil shipped from the Middle East to global markets — is a dramatic break from Iran’s standard operating procedure.</p> <p>Although the waters of Strait of Hormuz are relatively calm, Iranian forces and their allies in western Syria are causing concern among Navy vessels deployed in support of the American-led coalition battling the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.</p> <p>“There is increasing activity and ... there is some increasing tension in the Eastern Mediterranean” near the Syrian and Lebanese coastlines, Adm. Richardson said.</p>

“By and large, the interactions between the United States and foreign vessels have been safe and professional,” the four-star admiral said, but increasing aggression by Iranian-backed forces in Syria and Lebanon and the potential threat they pose to Israel have raised concern.

“It is one of the new dynamics in this ... ‘great power’ competition. This is one of those manifestations. And so we’re watching that very closely,” he said.

Adm. Richardson said Navy leaders were focused on keeping “operational constructs” such as deconfliction lines and other means of communications, to ensure that the increasingly complex situation in post-Islamic State Syria does not boil over into a new conflict.

“As you get more activity and potentially more tension, we just want to make sure we are minimizing the opportunity or risk of miscalculation” or increased violence in the region, the Navy chief said.

Navy officials have previously suggested there had been a decline in direct confrontations between the U.S. and Iranian navies.

In total, there were 14 unsafe and unprofessional interactions in 2017 compared with 36 in 2016, an average of 2.5 such encounters per month over that period, Navy spokeswoman Lt. Chloe J. Morgan told CNN in January.

Mr. Trump appeared to hint at the shift in Iranian tactics last week in his lengthy interview with the hosts of “Fox & Friends.”

“We haven’t seen their little boats circling our ships in the ocean lately,” Mr. Trump said.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Armenian mass protests pressure Russia</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/armenian-mass-protests-paralyze-the-capital-pressuring-ally-russia-1525277306">https://www.wsj.com/articles/armenian-mass-protests-paralyze-the-capital-pressuring-ally-russia-1525277306</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>YEREVAN, Armenia—Demonstrations intensified around the country over the government’s refusal to hand over power, which will likely test the will of the ruling Republican Party and the patience of Russia, Armenia’s biggest ally.</p> <p>Weeks of on-and-off-again mass protests, which brought the capital Yerevan and other cities to a standstill on Wednesday, are aimed at forcing the ruling party to install opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan as prime minister. They flared up again late Tuesday after the Republican Party refused to vote for him as premier.</p> <p>“Our tactic is to increase pressure until [there is] a change of power,” Russian news agencies reported him as saying. “We are ready for any scenario. Now it’s not important what’s happening in government cabinets. What’s important is what happens in the street.”</p> <p>Mr. Pashinyan emerged in April as a leader among demonstrators angry over a decision by former President Serzh Sargsyan to go back on his word and try to retain power by standing for prime minister. Since then, Mr. Sargsyan has resigned, but the protests have continued amid anger about chronic economic problems and perceived arrogance by the ruling elite. Acting Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan, a former Gazprom official, has largely laid low during the protests.</p> <p>In an attempt to avoid the violence that has rocked Armenia before, Mr. Pashinyan has warned supporters against confrontation. He has also emphasized Armenia’s strategic partnership with Russia in an attempt to keep suspicions down in Moscow that his movement, as with protest movements in Ukraine and Georgia, could be used to push Armenia toward a more Western-oriented foreign policy.</p>

	<p>Russia considers the protest movement a domestic dispute and doesn't see it as a threat to its influence in Armenia. It has remained nearly silent since a delegation of Armenian government figures visited Moscow last week while protests continued in Yerevan.</p> <p>“Russia will do little more than call for a peaceful solution and be ready to work with whoever ends up victorious,” said Anton Lavrov, visiting fellow at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies policy-research group, who has written about Russia’s military presence in the region in the book “Waiting for the Tempest—South Caucasus.”</p> <p>Nonetheless, Russia is reluctant to see groundswells of popular politics in a region it considers within its sphere of influence, something Russian opposition politicians say the Kremlin fears could come to Russia.</p> <p>Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly criticized protesters at home and abroad as being unconstructive and dangerous.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Hanford workers sue for lost pension</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/974388/hanford-workers-seek-lost-pension-benefits-in-new-lawsuit/">http://mynorthwest.com/974388/hanford-workers-seek-lost-pension-benefits-in-new-lawsuit/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — A lawsuit has been filed in federal court on behalf of Hanford Nuclear Reservation workers, claiming they lost pension benefits under a failed economic development program.</p> <p>The Tri-City Herald reports the suit filed this week by attorney Douglas McKinley seeks \$100 million in damages and a judgment to be determined at trial.</p> <p>About 2,200 workers were moved to enterprise companies from being contractors with the U.S. Department of Energy more than two decades ago.</p> <p>The suit claims the six companies were no longer considered part of Hanford, leading to caps on years of service that figured into the workers’ pensions.</p> <p>McKinley says many of the enterprise company workers are entitled to tens of thousands of dollars in additional retirement benefits. The lawsuit seeks to restore full pension benefits.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Hanford construction reaches milestone</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/974494/hanford-contractor-completes-1st-building-at-vit-plant/">http://mynorthwest.com/974494/hanford-contractor-completes-1st-building-at-vit-plant/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — Officials at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation have reached a milestone by completing the first building that will be part of a \$17 billion plant to convert radioactive waste into glass.</p> <p>Contractor Bechtel National says the building was transferred to plant management for commissioning last month.</p> <p>The sprawling vitrification plant has been under construction for years and is supposed to begin treating waste by 2023.</p> <p>The wastes are left over from the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Wastes from underground storage tanks at Hanford will be converted into glass-like logs for eventual burial in a national repository when one is built.</p> <p>Bechtel officials say the transfer of the building shows that progress is being made at the so-called vit plant, which has been slowed by safety and design concerns.</p>

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Spokane FD: drones for water rescues</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/974694/spokane-fire-department-plans-drone-use-in-water-rescues/">http://mynorthwest.com/974694/spokane-fire-department-plans-drone-use-in-water-rescues/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The Spokane Fire Department says it is planning to incorporate the use of drones in its water rescue efforts.</p> <p>KREM-TV reports the fire department is seeking to expand the role of drones after it began using the technology a year ago in its firefighting work.</p> <p>Fire Lt. Todd Powell says the drone has thermal imaging, which could help rescuers quickly locate a person in the water as it flies above the river.</p> <p>Powell says the department can sometimes have up to three rescue calls a day at the river during the summer.</p> <p>The department is seeking permission from the Federal Aviation Administration to fly the drones at night and in downtown Spokane.</p>
<a href="#">Return to</a>	
<a href="#">Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Tacoma \$1M payout excessive force suit</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/974989/tacoma-to-pay-1m-in-case-of-girl-thrown-in-parking-lot/">http://mynorthwest.com/974989/tacoma-to-pay-1m-in-case-of-girl-thrown-in-parking-lot/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — The city of Tacoma's total payout is now \$1 million in a lawsuit filed by a teenage girl who was thrown to the ground by an off-duty Tacoma police officer working security at a mall.</p> <p>The News Tribune reports the City Council on Tuesday approved paying the amount, which includes \$550,000 for the jury verdict and a recently negotiated amount of \$450,000 for attorney's fees and costs, to settle the matter.</p> <p>Monique Tillman and her brother, Eric Branch, sued Officer Jared Williams and the city of Tacoma in U.S. District Court, alleging that Williams' conduct while attempting to detain them in May 2014 in the Tacoma mall parking lot was excessive. A jury found their claims to be true and awarded them \$550,000.</p> <p>Williams used his stun gun on Tillman after throwing her to the ground.</p> <p>He remains employed with the Tacoma Police Department.</p>
<a href="#">Return to</a>	
<a href="#">Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Seattle govt. reacts to Amazon pause</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/974598/amazon-seattle-head-tax-headquarters/">http://mynorthwest.com/974598/amazon-seattle-head-tax-headquarters/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Seattle leaders often argue that companies are blackmailing the city when they say they will leave town if a new head tax is passed. It will never happen, according to Seattle Councilmember Kshama Sawant.</p> <p>Amazon could be making its counter argument. It is halting plans to expand in Seattle, citing the head tax as the deterrent. The online retailer has planned new office space in Seattle, along with up to 8,000 new jobs. But The Seattle Times reports that Amazon has told its developers it is halting its project to build a 17-story office building until after the Seattle City Council votes on its proposed head tax. That could happen sometime in May.</p>



The company is also considering subleasing all office space in its Rainier Square Building.

#### Amazon and Seattle's head tax

The news comes a couple of months after some local leaders attempted to “hit the refresh button” on the city’s relationship with Amazon. But as the council pursues a new tax on large companies like Amazon, the online retailer appears to be hitting the pause button on Seattle.

Council members are attempting to raise more money to spend on the region’s affordability and homelessness crises by implementing an employee hours tax, aka a head tax. The success of large tech companies like Amazon — drawing highly-paid employees to the area — has been pointed to as one reason that the region’s affordability problem has exploded.

The current proposal is to tax employers 26 cents per employee, per hour. The city will shift to a payroll tax in 2021. It aims to raise \$75 million annually. The council could vote on the proposal as early as May 14.

Meanwhile, Amazon continues to make investments outside of Seattle. Earlier this week, the company announced it will expand operations in Vancouver B.C. with a new 416,000-square-foot office building, allowing the company to add 3,000 new jobs. The Vancouver announcement received a warm welcome from Canadian leaders, drawing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the event. Trudeau said “...companies like Amazon are bringing even more energy, vision – and thousands of good jobs – to Canada. We are proud to champion these companies.”

A day later, Amazon announced it will add 2,000 jobs in Boston as it expands the tech hub there.

The company also plans to expand into a second headquarters — HQ2 — equal to that of its Seattle location. That new location will add up to 50,000 new jobs to whatever city it lands in. The search for a new city is still on. No Washington cities made it onto the list of finalists, despite the Puget Sound region’s counties and cities coming together to offer the company locations for the second headquarters.

#### Seattle leaders respond

Hours after news broke of Amazon halting its headquarters construction, Seattle city leaders began to respond.

“I’m deeply concerned about the impact this decision will have on a large range of jobs – from our building trades, to restaurant workers, to nurses, manufacturing jobs and tech workers,” said Mayor Jenny Durkan. “At the same time, our city must urgently address our homelessness and affordability crisis and lift up those who have been left behind. I fundamentally believe we can do both by working together. In the upcoming days, I will be bringing together council members as well as business, labor and our community leaders to work together to see how we might forge common ground in dealing with our challenges while keeping jobs.”

At a Wednesday afternoon council meeting, Councilmember Kshama Sawant said she would like the council to go beyond the proposed \$75 million head tax revenue and get \$150 million from large Seattle companies.

“I think we should hold the council’s feet to the fire to pass \$150 million for affordable housing,” Sawant said. “...When we are talking about \$150 million from the largest businesses, I think even that much is pocket change for these wealthiest businesses.”

She speculated that Amazon could be on the hook for \$20 million a year under the head tax, and that “Amazon is perfectly capable to paying that, and double, and even four times that amount.” Sawant said that Trump’s tax cuts have given Amazon a \$789 million “windfall” which could pay its portion of Seattle’s head tax over 40 years.

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw said that the council has been hearing from local labor unions about fears they will be losing construction jobs if Amazon halts its plans in Seattle.

#### Growing Seattle

Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda said Wednesday that the head tax is not about one company, but 500 of the largest companies in Seattle that make more than \$20 million annually. She argues that the housing crisis warrants exploration of the tax, even though it won't completely solve the problem.

"The fact that we have 1,000 people moving into this region a week, means that we don't have enough housing for the folks who are here and the folks who are coming," Mosqueda said. "...I don't think that this down payment will solve the problem. I wish it would, I wish we had enough funding to solve the problem ... the increased rates in rent and the cost of housing in our community means that we have to act with urgency. Folks are dying right now."

The city council has recently doubled the money spent on homelessness and has spent \$1 billion on the issue over the past 20 years, according to the Times. The crisis persists. Seattle currently spends about \$200 million annually on homelessness and affordability.

Councilmember Bruce Harrell said that the council is not making it clear how it will use the additional money from the head tax to directly address homelessness and affordability.

"It's hard looking at Amazon's growth and looking at the wealth that has been created ... it's hard extracting lot of public sympathy for a company owned by the richest man in the world," Harrell said. "... I'm not angry at him for being the richest man in the world. It's not as though the average person on the street is saying, 'Dang it, we just got Jeff Bezos for \$20 million.' I don't think that evokes a lot of sympathy."

"Whether it is \$150 million or \$50 million, if we don't move the needle then all we did was tax big business ... how do we know whether \$75 million, more or less, achieves the problem, particularly not just for affordably ... but for immediate homelessness?" he said. "I think we get caught up on these tangents; whether you are protecting big businesses, or destroying big businesses. Let's focus on solving the problem."

The Times speculates that Amazon could be halting construction as a "political maneuver" to fight back against the head tax. Whatever the motivation, the news could radiate through the local economy, affecting housing and development.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 NFPA active shooter response standard</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://ohsonline.com/articles/2018/05/02/nfpa-releases-active-shooter-standard.aspx">https://ohsonline.com/articles/2018/05/02/nfpa-releases-active-shooter-standard.aspx</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The National Fire Protection Association has released NFPA 3000 (PS), Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response Program. Developed with insights from law enforcement, fire, EMS, medical providers, facility managers, private industry, DHS, the CIA, FBI and others, the provisional standard will help communities cope with mass casualty incidents. It addresses unified planning and offers response and recovery guidance, as well as civilian and responder safety considerations, according to NFPA.</p> <p>The 46-member Technical Committee responsible for NFPA 3000 is NFPA's largest startup committee ever. Committee members provided job-specific insight and real-world observations from mass killings at Mandalay Bay Resort, the Pulse Nightclub, Sandy Hook Elementary, the Sikh Temple, the Boston Marathon, and other less publicized events.</p>

"The NFPA 3000 process, from start to finish, has been an exceptional example of emergency responders and other safety-focused practitioners swiftly coming together to provide invaluable perspective and address a significant threat in our world," NFPA President and CEO Jim Pauley said. "The proactive, integrated strategies recommended and defined in NFPA 3000 will go a long way in helping communities plan, respond, and recover from active shooter and hostile events."

NFPA said this was only the second time in its 122-year history that it has issued a provisional standard. Provisional standards are developed in an expedited process to address an emergency situation or other type of special circumstance.

After the Pulse Nightclub massacre in June 2016, Chief Otto Drozd of Orange County Fire in Florida requested that NFPA develop a standard to help authorities come together and create a well-defined, cohesive plan that works to minimize harm and maximize resiliency. NFPA responded by establishing the NFPA Technical Committee on Cross Functional Emergency Preparedness and Response. In mid-April, NFPA 3000 was issued by the NFPA Standards Council, making it the first consensus document related to active shooter and hostile events.

[Return to Top](#)

***Click on link to view Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program***  
<https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=3000&tab=research>

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Eastern Wash. teachers armed w/bats</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/eastern-washington-teachers-armed-with-tee-ball-bats-to-protect-students/281-548103276">https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/eastern-washington-teachers-armed-with-tee-ball-bats-to-protect-students/281-548103276</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>An Eastern Washington school district is the latest to arm its teachers. But the district isn't issuing any guns, the teachers are getting tee-ball bats.</p> <p>"Under stress almost everyone can swing a stick," said John Ladines, owner of Force Dynamics.</p> <p>Ladines spent an afternoon last week in the Dayton School District letting teachers swing away after he walked into their rooms. He held a pad to keep himself safe.</p> <p>His organization has trained staff at more than 50 churches, community centers, and schools to use tee-ball bats to take out an active shooter.</p> <p>That number is climbing.</p> <p>"My email and phone is ringing off the hook," said Ladines.</p> <p>Ladines, a former Washington State Patrol trooper and Richland police officer, has also trained educators at four Central Washington schools to use handguns on campus. But he said a bat can be more effective, and more comfortable for educators who may not want a handgun.</p> <p>Ladines teaches the staff to use the bats after taking cover in their classrooms. He said by blocking the entryway of the class with desks, the shooter will be distracted when they walk in, making them vulnerable.</p> <p>"We're looking at that very small window of opportunity," said Ladines, "Law enforcement calls it the fatal funnel. They don't know what's on the other side of the door."</p> <p>State Superintendent Chris Reykdal said he'd rather see teachers have bats than handguns but believes security decisions are best left up to local districts.</p> <p>The state's teacher's union, the Washington Education Association, equates giving teachers bats with handing out firearms.</p>

	<p>The union does not think teachers should have any weapons.</p> <p>Rich Wood, the spokesperson for the union, said the responsibility for preventing gun violence should not fall on teachers.</p> <p>“Solving the epidemic of gun violence in our country is way more complicated than giving teachers baseball bats or guns,” said Wood.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Seattle homeless problem complaints</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2018/05/02/how-bad-is-seattles-homelessness-problem-sheer-volume-of-complaints-sheds-some-light/">http://q13fox.com/2018/05/02/how-bad-is-seattles-homelessness-problem-sheer-volume-of-complaints-sheds-some-light/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>KING COUNTY -- Seattle has received thousands of complaints of unauthorized camping since the beginning of the year, shedding some light on the city's complex homelessness problem.</p> <p>The city's Customer Service Bureau got 3,290 complaints of unauthorized camping from Jan. 1 to April 20, documents released via a public disclosure request show.</p> <p>The document details the location of the encampments, when the complaint came in, and the "nature of the inquiry." The details in nature of the inquiries are varied, ranging from just the word "campsite," to detailed complaints.</p> <p>"There was a nice place for a viewpoint here," one complaint reads. "But now a tent site has grown and grown. What started as a tent now has a tarp canopy and attachments to the fencing. People try to avoid walking near it now."</p> <p>Some comments are riddled with sarcasm, emphasizing homeowners' frustrations.</p> <p>"What's the rent on this camping overlook?" another complaint reads. "I'll pay double."</p> <p>Seattle's north precinct received the most complaints, with 1,336 over the 17-week period. The city's service bureau is meant to "achieve fairness, justice, and exemplary customer service" by the city, the bureau's website reads.</p> <p>The service bureau is just one way the city gets complaints. Officials are notified of an encampment from the public through the CSB, online service request forms, the Find-It Fix It app, emails to the city or by city staff.</p> <p>Multiple steps are needed to remove a homeless encampment, and campers are given a 72-hour notice to vacate.</p> <p>In April, families in Seattle's Green Lake neighborhood complained of growing tent cities.</p> <p>"There's people strung-out, wandering around on drugs," said longtime resident Wilgis. "Huge hordes of stolen goods like bikes and mopeds."</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 More businesses mellow out pot for hiring</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_EMPLOYERS_DROPPING_MARIJUANA_TESTS_CT_OL-?SITE=TXMCA&amp;SECTION=BUSINESS&amp;TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&amp;CTIME=2018-05-02-15-31-59">http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_EMPLOYERS_DROPPING_MARIJUANA_TESTS_CT_OL-?SITE=TXMCA&amp;SECTION=BUSINESS&amp;TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&amp;CTIME=2018-05-02-15-31-59</a>

GIST

WASHINGTON (AP) -- FPI Management, a property company in California, wants to hire dozens of people. Factories from New Hampshire to Michigan need workers. Hotels in Las Vegas are desperate to fill jobs.

Those employers and many others are quietly taking what once would have been a radical step: They're dropping marijuana from the drug tests they require of prospective employees. Marijuana testing - a fixture at large American employers for at least 30 years - excludes too many potential workers, experts say, at a time when filling jobs is more challenging than it's been in nearly two decades.

"It has come out of nowhere," said Michael Clarkson, head of the drug testing practice at Ogletree Deakins, a law firm. "I have heard from lots of clients things like, 'I can't staff the third shift and test for marijuana.'"

Though still in its early stages, the shift away from marijuana testing appears likely to accelerate. More states are legalizing cannabis for recreational use; Michigan could become the 10th state to do so in November. Missouri appears on track to become the 30th state to allow medical pot use.

And medical marijuana users in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island have won lawsuits in the past year against companies that rescinded job offers or fired workers because of positive tests for cannabis. Before last year, courts had always ruled in favor of employers.

The Trump administration also may be softening its resistance to legal marijuana. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta suggested at a congressional hearing last month that employers should take a "step back" on drug testing.

"We have all these Americans that are looking to work," Acosta said. "Are we aligning our ... drug testing policies with what's right for the workforce?"

There is no definitive data on how many companies conduct drug tests, though the Society for Human Resource Management found in a survey that 57 percent do so. Nor is there any recent data on how many have dropped marijuana from mandatory drug testing.

But interviews with hiring executives, employment lawyers and agencies that help employers fill jobs indicate that dropping marijuana testing is among the steps more companies are taking to expand their pool of applicants to fill a near-record level of openings.

Businesses are hiring more people without high school diplomas, for example, to the point where the unemployment rate for non-high school graduates has sunk more than a full percentage point in the past year to 5.5 percent. That's the steepest such drop for any educational group over that time. On Friday, the government is expected to report another robust jobs report for April.

Excluding marijuana from testing marks the first major shift in workplace drug policies since employers began regularly screening applicants in the late 1980s. They did so after a federal law required that government contractors maintain drug-free workplaces. Many private businesses adopted their own mandatory drug testing of applicants.

Most businesses that have dropped marijuana tests continue to screen for cocaine, opiates, heroin and other drugs. But James Reidy, an employment lawyer in New Hampshire, says companies are thinking harder about the types of jobs that should realistically require marijuana tests. If a manufacturing worker, for instance, isn't driving a forklift or operating industrial machinery, employers may deem a marijuana test unnecessary.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE 05/02 Canada migrant crisis at border crossings

SOURCE	<a href="http://nationalpost.com/news/canada/de-facto-amnesty-a-look-at-the-daunting-reality-of-canadas-migrant-crisis">http://nationalpost.com/news/canada/de-facto-amnesty-a-look-at-the-daunting-reality-of-canadas-migrant-crisis</a>
GIST	<p>There are so many Mounties needed to process illegal border crossings in rural Quebec that the federal government is now spending \$250,000 to build an unofficial police station on the U.S. border. In Toronto last week, Mayor John Tory announced that the number of refugee claimants in the city’s shelter system has quadrupled from 459 per night in 2016 to an average of 2,351 in 2018. And at least one Quebec politician is calling for a border fence with the U.S.</p> <p>These are just some of the repercussions of the more than 20,000 illegal border crossings into Canada since early 2017, all of them made by foreign nationals seeking asylum. With the influx expected to grow even bigger this summer, here are the details of Canada’s ongoing migrant crisis.</p> <p>Illegal border crossers are outpacing conventional refugees for the first time</p> <p>In the first three months of 2018, 5,052 asylum seekers were intercepted by the RCMP after illegally crossing the Canadian border, compared to 4,475 people who filed refugee claims through conventional channels such as airports and official border stations. In other words, for the first time there are more people illegally seeking asylum in Canada than making legal refugee claims — and that trend is set to continue throughout 2018.</p> <p>In 2017, the Immigration and Refugee Board received at least 18,149 claims from what they call “irregular border crossers” — those who claimed asylum after first entering Canada illegally. This was compared to 29,276 people who applied for refugee status through legal channels. But with the rate of illegal crossings already double what it was in 2017, the “illegal” category is poised to blow past the “legal” category.</p> <p>The RCMP intercepted 1,890 illegal border crossers in the first three months of 2017. In the same period in 2018, that number soared to 5,052. Over the Easter Weekend alone, more than 600 crossed into Quebec, and provincial officials are expecting more than 400 per day as the weather gets warmer. Much of this activity is in Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle, Que., where it’s particularly easy to cross over from Champlain, New York.</p> <p>These are “illegal” border crossings, but Canadian law does not view the border crossers as criminals. When the migrant crisis has been discussed in the House of Commons, it has often been accompanied by robust argument over the use of the term “illegal migrant.” The Conservatives use the term, while the Liberals and the NDP prefer the term “irregular migrants” (and accuse the Tories of fear-mongering). It is illegal to cross into Canada without first passing through a port of entry. Indeed, any border-crosser at Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle will pass by a bilingual sign saying “it is illegal to cross the border here” — and they will also be told as much by the area’s substantial police presence. However, while someone can be charged for entering Canada without authorization, those charges are waived once someone makes an asylum claim.</p> <p>By any measure, the backlog is out of control</p> <p>Well before the first day of summer, the number of asylum seekers who entered Canada illegally will surpass the 25,000 Syrian refugees accepted into the country in 2016. These border crossings — coupled with rising rates of refugee claims across the board — are putting an unsustainable strain on the country’s refugee system. At the beginning of 2017, the Immigration and Refugee Board counted a total queue of 18,644 refugee claimants. As of March 31, this has more than doubled to 48,974.</p> <p>Even if refugee claims stopped tomorrow, this would be a daunting number, given that the Immigration and Refugee Board can only process about 1000 to 2,000 cases per month. And the claims keep coming. In March, the board was able to finalize a then-record 2,587 claims, but this was dwarfed by the 4,078 new refugee claims that piled up in the same month.</p> <p>The backlog is complicated even further by the fact that illegal border crossers are already in the country when they file refugee claims. If Canada rejects an overseas immigrant, the decision is final. For a refugee claimant on Canadian soil, meanwhile, rejections are subject to a lengthy process of appeals, removal</p>

	orders and, in extreme cases, Canada-wide arrest warrants.
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Russia military spending drops 17%</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://money.cnn.com/2018/05/02/news/russia-defense-spending-plunge/index.html">http://money.cnn.com/2018/05/02/news/russia-defense-spending-plunge/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A weak economy has caused Russian military spending to plunge. Moscow spent 3.9 trillion rubles (\$61 billion) on defense in 2017, a 17% decline from the previous year and the first annual drop since 1998, according to new data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).</p> <p>The decline in spending is a sharp reversal from recent years, when Russia ramped up investment as part of an effort to update outdated military systems by 2025.</p> <p>Siemon Wezeman, a senior researcher at SIPRI, said that military modernization remains a government priority, but economic conditions have made it difficult to maintain spending levels.</p> <p>Russia was hit by the double whammy of plunging oil prices and western sanctions in 2014, and it has been slow to recover from the resulting recession. Cuts to the defense budget had been avoided until last year.</p> <p>"The decision to reduce military spending came only after cuts were already made in most other government areas," Wezeman said.</p> <p>Taking into account inflation and currency shifts, spending dropped 20% in 2017. Outlays translated to 4.3% of GDP, compared to 5.5% in 2016 and 4.9% in 2015.</p> <p>The decline doesn't square with Kremlin rhetoric.</p> <p>President Vladimir Putin announced in March, before he was reelected, that Moscow had developed new drones as well as nuclear weapons systems with "unlimited" range that would render NATO defenses "completely useless."</p> <p>Wezeman at SIPRI said that many other projects have been delayed or scrapped.</p> <p>"There's not enough money," Wezeman said. "Saying you want to get a new aircraft and new tanks is one thing, but getting it and making it operational costs a lot of money," he added.</p> <p>Representatives for the upper house of Russia's parliament, which sets spending levels, did not respond to a request for comment.</p> <p>Many of Russia's neighbors significantly increased their military spending last year, in large part because of increased fears over military aggression on the part of Moscow.</p> <p>SIPRI data show that defense spending in central Europe jumped by 12% in 2017.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Gangs behind, detention in US ahead</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-caravan-asylum/gangs-behind-detention-ahead-migrants-face-predicament-at-u-s-border-idUSKBN1I40B2">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-caravan-asylum/gangs-behind-detention-ahead-migrants-face-predicament-at-u-s-border-idUSKBN1I40B2</a>
<b>GIST</b>	Dozens of caravan members described to Reuters fleeing appalling conditions that included sexual violence, political persecution, dysfunctional economies, and lethal threats to themselves or family members in neighborhoods with some of the world's highest murder rates.

Migrants who fled the brutal Barrio 18 or MS-13 Mara gangs after refusing to join them or pay protection money said they continued to receive threats in Mexico. At least two said they had received messages that family members back home would be killed if they failed to send payment.

But once they reach the United States, they must run the gauntlet of an immigration system caught between assisting or criminalizing hundreds of thousands of Central Americans who have entered the United States in the past decade.

Asylum seekers must demonstrate fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality or membership in a particular social group. Criminal threats or violence alone are generally not considered sufficient reason for asylum.

The Trump administration has cited a more-than-tenfold rise in asylum claims compared to 2011, including growing numbers of families and children and a shift to more Central Americans as signs that people are fraudulently taking advantage of the system. Trump aims to change U.S. law to make it harder to claim asylum.

Some immigration lawyers said the unrelenting criminal violence in Central America should prompt the United States to reassess the asylum system.

"In a lot of ways, those countries look like war zones," said Bree Bernwanger, an asylum attorney who works on Central American cases.

Jenna Gilbert, a lawyer at the Human Rights First advocacy group, said enduring the asylum process would be hard on anyone.

"It's a different name, but let's have no qualms about what it is," Gilbert said. "It is jail."

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 China fortifies artificial islands w/missiles</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/china-missile-systems-spratly-islands-south-china-sea/2018/05/02/id/857997/">https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/china-missile-systems-spratly-islands-south-china-sea/2018/05/02/id/857997/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>China moved anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles to three of its artificial islands in a disputed area of the South China Sea over the past month, according to a new report.</p> <p>CNBC reported Wednesday the missile systems are now on three Chinese bases in the Spratly Islands. China has been building artificial islands on reefs in the area between Vietnam and the Philippines for the past several years as it flexes its military might over claims it owns the islands.</p> <p>"We have consistently called on China, as well as other claimants, to refrain from further land reclamation, construction of new facilities, and militarization of disputed features, and to commit to managing and resolving disputes peacefully with other claimants," a Pentagon official told CNBC. "The further militarization of outposts will only serve to raise tensions and create greater distrust among claimants."</p> <p>The missile systems are now on Fiery Cross Reef, Subi Reef, and Mischief Reef, all part of the disputed Spratly Islands to which six nations — China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Brunei — claim ownership.</p> <p>In 2016, it was reported Vietnam moved several mobile rocket launchers to five of its bases in the Spratly Islands, which were capable of striking Chinese targets in the area.</p> <p>Last May, a U.S. warship sailed within 12 miles of a Chinese artificial island in the area, drawing a sharp rebuke from Beijing.</p>



[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 DOJ sends judges to southern border</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/caravan-migrants-border/2018/05/02/id/858022/">https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/caravan-migrants-border/2018/05/02/id/858022/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A further 49 Central Americans crossed into the United States to seek asylum on Wednesday, part of a high-profile migrant caravan that prompted Attorney General Jeff Sessions to beef up legal resources on the Mexican border.</p> <p>The 49 migrants, including women, children and transgender people who had been waiting at the U.S. gate for about 15 hours, were let through by midday, according to the group's organizers, raising the total number who have crossed to 74.</p> <p>Since Monday, border officials have allowed through only a trickle at a time, saying that the busy San Ysidro crossing to San Diego is saturated and the rest must wait their turn.</p> <p>In response, the Justice Department was sending 35 additional assistant U.S. attorneys and 18 immigration judges to the border, Sessions said, linking the decision to the caravan.</p> <p>"We are sending a message worldwide: Don't come illegally. Make your claim to enter America in the lawful way and wait your turn," he said, adding that he would not let the country be "overwhelmed."</p> <p>Despite unusual attention on the annual, awareness-raising caravan after President Donald Trump personally took issue with it last month, the most recent data through December does not show a dramatic change in the number of Central Americans seeking asylum.</p> <p>Apprehensions of people crossing to the United States illegally from Mexico were at the highest level in March since December 2016, before Trump took office.</p> <p>More than 100 members of the caravan, most from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, have been camped in a square near the entrance of the San Ysidro pedestrian bridge that leads from Mexico to the United States, waiting for their turn to enter the border checkpoint.</p>
<a href="#">Return to</a>	
<a href="#">Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Allergy season worsens every year</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Wellness/allergy-season-worse-year-imagination/story?">https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Wellness/allergy-season-worse-year-imagination/story?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>If you feel like allergy season gets worse every year, you are not alone and you are not wrong.</p> <p>Climate change is a factor in the worsening seasons, experts say.</p> <p>"We have higher temperatures and increasing levels of carbon dioxide," Dr. Jeffrey Demain, a board-certified allergist and immunologist, said at the March meeting of the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI).</p> <p>"In those environments, studies have been done looking at what does this do for pollen because pollens are also critical when it comes to allergy symptoms as well as the development of allergy," he said.</p> <p>Increasing carbon dioxide levels lead to increased levels of the proteins in pollen that cause allergies, according to Demain, who is part of the Allergy Asthma &amp; Immunology Center of Alaska.</p> <p>"When you look at a pollen grain, there are certain proteins that cause the allergy, they are the allergenic peptides," he said. "It's been shown that in rising carbon dioxide, the allergenic peptide of each pollen grain goes up."</p>

Carbon dioxide levels have also been "shown to increase the amount of biomass and pollen production by a plant," noted Demain.

Sneezing, coughing, congestion and red eyes are common sights in not just spring but also in fall and summer as millions of people are affected by seasonal allergies.

The allergy seasons throughout the year are getting longer, as much as 27 days longer than they were "even seven to 10 years ago," increasing the opportunity for exposure to allergies, Demain said.

Another way climate change can cause allergies is through the mold that is left behind by flooding and severe storms, according to an AAAAI report.

"While all these [factors] are behind the curtain a little bit with what we're seeing with climate change, they're very real threats because 25 percent of our population has some form of allergic disease," Demain said. "These are issues that are going to affect a vast number of people throughout the world."

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America -- which describes itself as "the leading patient organization for people with asthma and allergies" -- says climate change is a "serious threat" to public health, citing longer allergy seasons and worsening air quality caused by rising temperatures.

Five cities in the South and Southwest -- McAllen, Texas, Louisville, Kentucky, Jackson, Mississippi, Memphis, Tennessee and San Antonio, Texas -- top this year's "most challenging places to live with spring allergies" list issued by the AAFA.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Calif. warns health risk B.C. oysters</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/californians-warned-risk-british-columbia-oysters-54890099?">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/californians-warned-risk-british-columbia-oysters-54890099?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>California health officials say about 100 people statewide have contracted norovirus in the past week after eating raw oysters from British Columbia, Canada.</p> <p>The state Department of Health issued a warning Wednesday about the possible risk of illness from consuming oysters harvested in south and central Baynes Sound.</p> <p>Canada has reported more than 170 cases of gastrointestinal illness linked to consumption of raw oysters.</p> <p>Officials say the number of new illnesses is declining but the investigation is ongoing.</p> <p>Four oyster farms in British Columbia's Baynes Sound that were linked to illnesses remain closed.</p>
<a href="#">Return to</a>	
<a href="#">Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 India: rainstorm kills 72, injures 100</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rainstorm-kills-72-injures-100-india-54900296?">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rainstorm-kills-72-injures-100-india-54900296?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A powerful rainstorm has swept parts of north and western India, causing house collapses, toppling trees and leaving at least 72 people dead.</p> <p>Relief commissioner Sanjay Kumar says the devastation is particularly severe in Agra, the northern Indian city where the white marble monument of Taj Mahal is located. He says 36 people have died there on Wednesday night as the wind speed touched 130 kilometers (80 miles) per hour. Some people also were killed by lightning.</p>

	<p>The Press Trust of India news agency says at least 27 others have died and another 100 are injured in the western Indian state of Rajasthan.</p> <p>The rainstorm caught people by surprise as the monsoon season is still more than six weeks away.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Afghanistan rolls out electronic ID cards</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghanistan-rolls-electronic-id-cards-opposition-54900399?">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghanistan-rolls-electronic-id-cards-opposition-54900399?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Afghanistan is rolling out long-delayed electronic ID cards as a measure President Ashraf Ghani insists is "important to help fight terrorist attacks."</p> <p>Ghani and some senior officials were the first to receive their cards in Kabul on Thursday.</p> <p>Last December, the Afghan parliament approved Ghani's decree on the ID card, which unlike its simple predecessors made of paper has a chip that will be tied to the country's electronic database.</p> <p>Militants have often used fake ID cards to pass through security checkpoints and enter big urban centers to stage attacks there.</p> <p>But some in the government of Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah have voiced opposition to the cards because they denote a person's ethnicity and religion — and as such could be used to discriminate against ethnic Hazaras and other minorities.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Backup cameras in all new US cars</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/cars-us-now-required-backup-cameras/story?">https://abcnews.go.com/US/cars-us-now-required-backup-cameras/story?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>All newly manufactured vehicles to be sold in the U.S. are required as of Tuesday to have backup cameras equipped as a standard feature.</p> <p>Advocates for the rule, which was mandated by the National Highway Transportation Safety Agency in 2014, hope today's milestone will lead to fewer instances of drivers backing into people due to a lack of visibility.</p> <p>"This day is so important because we don't have a choice" when it comes to children's safety around cars, said Janette Fennell, founder and president of KidsAndCars.org, an advocacy group that works to prevent accidents involving children and motor vehicles. "This measure will save countless lives, especially of children."</p> <p>Congress passed the Cameron Gulbransen Kids Transportation Safety Act in 2008. The bill, signed into law by then-President George W. Bush, ordered NHTSA to issue by 2011 a standard for improving drivers' ability to detect pedestrians behind their vehicles.</p> <p>NHTSA's proposed standard was stalled for several years in the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, according to a Reuters. It wasn't until March 2014, when a coalition of advocacy groups filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Transportation (of which NHTSA is a part), that a rule was issued, with a May 1, 2018, deadline for full implementation.</p> <p>Today was 16 years in the making for Dr. Greg Gulbransen, who in 2002 accidentally backed over and killed his 2-year-old son Cameron, the namesake of the bill Congress enacted.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 CDC: E. coli outbreak turns deadly</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/dead-coli-outbreak-romaine-lettuce-cdc/story?">https://abcnews.go.com/US/dead-coli-outbreak-romaine-lettuce-cdc/story?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>One person in California has died as a result of an E. coli outbreak in romaine lettuce, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>Last month, the CDC warned consumers to avoid all romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona, region. As of April 27, 121 people in 25 states have fallen ill from eating the tainted lettuce.</p> <p>At least 52 people have been hospitalized, 14 of whom developed kidney failure, the CDC said.</p> <p>The CDC is still advising people to not eat or buy romaine lettuce unless they can confirm it is not from the Yuma, Arizona, area.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Opening Day boating season Saturday</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/events/ahoy-its-opening-day-of-boating-season/">https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/events/ahoy-its-opening-day-of-boating-season/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Opening Day of boating season Saturday, May 5, has been a local tradition to greet the arrival of spring on the first Saturday in May since 1920, a few years after the opening of the Montlake Cut, the canal that connects Portage Bay and Lake Washington. Seattle Yacht Club hosts the boat parade with Husky Band boats, hundreds of decorated sail and power boats of all kinds, yachts and working boats, ending with the Chief Seattle fire boat cruising with hoses firing, all starting at noon Saturday.</p> <p>At the Windermere Cup crew races, start the day with 23 races including UW crew teams competing against international guest teams, and local teams with athletes ages 14-70. The third annual Battle of the Brave, Seattle Police vs. Seattle Fire Department teams, is a highlight at approximately 10:15 a.m., along with the final races to award the Windermere Cup.</p> <p>For shoreside spectators, viewing is on the banks of Montlake Cut near the Montlake Bridge and any vantage point overlooking the area. Early arrival is recommended for parking. The Montlake Bridge is closed to vehicle and foot traffic from about 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.</p> <p>Two other big events Saturday are opening days of a different sort. Woodland Park Zoo celebrates the opening of its Assam Rhino Reserve on Saturday with festivities, keeper talks and family activities. The Reserve's two young greater one-horned rhinos, an endangered species in India and Nepal because of the illegal wildlife trade, are making a comeback in the wild thanks to conservationists working to stop trafficking. The exhibit shows how we all can help endangered species, and includes some neighbors in the rhinos' wild habitat, Asian brown tortoises and demoiselle cranes.</p> <p>The new Nordic Museum's long-awaited opening day is also Saturday. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and community festival are free and open to the public, but advance reservations to visit the galleries opening weekend are sold out.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Amazon push back Seattle head tax</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://komonews.com/news/business/amazon-fires-back-at-seattles-proposed-head-tax-pauses-construction-projects">http://komonews.com/news/business/amazon-fires-back-at-seattles-proposed-head-tax-pauses-construction-projects</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE -- Amazon is flexing its muscles making its opposition known to a proposed Seattle tax by bringing a halt to all planning on a massive project scheduled for construction in Downtown Seattle, and may tweak its plans to occupy a new downtown skyscraper.</p> <p>"I can confirm that pending the outcome of the head tax vote by City Council, Amazon has paused all</p>

	<p>construction planning on our Block 18 project in downtown Seattle and is evaluating options to sub-lease all space in our recently leased Rainier Square building," says Amazon Vice President Drew Herdener.</p> <p>The proposed "head tax" would apply only to those companies with \$20 million or more annually in taxable gross receipts as measured under the City's Business and Occupation tax. The city estimates that will be 500 businesses, including Amazon. Those businesses would be charged 26 cents per hour per employee up to \$500 maximum per employee per year.</p> <p>The tax is expected to raise \$75 million per year, which the city says 75 percent would go toward affordable housing.</p> <p>The Block 18 project at 7th and Blanchard is expected to house thousands of Amazon employees in the new 405,000 square foot building. The company had also leased the entire 722,000 square feet of office space inside the future Rainier Square skyscraper but now says it will also explore subleasing the space instead if the tax goes forward.</p> <p>Amazon was expected to house 7,000 jobs between the two projects. The company recently announced 3,000 new jobs in Vancouver, B.C. and 1,000 more in Boston. And the business world is on pins and needles to see where Amazon will select to house its second headquarters and its proposed 50,000 new jobs.</p> <p>The Seattle City Council is expected to vote on the tax proposal on May 14. The tax, if passed, would likely go into effect on Jan. 1. A similar measure failed to pass last year.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Russians demand flag fly consulate site</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/russians-demand-flag-fly-at-now-closed-consulate-in-seattle/742655940">https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/russians-demand-flag-fly-at-now-closed-consulate-in-seattle/742655940</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE - There's a diplomatic fight over the now-closed Russian consulate's flag in Seattle.</p> <p>The Seattle Times reports that U.S. State Department officials "respectfully" lowered the Russia flag Saturday from the Russian consul-general residence property after the mansion was vacated last month.</p> <p>The Russian Embassy has demanded it be put back, accusing the U.S. of "unacceptable treatment" of their national symbol.</p> <p>They say they own the house, though the Americans say that the Russia-owned house is built on U.S. government-owned land.</p> <p>The State Department says it asked the Russians to take it down themselves because the house no longer serves as their consulate.</p> <p>The consulate was shut down in response to allegations that the Russian government tried to poison a former Russian spy living in the United Kingdom.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Boy Scouts new name: Scouts BSA</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/boy-scouts-new-name-scouts-bsa-girls-joining-ranks/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/boy-scouts-new-name-scouts-bsa-girls-joining-ranks/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>NEW YORK -- For 108 years, the Boy Scouts of America's flagship program has been known simply as the Boy Scouts. With girls soon entering the ranks, the group says that iconic name will change. On Wednesday, the organization announced a new name for its Boy Scouts program: Scouts BSA. The change will take effect next February.</p>

Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh said many possibilities were considered during lengthy and "incredibly fun" deliberations before the new name was chosen.

"We wanted to land on something that evokes the past but also conveys the inclusive nature of the program going forward," he said. "We're trying to find the right way to say we're here for both young men and young women."

The parent organization will remain the Boy Scouts of America, and the Cub Scouts -- its program for 7- to 10-year-olds -- will keep its title, as well.

But the Boy Scouts -- the program for 11- to 17-year-olds -- will now be Scouts BSA.

The organization has already started admitting girls into the Cub Scouts, and Scouts BSA begins accepting girls next year.

Surbaugh predicted that both boys and girls in Scouts BSA would refer to themselves simply as scouts, rather than adding "boy" or "girl" as a modifier.

The program for the older boys and girls will largely be divided along gender-lines, with single-sex units pursuing the same types of activities, earning the same array of merit badges and potentially having the same pathway to the coveted Eagle Scout award.

Surbaugh said that having separate units for boys and girls should alleviate concerns that girls joining the BSA for the first time might be at a disadvantage in seeking leadership opportunities.

So far, more than 3,000 girls have joined roughly 170 Cub Scout packs participating in the first phase of the new policy, and the pace will intensify this summer under a nationwide multimedia recruitment campaign titled "Scout Me In."

The name change comes amid strained relations between the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America.

Girl Scout leaders said they were blindsided by the move, and they are gearing up an aggressive campaign to recruit and retain girls as members.

The overall impact of the BSA's policy change on Girl Scouts membership won't be known any time soon. But one regional leader, Fiona Cummings of Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, believes the BSA's decision to admit girls is among the factors that have shrunk her council's youth membership by more than 500 girls so far this year.

She said relations with the Boy Scouts in her region used to be collaborative and now are "very chilly."

"How do you manage these strategic tensions?" she asked. "We both need to increase our membership numbers."

Surbaugh said BSA's national leadership respected the Girl Scouts' program and hoped both organizations could gain strength.

"If the best fit for your girl is the Girl Scouts, that's fantastic," he said. "If it's not them, it might be us."

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

**HEADLINE** 05/02 Puerto Rico govt. officials face probe

**SOURCE** [http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/puerto-rico-government-officials-face-corruption-probe-54882549?cid=clicksource\\_76\\_4\\_article%20roll\\_articleroll\\_hed](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/puerto-rico-government-officials-face-corruption-probe-54882549?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed)

<b>GIST</b>	<p>Puerto Rico's chief of staff and three other government officials are facing accusations of undue influence.</p> <p>The U.S. territory's justice secretary said Wednesday there's enough evidence to submit a case to special independent prosecutors who investigate government corruption. Among those being investigated are Chief of Staff William Villafane, Associate Secretary to the Interior Ministry Itza Garcia, water and sewer company vice president Yoniel Arroyo, and Administration for the Sustenance of Minors manager Waleska Maldonado.</p> <p>Villafane did not immediately return a message for comment. Garcia, Arroyo and Maldonado could not be immediately contacted.</p> <p>The case already forced a judge to resign after those accused allegedly discussed what kind of rulings he should issue in a WhatsApp group called 'Coffeebreak.' The judge also resigned as president of the island's state election commission.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to</a></p> <p><a href="#">Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Military cargo plane crashes in Georgia</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/130-cargo-plane-people-board-crashes-georgia/story?id=54882292">http://abcnews.go.com/US/130-cargo-plane-people-board-crashes-georgia/story?id=54882292</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Five people are dead and four are missing after a C-130 "Hercules" plane belonging to the Puerto Rico National Guard crashed outside the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport in Georgia around 11:30 a.m., according to Georgia Air National Guard Captain Jeffrey E. Bezore.</p> <p>Nine people were on board the aircraft that an Air Force spokesperson specified as a WC-130 weather reconnaissance plane. It belonged to the 156th Airlift Wing.</p> <p>The plane crashed at the intersection of Highway 21 at Crossgate Road just northeast of the Savannah airport, according to Chatham Emergency Management Agency. Those roads are shut down, and power has been cut to the area.</p> <p>"As far we know there were no cars hit in this crash, it is an absolute miracle at that time or day and that intersection," said Gena Bilbo, Public Information Officer at Effingham County Sheriff's Office, during a press conference.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to</a></p> <p><a href="#">Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Palestinian leader remarks spark backlash</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_PALESTINIANS_US?SITE=TXMCA&amp;SECTION=HOME&amp;TEMPLATE=DEFAULT">http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_PALESTINIANS_US?SITE=TXMCA&amp;SECTION=HOME&amp;TEMPLATE=DEFAULT</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>JERUSALEM (AP) -- Remarks by the Palestinian president about the causes of 20th century anti-Semitism in Europe were sharply condemned as anti-Semitic by the United Nations, European Union, United States and Israel on Wednesday.</p> <p>In rambling remarks that were part of a lengthy speech to the Palestine Liberation Organization parliament on Monday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said it was the Jews' "social function," including money lending, that caused animosity toward them in Europe, citing what he said were books by Jewish authors. He also portrayed the creation of Israel as a European colonial project, saying "history tells us there is no basis for the Jewish homeland."</p> <p>The U.N.'s special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, Nikolay Mladenov, said Abbas had repeated "some of the most contemptuous anti-Semitic slurs."</p> <p>"Leaders have an obligation to confront anti-Semitism everywhere and always, not perpetuate the conspiracy theories that fuel it," he said in a statement Wednesday.</p>

"Denying the historic and religious connection of the Jewish people to the land and their holy sites in Jerusalem stands in contrast to reality," Mladenov said.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, as well as Israel's prime minister, lashed out at Abbas over his remarks.

"Abu Mazen has reached a new low," Ambassador David Friedman tweeted early Wednesday, referring to Abbas by his nickname. "To all those who think Israel is the reason that we don't have peace, think again."

President Donald Trump's special envoy for international negotiations Jason Greenblatt also responded to the remarks, calling them "very distressing and terribly disheartening."

The rhetoric reflects the escalating tensions between the Palestinians and the Trump administration. Ties have been strained since Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital last year, prompting the Palestinians to suspend contacts with the administration. Friedman and Abbas have sparred before. In March, Abbas called Friedman a "son of a dog" in an angry rant. Friedman suggested the remark was anti-Semitic.

In a statement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the remarks were "the pinnacle of ignorance" and that the Palestinian leader was "again reciting the most disgraceful anti-Semitic slogans."

The European Union said in a statement that the Palestinian president's speech "contained unacceptable remarks concerning the origins of the Holocaust and Israel's legitimacy." It warned that "such rhetoric will only play into the hands of those who do not want a two-state solution, which President Abbas has repeatedly advocated."

The statement said that "anti-Semitism is not only a threat for Jews but a fundamental menace to our open and liberal societies."

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Basque ETA announces full dissolution</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/02/europe/eta-spain-dissolution-intl/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/02/europe/eta-spain-dissolution-intl/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>(CNN)ETA, the Basque separatist group that killed around 850 people during its half-century campaign for independence from Spain, announced its full dissolution, Spanish media reported.</p> <p>The declaration was made in a letter dated April 16 and sent to a number of political institutions, Spanish news agency EFE reported. The announcement had been expected, and came just over a year after the group handed over its weapons, following a 2011 ceasefire.</p> <p>ETA, which stands for "Euskadi Ta Askatasuna" or "Basque homeland and freedom," was founded in 1959 in response to the frustration felt by Basques during the repressive regime of General Francisco Franco. Its aim was to gain independence from Spain and establish a state in the north of Spain and southwest France.</p> <p>The group released a statement last month in which it apologized to the families of its victims, adding that it accepted "direct responsibility" for its crimes.</p> <p>"We know that we caused a lot of pain during that long period of armed struggle, including damage that can never be put right," it said.</p> <p>"We wish to show our respect for those who were killed or wounded by ETA and those who were affected by the conflict. We are truly sorry."</p> <p>The Spanish government said it would continue to pursue members of ETA, despite its self-declared</p>



dissolution. "The Spanish government has always maintained its position: ETA members didn't achieve anything for stopping killing people and they won't achieve anything for a declaration that they call 'dissolution,'" Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido told the Spanish news agency EFE. "Spanish security forces will continue chasing the terrorists wherever they are."

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

## Cyber Awareness

[Top of page](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 UK police seize £500,000 bitcoin</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://crypto-lines.com/2018/05/02/bitcoin-worth-over-500000-pounds/">https://crypto-lines.com/2018/05/02/bitcoin-worth-over-500000-pounds/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Police in the UK has arrested a 26-year old hacker and seized Bitcoin worth over 500,000 pounds. The hacker was arrested on a train as he traveled between Rhyl and London. He was nabbed after launching cyber attacks on Argos, Uber, and Sainsbury before selling the data on the dark web.</p> <p>The hacker who goes by the name Grant West hacked into websites of major companies based in the UK and managed to obtain personal information of over 165,000 customers of Just Eat takeaway through a phishing email scam.</p> <p>He went ahead and sold the data on different marketplaces in the dark web under the name Courvoisier. The dark web is a subsection of the internet that is only accessible through specialist software. He used the profits to buy Bitcoin which he stored in virtual wallets.</p> <p>Officers say they seized Bitcoin worth over 500,000 pounds and found over 78 million usernames and passwords. Also, they found over 63,000 credit and debit card details stored on an SD card in Kent following his arrest.</p> <p>Mick Gallagher, Chief Superintendent commenting on the investigation said:</p> <p>"It's the first of its kind, not as much as you see a large quantity of bitcoin, but because of the combination of technology and the technological response to it."</p> <p>Grant used the money obtained from his dealings to fund luxurious holidays, flying to Las Vegas and also paying for shopping, food and other household stuff. He drove an Audi A5 worth over \$40,000 and blew some of his earnings by gambling in Las Vegas.</p> <p>Grant used phishing emails that looked like they were sent from the official Just Eat website disguising as a customer satisfaction survey and this led to unsuspecting users to enter their details which he sold on the dark web.</p> <p>Police believe he was responsible for hacking over 500 companies – including Nectar, Mighty Deals Limited, T Mobile, Finnish Bitcoin exchange, Argos, Groupon and many others. Grant is set to be sentenced on May 25th.</p>
<a href="#">Return to</a>	
<a href="#">Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Recall: heart implants over hack fears</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbronline.com/news/heart-recall-hack">https://www.cbronline.com/news/heart-recall-hack</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recalled an estimated 465,000 implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD) – a small device used to help treat irregular heartbeats – for firmware updates.</p> <p>In a safety communication issued April 17, 2018, it says the devices, designed and operate by St Jude Medical, are vulnerable to cybersecurity attacks and at risk of sudden battery loss.</p>

The potential susceptibility of St Jude medical ICD's and its Merlin@home monitoring device to a cyber-attack was first raised by health sector security analysis Medsec, this was followed by a challenge from St Jude Medical, which was acquired by Abbott in 2017. The vulnerabilities identified by Medsec were confirmed, however, by cyber security consultants Bishop Fox.

Carl Livitt of Bishop Fox told Computer Business Review: "Authentication backdoors are not good, especially in implantable cardiac devices that can be misused to kill people."

Merlin@Home is a small transmitter that people with implanted cardiac devices can plug in at home. It is designed to allow "remote care management of patients with implanted cardiac devices through scheduled transmissions and daily alert monitoring."

In their 2016 report Bishop Fox found that the "underlying channel ('protocol') over which the Merlin@home, programmer, and cardiac devices communicate is fundamentally flawed in both its design and implementation, making it possible to repurpose Merlin@home devices to emulate a programmer and issue, for example, shocks to patients."

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Brazil hotbed financial cybercrime</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.paymentssource.com/news/brazil-becomes-a-hotbed-of-financial-cybercrime">https://www.paymentssource.com/news/brazil-becomes-a-hotbed-of-financial-cybercrime</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The spread of breached identity information has resulted in an outbreak of new account creation fraud with a new ground zero for the crimes pointing right at Latin America.</p> <p>Developing economies are emerging as epicenters for global cybercrime expansion, with Brazil being in the top five attacking nations during the first quarter of the year. Those attacks center on neighboring countries such as Argentina and Colombia, as well as spreading into key digital economy areas in the U.S. and U.K.</p> <p>One quarter of all account registrations from Latin America is being rejected as fraudulent, according to the first quarter cybercrime report from ThreatMetrix. The stolen and synthesized identities are being used to attack the growing Latin America e-commerce market, as well as major global American retail corporations.</p> <p>It was a busy quarter for San Jose, Calif.-based ThreatMetrix, as it says it detected and stopped 210 million cyber attacks in real time, a 62% year-over-year increase. In addition, the company's digital identity network spotted a record 1 billion bot attacks, many originating from Egypt, South Korea, Ecuador, Ukraine and Vietnam.</p> <p>"We used to see 300 million bot attacks or so, and people's eyes would just roll back in disbelief," said Vanita Pandey, vice president of product marketing and strategy at ThreatMetrix. "Now we are seeing 1 billion and that is just a matter of criminals constantly testing their attacks."</p> <p>Those bot attacks manifest themselves in some cases as phony representation of popular media sites, those in which consumers spend only \$8 to \$10 a month for digital content.</p> <p>"While \$10 a month may not seem like much, it is a lot of money in South America or India, and they will create a bot to create a fake account in offering these services," Pandey said. "And then they just take the money."</p> <p>Stolen data is at the root of all attacks, providing a gold mine for criminals to open new accounts or takeover current accounts.</p> <p>Payment processors are increasingly becoming targets as well, in part because they offer many value-added services for clients, thus they hold more customer information and data in addition to transaction</p>

	information.
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Cybercriminals exposing oil, gas industry</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.businessinsider.com/cybercriminals-are-exposing-oil-and-gas-but-the-industry-is-turning-a-blind-eye-2018-5?r=UK&amp;IR=T">http://www.businessinsider.com/cybercriminals-are-exposing-oil-and-gas-but-the-industry-is-turning-a-blind-eye-2018-5?r=UK&amp;IR=T</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>There are over a million oil and gas wells in the United States. There are also several hundred thousand miles of pipelines. Digitization is on the rise in the notoriously conservative oil and gas industry as companies wake up to the cost and operational efficiency boost that sensors and algorithms can offer them. Meanwhile, cybercriminals are keeping ahead of the learning curve, but oil and gas is largely pretending not to notice them.</p> <p>Energy companies—including E&amp;Ps, pipeline operators, and utilities—spend less than 0.2 percent of their revenues on cybersecurity, two security consulting firms have calculated. This compares with three times this portion of revenues spent on cybersecurity by financial services providers and banks.</p> <p>True, banks and their likes deal directly with people's money, so it would make sense to be extra careful. Also, the financial services industry has been under growing pressure from alternative service providers, so it has had to become flexible and open to new tech to stay ahead of the competition.</p> <p>Oil and gas producers, on the other hand, don't seem to see themselves a likely target of a cyberattack even though such attacks against the industry have been growing in frequency. Symantec, according to Bloomberg, is tracking as many as 140 cybercriminal groups that target the energy industry. That's up from 87 in 2015.</p> <p>Last year, Deloitte reported that the energy industry was the second most popular target for cyberattacks in 2016. Almost three-quarters of U.S. oil and gas companies, the consultancy said, had a cyber incident in that year, yet only a tiny majority cited cyber risk as a major concern in their annual reports. This is what makes the cybersecurity situation in oil and gas very worrying.</p> <p>A month ago this worry materialized in the hack attack against the communications system supplier to five pipeline operators. While the consequences of the hacking were not particularly serious, the attack should serve as an urgent warning to the industry: the more reliant it becomes on tech, the more vulnerable it becomes.</p> <p>There is also the unpleasant fact that oil and gas have had to play catch-up with cybersecurity. As the industry struggled to adapt to the lower-for-longer oil prices with cost cuts, oil companies put investment into boosting cybersecurity on the back burner during the worst of the oil price plunge in 2015 and 2016, while hackers grew increasingly inventive and bolder.</p> <p>The projects to strengthen the networks and systems against cyber attacks did not receive the necessary attention or funding, and today most security teams are still short of staff or technology to effectively monitor and prevent cyber attacks, security experts explain.</p> <p>Now that things are looking up with higher prices, it is time to refocus on cybersecurity before a serious attack takes place. Oil and gas pipelines are, after all, critical infrastructure and they deserve due attention from their operators. So do wells and platforms. It's only a matter of time before someone makes a blockbuster movie about hackers taking over oil producing infrastructure to remotely wreak havoc on the industry. Unfortunately, it may only be a matter of time before something like this happens in real life as well.</p> <p>Deloitte said as much in its 2017 report: "If a cyber attacker were to manipulate the cement slurry data coming out of an offshore development well, black out monitors' live views of offshore drilling, or delay the well-flow data required for blowout preventers to stop the eruption of fluids, the impact could be</p>

	devastating."
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Russia strengthening World Cup cyber</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazineuk.com/russian-government-strengthening-national-cyber-security-prior-to-world-cup/article/763064/">https://www.scmagazineuk.com/russian-government-strengthening-national-cyber-security-prior-to-world-cup/article/763064/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Russian government, together with the national special services, is continuing strengthening the country's cyber-security prior to the World Cup football tournament being held in the country this summer.</p> <p>Currently technical specialists from the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB, formerly the KGB) are completing their checks on hotel IT systems where the visiting teams and officials will live. FSB experts and other Russian special services are reported to believe that the mundial infrastructure is a possible target of cyber attacks.</p> <p>Sergey Korolev, a senior expert at FSB's department 'K' (tasked with fighting with cyber-crimes) told SC Media UK's St Petersburg correspondent that during its current checks of hotels and other World Cup infrastructure, the FSB is mostly interested in the reliability of WI-Fi equipment, the presence of the original "firmware", vulnerabilities in the code, the complexity of the administrator's password and other similar details.</p> <p>Sergey Korolev commented: "Often WI-Fi points at hotels have vulnerabilities due to the installation of simple passwords by their management. Examples of such passwords include «admin», or admin1234". The current checks also focus on the assessments of permissive documentation of Internet providers in the regions hosting the World Cup 2018, as well as hotels, where national football teams will be based."</p> <p>Representatives of the FSB have said that the results already obtained showed poor security in computer networks at many hotels that had been the subject of these checks. Korolev has also added that while hotels within global chains pay a lot of attention to data protection, the level of IT security at the majority of other hotels remains relatively weak. The same applied to chain hotels, managed under a franchise.</p> <p>In those hotels where management is carried out directly by the operator with a worldwide reputation, there are high requirements for information security: modern encryption protocols, isolated and encrypted data channels, etc.</p> <p>During its checks representatives of the FSB also connect hotel Wi-Fi-equipment to their system of operational-search activities, with the aim of analysing traffic using DPI-complexes. These actions were mainly aimed at checking the FSB's ability to use its special capabilities in the event of a cyber-threat to members of national football teams and their officials.</p> <p>Denis Batrakov, a senior information security consultant at Palo Alto Networks Russia told SC Media UK that the main threat is associated with the ability of a hacker to intercept web sessions of guests, and that that may take place in the case of the existing unprotected access to Wi-Fi in many hotels.</p> <p>"In this case, hackers can read mails, getting access to Internet banking, bank card numbers, etc.", notes Batrakov.</p> <p>The same view is shared by Sergey Perevozchikov, head of Cyberzachita, a leading Russian cyber-security enterprise, who told SC Media UK that after hijacking a session using a public Wi-Fi network, attackers can log in and get all or almost all of the data on the machine, including social networks access, bank accounts etc.</p> <p>Sergey Perevozchikov comments: "That will be full-fledged surveillance. Criminals can not only watch users' actions, but also manipulate them: for example, redirecting users to a phishing page that is visually indistinguishable from the original, or bringing a notification of the need to install an important update of</p>

legal software, causing downloading of further virus' under its guise. "

A spokesperson for Asteros, another of Russia's leading enterprise, specialising on the design and installation of cyber-security systems, said hackers also pose a threat to "hotel systems, containing commercial, administrative and economic information that attackers can use for their purposes. According to analysts at Asteros, each hotel is a complex of engineering and information systems, and disruption of any of them can cause a domino effect and affect the working capacity of the entire building.

The FSB did not say which hotels are being screened. According to the organising committee of the 2018 World Cup, 32 teams that have qualified to participate in the finals of the championship chose to stay for the period of the competition, not only hotels, but also at the training bases of Russian football clubs, spas and resorts (all of these facilities are also checked for information security).

Retired Major-General of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Vladimir Vorozhtsov, (who oversaw the international cooperation of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs with law enforcement agencies of other countries, including in the field of cybersecurity) told SC Media UK that there is a high threat of cyber-attacks on (Russian) infrastructure during the World Cup.

"Given high level of aggression towards Russia, such attacks can occur," Vorozhtsov said. Experts say that a successful cyber-attack may have a negative impact on the image of the country.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 DDoS interrupts online poker tournaments</b>
-----------------	---

<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.hackread.com/poker-tournaments-disrupted-ddos-attacks-americas-cardroom/">https://www.hackread.com/poker-tournaments-disrupted-ddos-attacks-americas-cardroom/</a>
---------------	---

<b>GIST</b>	<p>Last year in September, Americas Cardroom (ACR), a popular online poker site and its Winning Poker Network (WPN) suffered a series of massive DDoS attacks forcing the company to pause all the ongoing tournaments – In that attack, unknown attacker demanded ransom from the company in order to stop attacking their servers.</p>
-------------	--

Now, it has happened again. On April 24th, 2018, a series of non-stop DDoS attacks hit Americas Cardroom which continued till May 1st. Initially, according to a series of tweets from ACR's Twitter account it was announced that its website will go under scheduled maintenance from 7-10 am ET on Tuesday but a later tweet the same day revealed ACR is under a DDoS attack forcing it to pause all running tournaments.

The tweet caused outrage among many players and some also ask for refunds for the day's tournaments. Some users accused ACR of lying about the DDoS attacks. Nevertheless, the attacks continued till next day (25th April) when a new tweet from ACR said that it is canceling all paused tournaments and players will be refunded accordingly.

The very same day, there was a slight pause in the attacks allowing the company to resume its service, however, on 26th April, ACR came up with another tweet stating that they have been facing a new series of DDoS attacks and all running tournament have been paused. Later that day the company canceled all paused tournaments once again.

On April 27th, ACR apologized for the inconvenience caused by "massive DDoS attack" and suspended their gameplay. On the same day, the company announced canceling of all events until 8:00 pm ET meanwhile its tech team tried mitigating DDoS attacks. However, the unknown attackers kept targeting ACR till 28th April pushing it to cancel all events for the day.

On 29th April, at 2:10 AM, ACR tweeted that DDoS attacks have been mitigated and all tournaments are up and running but little did they know a new wave of cyber attacks hit the tournaments at 4:18 AM. "We are experiencing a new DDOS attack, our techs are working to mitigate it however we have paused all running tournaments," tweeted ACR.

	<p>The DDoS attack continued the whole day forcing ACR to cancel its MDS (“Million Dollar Sundays”) tournament “to ensure a fair gameplay environment for all players.”</p> <p>What is worse for players is that from April 30th to May 1st, ACR kept tweeting about the non-stop DDoS attacks, canceling and refunding the tournaments. This means the attackers ruined the whole week for players.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Claim: Dasan home routers vulnerable</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.securityweek.com/over-million-dasan-routers-vulnerable-remote-hacking">https://www.securityweek.com/over-million-dasan-routers-vulnerable-remote-hacking</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Researchers have disclosed the details of two unpatched vulnerabilities that expose more than one million home routers made by South Korea-based Dasan Networks to remote hacker attacks.</p> <p>In a blog post published on Monday, vpnMentor revealed that many Gigabit-capable Passive Optical Network (GPON) routers, which are used to provide fiber-optic Internet, are affected by critical vulnerabilities. The company told SecurityWeek that the impacted devices are made by Dasan Networks.</p> <p>One of the flaws, tracked as CVE-2018-10561, allows a remote attacker to bypass a router’s authentication mechanism simply by appending the string “?images/” to a URL in the device’s web interface.</p> <p>The second vulnerability, identified as CVE-2018-10562, allows an authenticated attacker to inject arbitrary commands.</p> <p>By combining the two security holes, a remote and unauthenticated attacker can take complete control of a vulnerable device and possibly the entire network, vpnMentor said.</p> <p>A Shodan search shows that there are more than one million GPON home routers exposed to the Internet, a majority located in Mexico (480,000), Kazakhstan (390,000), and Vietnam (145,000).</p> <p>vpnMentor said it did try to report its findings to Dasan before making any information public, but it did not receive a response. Dasan representatives, specifically a PR agency, reached out to vpnMentor on LinkedIn after its blog post was published.</p> <p>While in some cases Dasan has shown interest in working with researchers who discovered vulnerabilities in its products, there are some advisories online describing potentially critical issues that the vendor has apparently ignored.</p> <p>Malicious actors have been known to target Dasan devices. Researchers reported recently that the Satori botnet had ensnared thousands of Dasan routers by exploiting a remote code execution vulnerability. The flaw in question was disclosed in December 2017 by Beyond Security, which claimed the vendor had ignored repeated attempts to report the issue.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 NKorea denies hacking UN database</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.securityweek.com/north-korea-denies-it-hacked-un-sanctions-committee-database">https://www.securityweek.com/north-korea-denies-it-hacked-un-sanctions-committee-database</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>North Korea on Wednesday denied hacking the database of a UN committee tasked with monitoring sanctions against Pyongyang, and called on Washington to focus on peace efforts ahead of a planned summit between the countries' leaders.</p> <p>In a statement, the North Korean mission at the UN said Pyongyang "has never recognized the illegal and unlawful Security Council's 'sanctions resolutions'" and "is not interested in what the Sanctions Committee does," adding the idea that it had carried out a hacking operation was "nonsense."</p>

	<p>"The US and hostile forces should squarely recognize the trend of the times and make efforts to do the work helpful to detente and (the) peace process on the Korean peninsula rather than manipulating plots with that hacking incident," the statement concluded.</p> <p>The mission added the US had made the hacking accusations during a closed-door Sanctions Committee meeting.</p> <p>But the US mission denied having made such a claim. "These quotes and comments attributed to the US delegation are entirely false," a spokesman said.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Delaware data breach resource site</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/delaware-launches-data-breach-compliance-site-for-companies-and-consumers/article/763065/">https://www.scmagazine.com/delaware-launches-data-breach-compliance-site-for-companies-and-consumers/article/763065/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The state of Delaware launched a website to assist in the compliance of the state's updated data breach laws.</p> <p>New amendments went into effect on April 14 and on April 16, Delaware Attorney General Matt Denn announced the launch of the online data security breach reporting resource for both companies and consumers.</p> <p>The site provides approved template forms for companies if they are required to notify the state attorney general or consumers of an incident and also provides a link for customers to file a complain with the AG.</p> <p>"Notice must be provided without unreasonable delay, but not more than 60 days following discovery of the security breach, unless the person suffering the breach determines, after an appropriate investigation, that the breach is unlikely to result in harm," the site said.</p> <p>Delaware's data security breach law requires two different types of notice including one to Delaware residents whose personal information has been subject to a security breach and another to the Delaware Attorney General when the security affects more than 500 Delaware residents.</p> <p>The updated law also included an expansion to the definition of personal information and now includes social security numbers, driver's licenses, state and federal identification card numbers, financial account and payment card numbers with accompanying access codes or passwords, passport numbers, account login credentials, medical history, healthcare policy data, unique biometric data, and individual taxpayer identification numbers.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Ransomware exploits AnyDesk tool</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/blackheart-ransomware-uses-legit-anydesk-tool-as-an-unwitting-accomplice/article/763095/">https://www.scmagazine.com/blackheart-ransomware-uses-legit-anydesk-tool-as-an-unwitting-accomplice/article/763095/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A nearly discovered ransomware program drops its malicious payload alongside the perfectly legitimate AnyDesk remote desktop tool, possibly as a means to evade detection, according to researchers.</p> <p>A sample of the malware, detected as RANSOM_BLACKHEART, was found to generate a ransom note demanding a modest sum of \$50 in bitcoins in exchange for decrypting affected files, Trend Micro reports in a May 1 blog post. The company refers to BLACKHEART as a "fairly common ransomware, with a routine that encrypts a variety of files that use different extensions as part of its routine."</p> <p>While it's known that BLACKHEART infects its victims via malicious sites, the company does not at this</p>

	<p>time understand the specifics of that process. Trend Micro also found a similar sample that bundled AnyDesk with the keylogger TSPY_KEYLOGGER.THDBEAH instead.</p> <p>Developed by AnyDesk Software GmbH in Germany, AnyDesk provides users with bidirectional remote access between personal computers running on various operating systems and unidirectional access on the Android and iOS mobile platforms. Other features include Transport Layer Security, file transfers and client-to-client chat.</p> <p>"We believe bundling AnyDesk with the ransomware might be an evasion tactic," the blog post explains. "Once RANSOM_BLACKHEART is downloaded, AnyDesk will start running in the affected system's background -- masking the true purpose of the ransomware while it performs its encryption routine."</p> <p>Trend Micro researchers also speculate that cyber offenders may be experimenting with AnyDesk as an alternative to TeamViewer, a similar tool that has previously been abused by ransomware -- although in that case, it was confirmed that TeamViewer connections were actually used to install the malicious code.</p> <p>Trend Micro reports that AnyDesk "has acknowledged the existence of the ransomware, and has stated that they will be discussing possible steps they can take."</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to</a> <a href="#">Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Iranians protest Telegram ban</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/iranians-take-to-the-streets-to-protest-telegram-ban/article/763100/">https://www.scmagazine.com/iranians-take-to-the-streets-to-protest-telegram-ban/article/763100/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Iran on Monday followed Russia's example by banning the popular messaging app Telegram citing the app's impact on national security and to help quell the protests that have recently swept through that nation.</p> <p>The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Iran's official news agency reported on April 30 that the Tehran Public and Revolutionary Court issued a decree blocking the service which allows for encrypted messaging service. The app claims to have more than 200 million users with the Wall Street Journal stating more than 40 million, or half of Iran's population, uses the app.</p> <p>"Telegram created suitable room for illegal activities of terrorist groups in which Daesh terrorists conducted two separate military operations in the Iranian parliament and the second one on Imam Khomeini mausoleum last year claiming lives of 17 and injured scores of others. Telegram also played a leading role in last year's unrests claiming lives of citizens and injuring others while incurring huge financial losses to public assets," the IRNA reported.</p> <p>The app is often used by protesters hide the organization of events from the government, although several reports noted that the Iranian government is also a Telegram fan using the software for various nefarious activities.</p> <p>In response to the ban, Iranians have taken to the streets in protest tossing paper airplanes. Telegram's logo is a paper airplane, reported Al Arabiya news.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to</a> <a href="#">Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Fancy Bear behind LoJack malware?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/fancy-bear-likely-behind-malware-found-on-lojack-c2-domains/article/763102/">https://www.scmagazine.com/fancy-bear-likely-behind-malware-found-on-lojack-c2-domains/article/763102/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Russia's Fancy Bear APT group, notable for its alleged assault on the Democratic National Committee (DNC), is likely behind the malicious command and control (C2) domains found in Lojack agents, according to the Arbor Security Engineering &amp; Response Team (ASERT).</p>



	<p>LoJack, a popular laptop recovery solution, “makes an excellent double-agent due to appearing as legit software while natively allowing remote code execution,” researchers said, noting that while “the initial intrusion vector for this activity remains unknown, Fancy Bear often utilizes phishing email to deliver payloads.”</p> <p>Because many antivirus programs don't flag the malware as a concern, it's largely able to do its dirty work without detection. “Low Anti-Virus detection of the LoJack agents containing rogue C2 increases the probability of infection and subsequent successful C2 communication,” the researchers wrote. “The attackers are merely hijacking the communication used by Lojack, thereby granting themselves backdoor access to machines running the software.”</p> <p>Since the “proof of concept in using LoJack as a backdoor or intrusion vector date back to 2014,” they believe “its continued use suggest attackers could have used it in long-running operations.”</p> <p>Ben Johnson, CTO and co-founder of Obsidian Security called the Lojack hijack case “an example of utilizing insider trust, in this case an installed application, to do one's bidding.”</p> <p>If organizations “aren't looking at what applications or users are communicating to what sites, you should probably start doing that,” Johnson suggests, saying that he typically recommends that organizations “always ask what could an insider do? Your adversaries want access, so they become insiders.”</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Automation exacerbates cyber skills gap</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.darkreading.com/careers-and-people/automation-exacerbates-cybersecurity-skills-gap/d/d-id/1331697">http://www.darkreading.com/careers-and-people/automation-exacerbates-cybersecurity-skills-gap/d/d-id/1331697</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>As the security industry grapples with the consequences of a constrained supply of experienced cybersecurity talent, many pundits have lauded automation as a way out. But a new survey out today shows that many security professionals are experiencing the opposite effect. The more artificial intelligence (AI)- and machine learning-powered tools they bring in, the more they need experienced staff to deal with those tools.</p> <p>Conducted by Ponemon Institute on behalf of DomainTools, the study queried over 600 US cybersecurity professionals on the effects of automation on their staffing situations. The results offered up are counterintuitive to general belief that automation will ameliorate the cybersecurity skills gap.</p> <p>According to the study, 75% of organizations report that their security team is currently understaffed and the same proportion say they have difficulty attracting qualified candidates. Over four in 10 organizations report that the difficulties they've faced with recruiting and retaining employees has led to increased investment in cybersecurity automation tools. However, 76% of respondents report that machine learning and AI tools and services aggravate the problem because they increase the need for more highly skilled IT security staff. And only 15% of organizations report that AI is a dependable and trusted security tool for their organization.</p> <p>This jibes with what a lot of experienced security practitioners have to say about automation.</p> <p>"It is very tempting to think that automation will fix a lot of cybersecurity issues. However, automation mechanisms are worthless without a staff which can smartly leverage them and implement them," says Frank Downs, senior manager of Cyber Information Security Practices at ISACA. "An organization can purchase the most incredible intrusion detection/prevention system in the world. However, if they don't have the staff to configure, implement, and manage it — it might as well stay uninstalled."</p> <p>That's not to say that there's no value in automation, it's just that the same principle of "GIGO" applies for cybersecurity automation as it does for any other technical system.</p>

	<p>"Automation really helps make the people on the team more effective. There's no substitute for human flexibility and intuition, so automation lets you take repetitive tasks off the table and enables people do more interesting work," explains Todd Inskip, principal for Booz Allen Hamilton and advisory board member for RSA Conference. "That's important, but one of the first things I learned about computers — 'GIGO,' or 'garbage in, garbage out' — still applies with automation and machine intelligence."</p> <p>The other issue is that automation tends to follow a maturity path where the most automated systems are never fully up to date with the timeliest threat trends. As a result, there always need to be experienced humans who are adaptable enough to deal with the unknown threats of tomorrow, says Lucas Moody, CISO for Palo Alto Networks.</p> <p>"If you break it down, automation is about taking care of yesterday's problems. We are automating what we've mastered and what we understand well," says Moody. "In order to tackle tomorrow's challenges, we need to hire professionals who are strategic, creative, and adaptable. We're really looking for those individuals who thrive on change and problem-solving."</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Ransomware attacks jumped 400% 2017</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.darkreading.com/endpoint/privacy/ransomware-attacks-jumped-400--worldwide-in-2017/d/d-id/1331701">http://www.darkreading.com/endpoint/privacy/ransomware-attacks-jumped-400--worldwide-in-2017/d/d-id/1331701</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WannaCry helped boost the volume of ransomware attacks in 2017 dramatically, representing 90% of all ransomware detection reports. Overall, ransomware attacks increased by 400% from 2016, new data from F-Secure shows.</p> <p>The number of new ransomware variants also spiked by 62%, with 343, and aside from WannaCry, Locky, Mole, Cerber, and CryptoLocker were the most commonly used ransomware families. But according to F-Secure, the overall use of ransomware declined in the second half of 2017.</p> <p>"The last couple of years saw cybercriminals developing lots of new kinds of ransomware, but that activity tapered off after last summer. So it looks like the ransomware gold rush mentality is over, but we already see hard core extortionists continuing to use ransomware, particularly against organizations because WannaCry showed everyone how vulnerable companies are," says F-Secure Security Advisor Sean Sullivan. Cryptomining also took hold, he says.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Survey: sensitive data leaks in emails</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.darkreading.com/application-security/survey-shows-sensitive-data-goes-astray-in-email/d/d-id/1331700">http://www.darkreading.com/application-security/survey-shows-sensitive-data-goes-astray-in-email/d/d-id/1331700</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Nearly half (45%) of employees have accidentally included banking information in email sent to an unintended recipient outside the organization, a new study found.</p> <p>The Clearswift survey of 600 senior business decision makers and 1,200 employees across the UK, US, Germany, and Australia, shows that more than a quarter of users have been on the receiving end of mis-addressed sensitive information, indicating that the flow of poorly managed private information goes in both directions.</p> <p>Upon receiving unintended information, 31% of employees say that they would read the email, with 12% admitting they would scroll through to read the entire email chain. Once read, only 27% would delete the email from their inboxes.</p> <p>Only 45% of employees were familiar with any formal process or course of action for receiving an email from someone in another company in which they were not the intended recipient. Add that to the 22% who</p>

	admitted that there is no formal process in place at all for such situations, and you have an environment in which an enormous opportunity exists for sensitive information to end up (and stay) in the wrong hands.
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Phishing alert: GDPR-theme scam</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/article/phishing-alert-gdpr-themed-scam-wants-you-to-hand-over-passwords-credit-card-details/">https://www.zdnet.com/article/phishing-alert-gdpr-themed-scam-wants-you-to-hand-over-passwords-credit-card-details/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Criminals are attempting to trick consumers into handing over passwords and credit card details by taking advantage of the flood of emails being sent out ahead of new European privacy legislation.</p> <p>The European Union's new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) come into force on 25 May and the policy is designed to give consumers more control over their online data. As a result, in the run-up to it, organisations are sending out messages to customers to gain their consent for remaining on their mailing lists.</p> <p>With so many of these messages being sent out, it was perhaps only a matter of time before opportunistic cybercriminals looked to take advantage of the deluge of messages about GDPR and privacy policies arriving in people's inboxes.</p> <p>A GDPR-related phishing scam uncovered by researchers at cyber security firm RedScan is doing just this in an effort to steal data with emails claiming to be from Airbnb. The attackers appear to be targeting business email addresses, which suggests the messages are sent to emails scraped from the web.</p> <p>The phishing message addresses the user as an Airbnb host and claims they're not able to accept new bookings or send messages to prospective guests until a new privacy policy is accepted.</p> <p>Those who click the link are asked to enter their personal information, including account credentials and payment card information. If the user enters these, they're handing the data straight into the hands of criminals who can use it for theft, identity fraud, selling on the dark web and more.</p> <p>"The irony won't be lost on anyone that cybercriminals are exploiting the arrival of new data protection regulations to steal people's data," said Mark Nicholls, Director of Cyber Security at Redscan.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 New MassMiner malware targets servers</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/new-massminer-malware-targets-web-servers-with-an-assortment-of-exploits/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/new-massminer-malware-targets-web-servers-with-an-assortment-of-exploits/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Security researchers have detected a new wave of cryptocurrency-mining malware infecting servers across the web, and this one is using multiple exploits to gain access to vulnerable and unpatched systems to install a Monero miner.</p> <p>Experts from AlienVault say this new campaign —which they dubbed MassMiner— uses exploits for vulnerabilities such as CVE-2017-10271 (Oracle WebLogic), CVE-2017-0143 (Windows SMB), and CVE-2017-5638 (Apache Struts).</p> <p>MassMiner campaign uses famous exploits</p> <p>The MassMiner crew sure has an excellent taste when it comes to exploits. All of the above are well-known and highly efficient vulnerabilities.</p> <p>CVE-2017-10271 has been under active exploitation since last year, and at least one gang made a killing with it, racking up over \$226,000 from covert cryptocurrency mining operations. The vulnerability is still</p>

one of the most actively targeted server flaw, even today.

CVE-2017-0143 is the more famous of the three, being known as EternalBlue; an exploit developed by the US NSA and leaked online by a hacker group known as The Shadow Brokers. It's been used for a lot of malware ops, including the WannaCry and NotPetya ransomware outbreaks from last year. For the MassMiner attacks, AlienVault says hackers are using EternalBlue to install the DoublePulsar backdoor on vulnerable hosts.

Last but not least, CVE-2017-5638 is the same exploit that hackers used to breach US financial firm Equifax, last summer.

In addition, crooks are also leveraging SQLck, a tool for carrying out brute-force attacks against Microsoft SQL databases, which, if compromised, attackers also use as an intermediary point to launch SQL scripts and install a local cryptocurrency miner.

Monero addresses associated with this group have been used to mine around 1,200 Monero, nearly \$295,000. However, it is unclear if all the money came from the MassMiner campaign, or crooks had other sources of "revenue."

While the MassMiner campaign was only recently discovered and uses its own unique infection mechanism, different from what researchers have seen in the past, Doman told Bleeping Computer today that there are clues suggesting MassMiner may be related to the infamous Smominru. This a botnet that infected over 526,000 Windows machines last year for the purpose of covert cryptocurrency mining alone, and supposedly made over \$2.3 million for its creators.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/01 Why cities are bad at cybersecurity</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.citylab.com/life/2018/05/why-cities-are-so-bad-at-cybersecurity/559334/">https://www.citylab.com/life/2018/05/why-cities-are-so-bad-at-cybersecurity/559334/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Within the past few weeks, two large American cities learned that their information systems were hacked. First, Atlanta revealed that it had been the victim of a ransomware attack that took many of the city's services offline for nearly a week, forcing police to revert to taking written case notes, hampering the Atlanta's court system and preventing residents from paying water bills online. Then, Baltimore's 311 and 911 dispatch systems were taken offline for more than 17 hours, forcing dispatchers to log and process requests manually. Both attacks could have been prevented. And they are more evidence of the poor, if not appalling, state of local government cybersecurity in the United States.</p> <p>We know this because in 2016, in partnership with the International City/County Management Association, we conducted the first-ever nationwide survey of local government cybersecurity. Among other things, the survey data showed just how poorly local governments practice cybersecurity.</p> <p><b>Under near-constant attack, but not fully aware</b></p> <p>Nearly half—44 percent—of all the respondents told us they experience cyberattacks at least daily. Based on prior research, we are confident that rate is actually much higher.</p> <p>The volume of attacks isn't dropping—and in some cases it's increasing.</p> <p>But even so, many communities didn't know how frequently they are attacked, and most didn't count or catalog initial attacks—though more than half did track more serious incidents and breaches.</p> <p>More than half weren't able to determine who was attacking their systems.</p> <p><b>Unprepared to respond, and with not enough support</b></p>

Certainly, there are local governments that do a commendable job with cybersecurity. If previous research into government information technology systems and electronic government can be a guide, they are most likely larger, more well-funded and more well-managed governments. However, the data from our more recent survey strongly suggest that at least some, and perhaps even a large fraction of, local governments may be unable to respond to electronic intrusions.

In part this is because few local officials are aware of the need for cybersecurity. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents to the survey, who were nearly all information technology or cybersecurity officials, said that top managers understood the need. However, among other groups in local governments, awareness dropped considerably. Perhaps as a result, support for cybersecurity efforts was also not as strong as Atlanta's and Baltimore's experiences suggest it should be.

With most local government officials and staff unaware and unsupportive, it is not surprising that cybersecurity is so poor among American local governments. Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms admitted that cybersecurity was not a high priority, although "it certainly has gone to the front of the line."

And yet, crucial barriers remain, largely to do with how much money is allocated to cybersecurity efforts.

### **Getting more people in the know**

If local officials are going to do a better job protecting their information assets, they'll first need to know a lot more about what's actually happening. The numbers of survey respondents who answered "Don't know" to our questions was surprisingly high. No top local officials, whether elected or appointed, should be unaware of basic cybersecurity information, like whether their systems have been attacked or breached, or who's attacking their systems and why.

Knowing these answers will only become more critical as computing becomes more deeply embedded in systems running "smart" cities. If computers control traffic lights, sewage plants, and electrical grids, then the consequence of attacks is more severe than just loss of information or computer services.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 NKorea antivirus software mystery</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/05/02/north_korea_silivaccine_av_software_analysis/">https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/05/02/north_korea_silivaccine_av_software_analysis/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>North Korea's very own antivirus software has been revealed as based on a 10-year-old application made by Trend Micro, but with added nasties.</p> <p>So says Check Point, which was sent a copy of the "SiliVaccine" application and after analysis declared it contained "large chunks of 10+-year-old antivirus engine code belonging to Trend Micro".</p> <p>Trend Micro has confirmed that analysis.</p> <p>Intriguingly, Check Point alleges that SiliVaccine has whitelisted one virus signature that Trend Micro's products could detect. Just why North Korea's government wants software that won't spot some viruses is not hard to guess: a totalitarian dictatorship can only sustain itself with pervasive surveillance and leaving a backdoor that allows viruses in would facilitate just that.</p> <p>Check Point's analysis of SiliVaccine found some other oddities, such as the use of the Themida and Unopix, "packing" tools commonly used to make reverse engineering difficult. As SiliVaccine has no known legal competitors in the hermit kingdom, the need for such precautions is not obvious. There's also a home-brew encryption scheme that's based on SHA1 to protect virus signatures, but with an easy-to-find and simple key that translates from Korean as "Pattern encryption".</p> <p>Much of the tool's code is convoluted, there's a feature that lists the names of malicious files for no apparent reason and a driver named to suggest one function but which instead does another. And does it</p>

	<p>badly, at that.</p> <p>Check Point received the software from freelance journalist Martyn Williams, who sent what was billed as an installer but was actually a self-extracting WinRAR file. Such files are .exes, and unpack their contents without requiring an extraction program. The file containing SiliVaccine offered an installer for the application plus a patch that turned out to be an installer for the JAKU malware.</p> <p>Check Point While notes that “attribution is always a difficult task in cyber security” and won’t therefore pin the application’s oddities on North Korea’s government. But its researchers did feel safe saying “What is clear, however, are the shady practices and questionable goals of SiliVaccine’s creators and backers.”</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to</a> <a href="#">Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Rise of online disinformation</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180503-the-rise-of-online-disinformation">http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180503-the-rise-of-online-disinformation</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>On 26 April 2018 the European Commission took steps to tackle the spread and impact of online disinformation in Europe and ensure the protection of European values and democracies.</p> <p>The Commission proposed an EU-wide Code of Practice on Disinformation, support to an independent network of fact-checkers, and concrete tools to stimulate quality journalism.</p> <p>The study by the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the European Commission, which examined the digital transformation of news media and the rise of disinformation, contributed to defining the tools for tackling disinformation online. The report contains an overview of the relevant economic research literature on the digital transformation of news markets and related impact on the quality of news.</p> <p>Algorithm-driven platforms shape the news landscape The report points out that two-thirds of online news consumers prefer to access it through algorithm-driven platforms such as search engines and news aggregators, and social media websites.</p> <p>It also states that market power and revenue streams shifted from news publishers to platform operators who have the data to match readers, articles and ads.</p> <p>The quality concerns in news are a result of not so much the shift from offline to online distribution, but rather the shift from direct access to newspapers to indirect algorithm-driven distribution of news. This is characterized by the mix of genuine edited news articles, user generated content and deliberately produced disinformation.</p> <p>True news dwarf false news Europa says that despite the much wider availability and accessibility of online news, user trust in news media, especially in online sources of news, is low and differs considerably by age, education and country. Traditional print and broadcasted news remain the most trusted sources.</p> <p>True news audiences dwarf false news audiences, though fake news travels faster and further on social media sites, also across echo chambers, and may capture consumer attention longer than true news. Research in this field, however, is only at the fledgling stage, with findings sensitive to the sample selection of false and real news sources.</p> <p>Is the digital news market failing? There are concerns about distribution platforms such as search engines, news aggregators and social media sites, because their main objective is not the provision of quality news but rather to maximize traffic and advertising revenue. They may weaken consumer trust and news brand recognition and facilitate the introduction of disinformation and false news into the market. This may contribute to news market failure when it becomes difficult for consumers to distinguish between good quality news and disinformation or fake news.</p>

### Disinformation detectives

The JRC is also carrying out extensive research on the issue of fake news. From identifying sources of disinformation to tracking trendy narratives, this work seeks to detect early such stories and prevent them from spreading.

The European Media Monitor (EMM) developed by JRC covers about 300,000 articles per day from traditional news sites. With such an overwhelming volume of information, specific software is necessary in order to classify the information by policy area, and to cluster it in order to find the top stories. However, the monitoring cannot rely on technology alone, human analysis is ultimately necessary.

The JRC has been working with the European External Action Service East StratComm Task Force, set up by the EEAS in 2015 to address pro-Kremlin disinformation. This surveillance allows capturing trends and ongoing narratives, for instance, that NATO was behind the protests in Ukraine or that the West is trying to attack Russia or to legalise paedophilia.

### Social media and bot accounts

The JRC is also developing monitoring to cover social media, including Twitter. Around 55 million tweets circulate daily through this platform. The JRC analyses a sample of 10 percent of them, in order to identify trends, to see how news can quickly “go viral”, and to map communities based on the information users share and on how they interact with each other.

Another area of current research is the tonality of known fake news. Usually, balanced journalistic reporting presents positive and negative aspects, therefore the overall tonality is neutral. Disinformation articles, on the contrary, often push emotions to the extreme. On this topic, the JRC is organizing workshops with journalists, social media managers and policy officers, in order to help them understand the use of emotions by fake news sources.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Marines investigate online misconduct</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/marines-investigate-130-online-misconduct-scandal-54892003?">https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/marines-investigate-130-online-misconduct-scandal-54892003?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>More than a year after a nude-photo-sharing scandal rocked the Marine Corps, the service has investigated about 130 individuals for online misconduct, ranging from sexual harassment and bullying to revenge porn. Nearly 60 faced some type of punishment.</p> <p>Marine Commandant Gen. Robert Neller told reporters Wednesday that he's trying to create a cultural change in the Corps, but he acknowledged the challenge.</p> <p>"Are we where we want to be? No," Neller said. "It's been a year. We're trying to change a culture that didn't start a year ago."</p> <p>Neller's comments came on the heels of a Pentagon report that said sexual assaults across the Marine Corps increased by nearly 15 percent last year, compared to 2016.</p> <p>He noted that many believe that increased reporting shows confidence in the chain of command and a belief that there is less of a chance of retribution for a complaint.</p> <p>But, he added, "If that number continues to go up ... we have to decide if that's because we still can't improve our behavior and our discipline."</p> <p>As of April 18, the Marine Corps has investigated 108 Marines and 22 civilians for online misconduct. Some cases were related to the online nude-photo-sharing scandal and others were not. So far, seven people were convicted in court-martial proceedings, 16 faced non-judicial punishments, 28 faced other</p>

	<p>administrative actions and seven were discharged from the Marine Corps.</p> <p>The photo-sharing scandal came to light early last year, when nude photographs of female Marines, veterans from across the military and other women were shared on the Facebook page Marines United. Comments and posts under some photos included obscene and threatening comments.</p> <p>An investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service determined that the overwhelming majority of the photos were selfies or were posed for and then voluntarily shared, which is not illegal even under military code. As a result, only a small number of military members faced charges or discipline for their participation on the website. The scandal, however, prompted the military services to revise and more strongly enforce online behavior, including on social media websites.</p> <p>Neller said the discipline isn't about "hanging scalps" but rather about teaching Marines that they are held to a higher standard of behavior.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Pentagon: Chinese cellphones 'security risk'</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/pentagon-says-chinese-cellphones-are-security-risk-bans-sale-bases-n870756">https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/pentagon-says-chinese-cellphones-are-security-risk-bans-sale-bases-n870756</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has ordered stores at U.S. military bases to stop selling two brands of Chinese-made cellphones and modems because the devices may pose a security risk.</p> <p>Huawei and ZTE products are now being removed from the three store chains operated by the Defense Department at installations worldwide, said Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Dave Eastburn.</p> <p>"Huawei and ZTE devices may pose an unacceptable risk to the department's personnel, information and mission," said Eastburn. "Given the security concerns associated with these devices, as expressed by senior U.S. intelligence officials, it was not prudent for the Department's exchange services to continue selling these products to our personnel."</p> <p>The directive to remove the devices from shelves was issued on April 25. Eastburn said that service members should be aware of the potential risk posed by the products, regardless of where they were purchased.</p> <p>Eastburn said that during recent testimony before the Senate, the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of the FBI, CIA, NSA DIA and National Geospatial Intelligence Agency all said that Americans should not use Huawei products because of security concerns.</p> <p>He said he could not discuss the nature of the potential threat for security reasons. U.S. officials had previously expressed concerns that the phones could be designed to permit access by the Chinese government.</p> <p>Huawei is the third largest smartphone maker in the world, behind Apple and Samsung, and the largest manufacturer of telecommunications equipment.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 How hate speech spreads online</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/02/us/hate-groups-using-internet/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/02/us/hate-groups-using-internet/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>(CNN)Hate groups that support neo-Nazism, racism, sexism or homophobia use virtually the same tools as any mainstream advertiser to spread their insidious messages online.</p> <p>What's worse, these groups are growing in numbers. For the first time in eight years, hate groups were</p>



found in all 50 states, according to a report released this year by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The report also warns that the number of US hate groups has increased 20% since 2014.

Hate groups have transformed parts of the internet into a propaganda battlefield, with potentially deadly consequences. For example, 2015's Charleston massacre, the so-called "Pizzagate" fake conspiracy story in 2016 and last year's violent, racially charged rally and protest in Charlottesville, Virginia, were all linked to online activities.

Here are five basic ways hate groups use the internet to get their messages out and stir up violence.

### **1. Social networking**

Mainstream social networking outlets such as Twitter and Facebook have struggled with how to handle hate groups on their platforms. These sites often find themselves trying to balance the right to share and debate ideas with the responsibility to protect society against potential attacks.

After Charlottesville, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Facebook was already taking down "any post that promotes or celebrates hate crimes or acts of terrorism." In addition to removing posts connected to specific groups and events, Facebook said it was paying closer attention to its content in the wake of the Virginia attacks.

Facebook said it has its own internal guidelines about what constitutes a hate group.

Simply being white supremacists or identifying as "alt-right" doesn't necessarily qualify. A person or group must threaten violence, declare it has a violent mission or actually take part in acts of violence.

Twitter also reacted following Charlottesville. Last October in an internal email, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey detailed more aggressive policies, including treating hateful imagery and hate symbols on Twitter as "sensitive media."

Like adult content and graphic violence, the content will be blurred and users will need to manually opt in to view. But Twitter didn't detail what it considers to be a hate symbol.

In late 2017, people used web platforms including bulletin board sites Reddit and 4chan to post about the "Pizzagate" false conspiracy theory that top Democrats including Hillary Clinton ran a child sex operation out of a D.C. pizzeria. The false story spread to other platforms and websites. Pizzeria owner James Alefantis received death threats. Eventually a man with an assault rifle showed up at the pizzeria and fired a shot before he was apprehended. No one was hurt.

Reddit cracked down, banning the so-called "r/pizzagate" thread from its site. "We are very clear in our site terms of service that witch hunts and vigilantism can hurt innocent people," said a spokeswoman in a statement sent to CNNMoney in 2016.

Although tech companies feel increasing pressure to police speech on their platforms, if they over-correct or ban speech too broadly, they risk losing customers, said David Snyder, executive director at the First Amendment Coalition to CNNMoney.

### **2. Video platforms**

Countless messages of hate are posted worldwide on various video platforms. According to a statement posted on YouTube last June, YouTube and its owner Google promised to do more to identify and remove hateful content.

"... (W)e will be taking a tougher stance on videos that do not clearly violate our policies — for example, videos that contain inflammatory religious or supremacist content. In future these will appear behind an interstitial warning and they will not be monetized, recommended or eligible for comments or user endorsements."

However, last month, a CNN investigation found that ads from more than 300 companies and organizations -- including tech giants, major retailers, newspapers and government agencies -- ran on YouTube channels promoting white nationalists, Nazis, pedophilia, conspiracy theories and North Korean propaganda.

YouTube responded to CNN's investigation with a written statement: "When we find that ads mistakenly ran against content that doesn't comply with our policies, we immediately remove those ads. We know that even when videos meet our advertiser friendly guidelines, not all videos will be appropriate for all brands. But we are committed to working with our advertisers and getting this right."

### **3. Online funding**

Without the convenience of using the internet to raise funds, many hate groups would be crippled.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit that monitors hate groups in the US, said organizers, speakers and individuals attending last year's Charlottesville rally used PayPal to move money ahead of the event.

PayPal said in a blog post last August it works to make sure its services aren't used to accept payments or donations that promote hate, violence or racial intolerance. That includes groups that encourage racist views, such as the KKK and white-supremacist organizations.

"If we become aware of a website or organization using our services that may violate our policies, our highly trained team of experts addresses each case individually and carefully evaluates the website itself, any associated organizations, and their adherence to our policy," PayPal said in the blog post.

Popular crowdfunding site GoFundMe also took a stand against hate speech following Charlottesville. The platform shut down multiple campaigns to raise money for James Fields, the man accused of driving his car into a crowd at the rally, killing one woman and injuring dozens more.

"White nationalists and neo-Nazis cannot use GoFundMe to promote hatred, racism, or intolerance, and if a campaign violates GoFundMe's terms of service, we'll remove it from the platform," a spokesman told CNN Tech last August.

The company said those campaigns did not raise any money and were immediately removed.

Some hate groups get around traditional funding sites by using alt-right-focused fundraising platforms and cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency a relatively new kind of currency for the digital era. It works across international borders and doesn't need to be backed by banks or governments.

### **4. Websites/Webhosting**

Websites are a basic piece of the hate propaganda machine. But Charlottesville may have made it more difficult for white supremacist and Neo-Nazi websites to remain online.

Webhosting companies GoDaddy and Google Domains gave the white supremacist site The Daily Stormer the boot after it published a derogatory story about the victim killed in the Charlottesville protest.

Google said in a statement it canceled The Daily Stormer's registration for violating its terms of service. But getting kicked off a web host merely forces a site to go somewhere else — ultimately prompting a game of internet-domain whack-a-mole. It also raises issues around what domain-hosting companies are responsible for, and where they draw the line on objectionable material.

"Legally, they don't have any responsibility around this, unless it's a federal crime (such as child pornography) or intellectual property," Daphne Keller, the director of intermediary liability at the Stanford Center for Internet and Society, told CNN Tech last August.

### **5. The dark web**

If you've never heard of the dark web, you should be made aware. The dark web is a part of the internet that can't be searched by Google or most common search engines. It can only be viewed with a special Tor browser.

After being banned by GoDaddy, Google Domains and a Russian hosting outfit, The Daily Stormer was forced onto the dark web, where it couldn't be accessed through standard web browsers. Later the site was able to find a legitimate host and return to the internet.

Hate groups may find less policing on the dark web, but because relatively few people use the dark web, the potential audience available is very small.

Why haven't tech companies done more to combat hate groups online?

One reason: Tech platforms are protected under the Communications Decency Act, a unique US legal protection that gives a broad layer of immunity to online companies from being held liable for content posted by users. There are exceptions, but the law is meant to preserve freedom of expression. Companies are supposed to act in good faith to protect users.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

## Terror Conditions

[Top of page](#)

HEADLINE	<b>05/02 New ISIS threat against World Cup</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/football/news/isis-sick-new-threat-fans-12466146">https://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/football/news/isis-sick-new-threat-fans-12466146</a>
GIST	<p>ISIS have issued a fresh threat to fans and players ahead of the controversial 2018 Russian World Cup.</p> <p>In a competition beset with problems, including England threatening to pull out of the finals after the suspicious death of a former spy on British soil, the Islamic group have now renewed their attack.</p> <p>Their latest sick image - released by pro-ISIS Wafa Media Foundation via an Indonesian cell - shows a terrorist cell in khakis and brandishing AK47s</p> <p>But worrying their shown lining up against the Russian international side with the eerie warnings "big match", 'IS vs Russia' and 'life or death'.</p> <p>England are already set to play one of their World Cup matches at a Russian stadium which has featured in a chilling ISIS propaganda campaign.</p> <p>Sick jihadists earlier this year released an image of a terrorist brandishing a sub machine gun and a bomb, with the Volgograd Arena in Southern Russia in the background.</p> <p>It carries the words 'Wait for Us' underneath the sinister figure.</p> <p>The stadium will host Gareth Southgate's side when they face Tunisia on June 18, the World Cup draw revealed.</p> <p>Although Volgograd is not an area which the Home Office advises football fans not to visit, it has urged supporters travelling to watch the tournament to see travel advice before travelling.</p> <p>The image, shared throughout pro-ISIS channels on the encrypted messaging application Telegram, featured an excerpt of a Quranic verse manipulated by the ISIS followers to urge fellow jihadis to take every opportunity to conduct deadly attacks in the U.S. and Russia.</p> <p>Groups linked with ISIS have swamped social media with the image, as well as horrifying manipulated pictures featuring Argentina star Lionel Messi and Brazilian ace Neymar.</p>

Barcelona star Messi appears to have been beheaded and Neymar is pictured on his knees crying while a terrorist stands next to them both with a knife in his hands.

The image was made and distributed by the pro-IS Wafa Media Foundation.

The poster came after Argentinian football chiefs held a meeting with the Russian ambassador over safety fears sparked by an ISIS mock up of Messi crying blood.

The chilling images are the latest threat to next year's World Cup in Russia as part of a campaign of terror by ISIS fanatics.

Thousands of Russians from mainly central Asia have travelled to the Middle East to fight for ISIS. Experts in Moscow believe around 2,400 joined the regime in 2015 alone.

Islamic extremism is a concern for Russian President Vladimir Putin, said Ian Brzezinski, senior fellow at the Atlantic Council.

[Return to Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Green Berets aid Saudis against Houthis</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/03/us/politics/green-berets-saudi-yemen-border-houthi.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/03/us/politics/green-berets-saudi-yemen-border-houthi.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON — For years, the American military has sought to distance itself from a brutal civil war in Yemen, where Saudi-led forces are battling rebels who pose no direct threat to the United States.</p> <p>But late last year, a team of about a dozen Green Berets arrived on Saudi Arabia’s border with Yemen, in a continuing escalation of America’s secret wars.</p> <p>With virtually no public discussion or debate, the Army commandos are helping locate and destroy caches of ballistic missiles and launch sites that Houthi rebels in Yemen are using to attack Riyadh and other Saudi cities.</p> <p>Details of the Green Beret operation, which has not been previously disclosed, were provided to The New York Times by United States officials and European diplomats.</p> <p>They appear to contradict Pentagon statements that American military assistance to the Saudi-led campaign in Yemen is limited to aircraft refueling, logistics and general intelligence sharing.</p> <p>There is no indication that the American commandos have crossed into Yemen as part of the secretive mission.</p> <p>But sending American ground forces to the border is a marked escalation of Western assistance to target Houthi fighters who are deep in Yemen.</p> <p>Beyond its years as a base for Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen has been convulsed by civil strife since 2014, when the Shiite Muslim rebels from the country’s north stormed the capital, Sana. The Houthis, who are aligned with Iran, ousted the government of President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi, the Americans’ main counterterrorism partner in Yemen.</p> <p>In 2015, a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia began bombing the Houthis, who have responded by firing missiles into the kingdom. Yet there is no evidence that the Houthis directly threaten the United States; they are an unsophisticated militant group with no operations outside Yemen and have not been classified by the American government as a terrorist group.</p> <p>The Green Berets, the Army’s Special Forces, deployed to the border in December, weeks after a ballistic missile fired from Yemen sailed close to Riyadh, the Saudi capital. The Saudi military intercepted the</p>

missile over the city's international airport, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman renewed a longstanding request that the United States send troops to help the kingdom combat the Houthi threat.

A half-dozen officials — from the United States military, the Trump administration, and European and Arab nations — said the American commandos are training Saudi ground troops to secure their border. They also are working closely with American intelligence analysts in Najran, a city in southern Saudi Arabia that has been repeatedly attacked with rockets, to help locate Houthi missile sites within Yemen.

Along the porous border, the Americans are working with surveillance planes that can gather electronic signals to track the Houthi weapons and their launch sites, according to the officials, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the mission publicly.

During a meeting on Capitol Hill in March, senators pressed Pentagon officials about the military's role in the Saudi-led conflict, demanding to know whether American troops were at risk of entering into hostilities against the Houthis.

Pentagon officials told the senators what had already been said publicly: that American forces stationed in Saudi Arabia only advised within the kingdom's borders and were focused mostly on border defense.

“We are authorized to help the Saudis defend their border,” Gen. Joseph L. Votel, the head of United States Central Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee on March 13. “We are doing that through intelligence sharing, through logistics support and through military advice that we provide to them.”

On April 17, Robert S. Karem, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the United States had about 50 military personnel in Saudi Arabia, “largely helping on the ballistic missile threat.”

The Green Berets have stepped in to deal with an increasingly difficult problem for the Saudi military. Their presence is the latest example of the expanding relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia under President Trump and Prince Mohammed.

The American military's support for the Saudi campaign against the Houthis is different from the Pentagon's campaign against other militants in Yemen.

Over the past two years, American-backed government troops from Yemen and the United Arab Emirates have expanded a shadowy war in Yemen's central and southern regions. The effort has targeted more than 3,000 members of the Qaeda affiliate and its tribal confederates, driving them into the rugged, mountainous interior.

Last year, as part of Mr. Trump's intensified campaign against terrorist organizations, the United States launched more than 130 airstrikes in Yemen, according to United States Central Command. Most of the strikes targeted Qaeda militants; 10 were launched against Islamic State fighters.

By comparison, the American military launched 38 strikes in Yemen in 2016; airstrikes have continued this year.

Officials said American support for the Saudi-led coalition against Houthi rebels, a campaign that includes the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Egypt, was initially outlined in a 2015 document known as the Rice memo, named after Susan E. Rice, who was then Mr. Obama's national security adviser.

The memo detailed military assistance and was intended to keep the United States out of offensive operations against the Houthis, focusing instead on helping the Saudis secure their border.

Under the Trump administration, the scope of those guidelines appears to have grown — as evidenced by the addition of American surveillance planes and the Green Beret team.

The Saudi air campaign in 2015 initially was aimed at stockpiles of older Soviet ballistic missiles that were first used in Yemen's 1994 civil war. The Saudi military reckoned those weapons could fall into Houthi hands.

In April 2015, after a month of strikes, the Saudi-led coalition said it had accomplished its goals of destroying the missiles and the equipment used to launch them. But that June, Houthi rebels launched their first salvo of ballistic missiles, aimed at Khamis Mushayt, a Saudi city roughly 60 miles from the Yemen border.

Since then, Houthis have launched dozens of missiles, including shorter-range modified anti-aircraft missiles and imported Iranian munitions. The White House and State Department have seized on the attacks to condemn not only the rebels but their Iranian supporters, underscoring the administration's increasing hard line against Tehran.

"Iran destabilizes this entire region," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said during a visit to Riyadh on Sunday. "It supports proxy militias and terrorist groups. It is an arms dealer to the Houthi rebels in Yemen."

Since 2015, Mr. Karem said, Houthi rebels have launched more than 100 ballistic missiles and many more rockets against major population centers, international airports, military installations and oil infrastructure — all within Saudi Arabia.

In the first four months of this year, the Houthis launched more than 30 missiles — roughly on par with the number fired in all of 2017, according to data compiled by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Saudi forces trying to counter weapons from Yemen's west coast — like the Houthi-held port in Al Hudaydah, where officials in Riyadh believe components of the missiles are shipped — have only two viable options, said Michael Knights, a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The first is to find the missiles where they are stored, which requires an extensive amount of intelligence, Mr. Knights said. The second is far harder: to attack the launch sites, he said.

"They have a very difficult problem," Mr. Knights said.

Houthi rebels could hide mobile missile launchers anywhere from inside culverts to beneath highway overpasses. They are easily moved for hasty launches.

Dealing with that problem requires a well-orchestrated system by the Saudi-led coalition, extending from satellites to troops on the ground, to ensure aircraft can find and quickly destroy the missile launchers.

"In a mobile-missile environment, that's a challenge," Gen. David L. Goldfein, the Air Force chief of staff, said in an interview.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 ISIS leader dead or alive?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.newsweek.com/isis-leader-alive-dead-top-official-says-has-not-seen-baghdadi-summer-908980">http://www.newsweek.com/isis-leader-alive-dead-top-official-says-has-not-seen-baghdadi-summer-908980</a>
<b>GIST</b>	One of Islamic State militant group (ISIS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's closest aides has admitted to an Iraqi court that he has not seen the elusive jihadi chief since last summer, prompting further speculation about his fate.  Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council reportedly issued Wednesday the official confession of a top ISIS official,

who is believed to have worked in the upper echelons of the jihadi group's administration. Council spokesman Judge Abdul Sattar Bayrakdar issued a statement explaining that "the Central Investigation Court has held filed the confessions of one accused of belonging to the ISIS terrorist organization calling for the terrorist, revealing the existence of ongoing meetings with the leader of the organization Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi," a number of news outlets reported, including Arabi 21, whose article was later shared by Bayrakdar himself.

"The accused confirmed that the last meeting between them was in July last year, while he explained that he is a member of the Supervisory General Committee of the so-called Islamic state after its division into five emirates, Iraq, Sham [the Levant], Africa, Europe and the Arabian Gulf," the statement continued.

Bayrakdar went on to say that the suspect claimed to hold a doctorate in Islamic law and that he had been held in Camp Bucca, a U.S. detainment camp where Baghdadi was once held—along with a number of other disaffected Sunni Muslims—a year after the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. The statement said the accused was captured in a joint operation with Turkish security forces and later handed over to Iraq.

While the suspect was not named in the statement, the Iraqi Interior Ministry's Falcons Intelligence Cell announced on February 14 that ISIS supervisory committee member Ismail Alwan Salman al-Ithawi had been captured as he attempted to enter Turkey through Syria, and was later extradited to Iraq. The cell shared two images purported to be of Ithawi.

Hisham al-Hashimi, a researcher in terrorism and a member of the Network for Iraqi Facilitators, tweeted Wednesday that the suspect in Bayrakdar's statement and Ithawi were one and the same.

Baghdadi joined what was known as Al-Qaeda in Iraq, later known as the Islamic State of Iraq, sometime after his release in U.S. captivity and went on to lead the group after its leader's death, Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi in 2010. Taking advantage of a 2011 uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, he spread his group into the neighboring country and rebranded it as ISIS. In 2014, Baghdadi made his first and last known public appearance as head of ISIS when he declared a global caliphate from the Grand al-Nuri Mosque in Mosul.

That year, ISIS claimed half of Iraq and Syria, but the group has since been mostly defeated by U.S.-led coalition and local campaigns supported by Iran and Russia. As some 90 to 99 percent of the group's territory was lost, the militants have largely gone underground with only shrinking pockets of territory in eastern Syria and a quickly collapsing hold on the southern outskirts of Damascus remaining.

With little left of his self-proclaimed caliphate, Baghdadi's absence has made him the subject of various rumors about his whereabouts and fate. Russia said last June that it believed it killed him in a May airstrike. Not long after, a top Iranian official also said Baghdadi was dead, while two pro-Syrian opposition activist groups were split. The voice of a man ISIS claimed to be Baghdadi appeared in a recording released in September, but the claim has not been independently verified.

The U.S. has not provided any updates, while some officials speculated in February he was injured and hiding in Syria's eastern desert region, a view echoed by a top Iraqi official.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Did bin Laden's death help ISIS?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/05/02/did-bin-ladens-death-help-the-islamic-state/?utm_term=.3dcdef58c775">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/05/02/did-bin-ladens-death-help-the-islamic-state/?utm_term=.3dcdef58c775</a>
<b>GIST</b>	Seven years after the death of al-Qaeda's founding leader, Osama bin Laden, the Sunni jihadist movement stands divided. Al-Qaeda remains a powerful player, primarily because of the strength of its affiliates, those groups that have sworn allegiance to al-Qaeda. But al-Qaeda also faces a major rival: its former affiliate in Iraq, the Islamic State.

Their alliance — formed in 2004 — was troubled from the outset. Al-Qaeda was constantly frustrated with its Iraqi affiliate's excessive violence, prioritization of Shiites as an enemy, infighting with other Sunni militants in Iraq and refusal to heed al-Qaeda's counsel. Yet their alliance withstood those problems for years. Three years after bin Laden's death, the relationship not only ruptured, but the Islamic State also challenged al-Qaeda for the leadership of the Sunni jihadist movement.

This raises the question: Would the split have occurred if bin Laden was alive? By some measures, his death had little impact. It didn't result in al-Qaeda's disintegration, nor did it end the group's terrorism. But on the basis of our research into bin Laden's leadership using the declassified documents from his compound as well as the extensive secondary literature on him, we propose that, unlike his successor, Ayman al-Zawahiri, bin Laden was sufficiently capable as a leader that he may have been able to prevent the rupture with the Islamic State.

#### The fallout

Long-standing problems in the two militant groups' alliance came to a head in April 2013. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi — leader of the group that then called itself the Islamic State in Iraq (ISI) — publicly announced that his organization would incorporate an extremist group, Jabhat al-Nusra in Syria, to become the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS).

His move was not entirely unjustified. Al-Nusra's leader, Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, hailed from ISI. ISI also had provided support that enabled al-Nusra to gain a prominent position within the opposition in Syria.

By Zawahiri's orders, ISI and al-Qaeda's ties to al-Nusra were something of an open secret, not to be publicly acknowledged by any of the parties to bolster al-Nusra's legitimacy within the Syrian opposition. Not only did Baghdadi's announcement contravene Zawahiri's authority, it stunted Jolani's ambitions to have his own organization in Syria. The feuding leaders turned to Zawahiri to resolve their dispute.

That May, Zawahiri weighed in: He voided ISI's move into Syria and ordered it back to Iraq. He ruled that al-Nusra should be independent of ISI and act as al-Qaeda's representative in Syria. Baghdadi defiantly rejected Zawahiri's ruling in a public audio statement the same month. Baghdadi vowed to pursue an expanded Islamic State and increased his group's violence against civilians and other opposition groups. In an unprecedented move, al-Qaeda publicly severed ties with ISI in February 2014.

While these were new developments, the underlying issues were not. Al-Qaeda repeatedly attempted to curb ISI's excessive violence. ISI's move to declare itself a state spanning Iraq and Syria without consulting al-Qaeda leadership was the latest in a string of unilateral moves, including its initial declaration of "statehood" in 2006.

The Iraq-based group also had a long record of conflict with other Sunni militant groups. Baghdadi, while not well known to al-Qaeda, was by no means the first leader of the group to ignore al-Qaeda's counsel. So why was this incident sufficient to rupture relations?

#### Leadership matters

One important change was the shift from bin Laden's skillful leadership to Zawahiri's contentious management. Bin Laden commanded considerable respect within the Sunni jihadist movement. He enjoyed a near-mythical status as the man who sacrificed everything for violent jihad and delivered a massive blow to the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. It would have been more difficult for Baghdadi to publicly repudiate bin Laden. As a sign of bin Laden's prestige, Baghdadi's group has claimed to be the true heir of bin Laden's legacy.

In addition, bin Laden was masterful at managing the difficult personalities and sizable egos in a movement with plenty of both. While bin Laden grappled with numerous disagreements, al-Qaeda did not experience a splintering of consequence under his leadership, a rarity among terrorist organizations.



In contrast, this was not the first time Zawahiri inherited a leadership position in the absence of more capable superiors. During the 1990s, he unsuccessfully led an Egyptian group, al-Jihad. As the leader of al-Jihad, Zawahiri was a source of conflict rather than a mediator of it, and his group eventually fractured. His history of worsening rivalries, alienating followers and making unpopular decisions by fiat proved prescient when he was faced with the dispute between al-Jolani and al-Baghdadi. As he had done in the past, he exacerbated tensions rather than reducing them.

When bin Laden communicated difficult decisions, he invoked scripture, history and the Sunnah to give his opinions credibility. Or he framed unpopular decisions in a way to minimize the fallout. For example, when telling al-Shabab that he would not publicly recognize it as an affiliate, he explained how doing so would hurt al-Shabab, though his decision was likely due in part to his reservations about the Somali group.

Zawahiri's ruling on the dispute in Syria was particularly inadequate on that score. He offered poor justification for his instructions that al-Nusra should act as al-Qaeda's representative in Syria, while ISI must return to operating only in Iraq. He expected his orders to be followed simply because he issued them. Tellingly, Zawahiri has since struggled to maintain the alliance with al-Nusra.

Bin Laden's qualities and status suggest he would have been far more capable than Zawahiri of managing the dispute, and by extension he may have been able to preserve the flawed alliance. Bin Laden consistently emphasized that unity within the Sunni jihadist movement was of paramount importance, even in the face of differences. Arguably, it was his highest priority. In his absence, his successor has proved unequal to the task, leaving a divided movement in his wake.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 ISIS bombers attack Libya ballot stations</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/isis-suicide-bombers-attack-libyan-electoral-commission-killing-12/2018/05/02/e39d4cf4-4e28-11e8-85c1-9326c4511033_story.html?utm_term=.0b69558e47c9">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/isis-suicide-bombers-attack-libyan-electoral-commission-killing-12/2018/05/02/e39d4cf4-4e28-11e8-85c1-9326c4511033_story.html?utm_term=.0b69558e47c9</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>CAIRO — Islamic State suicide bombers targeted the offices of Libya's electoral commission in Tripoli on Wednesday, killing at least 12 people in one of the most brazen assaults on the Libyan capital in years.</p> <p>The attackers, strapped with explosive belts, entered the building and opened fire on employees at the High National Election Commission (HNEC), engaging in a gun battle with guards before detonating the explosives.</p> <p>Plumes of black smoke rose from the office building in the Ghout al-Shaal enclave near Tripoli's downtown, according to images and video posted on social media by witnesses.</p> <p>"This breach targeted democracy, not just the HNEC," the electoral commission's director, Emad al-Sayah, told a news conference. "The choice and future of Libyans were targeted."</p> <p>A few hours after the attack, the Islamic State asserted responsibility in a statement posted on Amaq, the militant group's news agency. The group said it had dispatched two fighters, Abu Ayoub and Abu Tawfeeq, to "target the apostate ballot stations," suggesting that the goal of the attack was to harm Libya's ability to hold elections this year, which U.N. and Western officials view as essential to bringing stability to the war-riven nation.</p>
<a href="#">Return to</a>	
<a href="#">Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 UN: 28 females Iraq death sentences</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/28-foreign-females-sentenced-to-death-over-belonging-to-since-beginning-of-year/">https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/28-foreign-females-sentenced-to-death-over-belonging-to-since-beginning-of-year/</a>

<b>GIST</b>	<p>Baghdad (IraqiNews.com) The High Commission for Human Rights in Iraq has revealed the total number of foreign females, who had death sentences issued against them, over involvement with Islamic State.</p> <p>In remarks on Wednesday, Ali al-Bayati, member of the commission, said “the total number of female members who had death sentences issued against them reached 28 women.”</p> <p>Iraqi judiciary, according to Bayati, “sentenced them to death over involvement with the militant group as well as carrying out terrorist crimes against security personnel and civilians.”</p> <p>Bayati also added that the number of these females is from the beginning of the year, saying that their nationalities were Turkish, Russian, French, Azeri and Kyrgyz.</p> <p>Last week, The Central Criminal Court in Baghdad has sentenced five female militants, two of whom are Azeri and three others are from Kyrgyzstan, to death over involvement with Islamic State. Life sentences were issued against five female convicts, two of whom are Russian, an Azeri one and a French one.</p> <p>Many IS members were detained during liberation battles that freed cities, which were recaptured by the militant group in 2014.</p> <p>Last month, the Iraqi Justice Ministry has announced carrying out death sentences against 13 convicts, most of whom are involved in terrorism. Six Turkish females were sentenced to death over affiliation to Islamic State.</p> <p>Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory over the militant group, previously in December, however, observers warn that the group still poses a security threat with sleeper cells.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Brit 'jihadi' planned vehicle attack</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/6185002/ginger-jihadi-was-planning-large-scale-terror-attack-on-oxford-street-and-madame-tussauds-using-vehicle/">https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/6185002/ginger-jihadi-was-planning-large-scale-terror-attack-on-oxford-street-and-madame-tussauds-using-vehicle/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A GINGER 'jihadi' has been accused of planning a “large-scale” terror attack on Oxford Street and Madame Tussads.</p> <p>Lewis Ludlow, 26, is alleged to have plotted a “multiple casualty vehicle-borne assault” at the heart of central London.</p> <p>The Muslim convert appeared in the dock at Westminster Magistrates' Court today wearing a green t-shirt and a traditional black Muslim skull cap.</p> <p>Bearded and ginger-haired Ludlow refused to stand in court at the beginning of the hearing.</p> <p>He said: “I'm not allowed to stand for anyone but God.”</p> <p>Ludlow was flanked by two officers from Kent police and one dock officer for his first court appearance following his arrest.</p> <p>The terror suspect, from Rochester, Kent, then spoke to confirm his name, date of birth, address and British nationality.</p> <p>When the charges were read to him he said after each one: “I declare myself innocent of that charge.” Ludlow then sat with his arms folded throughout the hearing.</p> <p>Prosecutor Mark Dawson said he was arrested on April 18 by officers from Kent's Counter Terrorism unit.</p>

	<p>He said Ludlow was charged with two charges contrary Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006 and one contrary to Section 17 of the Terrorism Act. He denies all offences.</p> <p>“Charge one relates with the defendant's intention to travel to the Philippines to join up with Daesh, the Islamic State.</p> <p>“Charge two relates to sending money, we say, clearly for the benefit of Islamic State.</p> <p>“And charge three relates to the defendant planning a large-scale, multiple-casualty vehicle-borne assault, perhaps in the Oxford Street area of London.”</p> <p>Senior District Judge Emma Arbuthnot said: “Clearly on charge three the defendant was planning an attack at Madame Tussauds.”</p> <p>She remanded Ludlow in custody ahead of a preliminary hearing at the Old Bailey on May 11.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 UK arrests British YPG militant</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2018/05/03/uk-arrests-british-ypg-militant-under-terrorism-act">https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2018/05/03/uk-arrests-british-ypg-militant-under-terrorism-act</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>British authorities arrested a U.K. citizen late Wednesday who had traveled to Syria to fight against Daesh terrorists in the ranks of another militant group, the PKK's Syrian wing People's Protection Units (YPG).</p> <p>Jamie Janson, the great nephew of 1960s Secretary of State For War, John Profumo, was arrested upon his arrival in the country from Syria.</p> <p>Janson was returning home on a coach from France, the Daily Mail reported.</p> <p>Although the UK fails to recognize YPG as the Syrian affiliate of globally recognized terrorist group PKK, it has taken some significant steps.</p> <p>In February, two other YPG members were also arrested in the U.K. Aidan James, 27, was held at Liverpool Airport as he was returning from Syria. James was charged with one count of perpetrating acts of terrorism, and two counts of attendance at a place used for terrorist training.</p> <p>Earlier in the month, another British man, Jim Matthews appeared before a British court after being charged with similar offenses due to his previous activities with the PKK/YPG in Syria.</p> <p>A U.K. minister has also acknowledged that Britain is aware of the possible links between the PKK and its Syrian affiliate, YPG.</p> <p>"We are very concerned over possible links. We don't seek any link with the PKK and ourselves in any way," said Alistair Burt, minister of state for the Middle East, speaking at a session of the House of Commons' Foreign Affairs Committee.</p> <p>Responding to questions at the committee, Burt responded to a question by the committee from Labour Party member Mike Gapes on links between the two terrorist groups.</p> <p>"We urge the PYD [Democratic Union Party] at all times to sever any links it might have with the PKK," he added.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 New details of soldiers ambush in Niger</b>
-----------------	--

SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pentagon-probe-finds-soldiers-in-niger-ambush-werent-prepared-for-mission-family-member-says/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pentagon-probe-finds-soldiers-in-niger-ambush-werent-prepared-for-mission-family-member-says/</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON -- Troubling new details are coming to light concerning last October's ambush in Niger, where four American soldiers were killed by Islamic militants. Capt. Michael Perozeni, commander of the ill-fated patrol, objected to a change in mission that sent his team looking for a wanted terrorist.</p> <p>The team had been in Niger for barely a month. They had not done the traditional in-person turnover with the unit they were replacing and had not had sufficient training with the Nigerien soldiers they were operating with, according to a family member briefed on a seven month investigation into the ambush. The family member said Perozeni was ordered to proceed by Col. Bradley Moses, the commander of special forces in Niger.</p> <p>A second family member, the father of Sgt. Bryan Black, told National Public Radio he doesn't blame anyone for the decisions that were made.</p> <p>"I would not personally characterize them as mistakes," Black said. "They were just decisions based on what they knew, and I believe that those decisions were sound decisions."</p> <p>The patrol had visited a village to meet with local elders and were returning to their base when they were directed to search the last known location of a local leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS. Moses considered it low-risk because a surveillance aircraft that had been watching the site for six hours had detected no activity.</p> <p>Perozeni's team searched the site, destroyed the equipment they found and set out to return to base. By then, the surveillance aircraft had run low on fuel, leaving the team without anyone watching over them when they were ambushed by a force estimated to be three times their size.</p> <p>In addition to the four Americans who were killed, two were wounded. One of them was Perozeni.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

HEADLINE	<b>05/02 Doctor: KSM brain injury claim a ploy</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/psychologist-waterboarding-walling-brain-damage/2018/05/02/id/858012/">https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/psychologist-waterboarding-walling-brain-damage/2018/05/02/id/858012/</a>
GIST	<p>A former Air Force psychologist who waterboarded terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed poured cold water on claims Mohammed suffered a brain injury from being subjected to torture while in U.S. custody.</p> <p>Dr. James Mitchell appeared on Fox News on Wednesday night and was asked about Mohammed's lawyers arguing their client has brain damage.</p> <p>"Nothing his attorneys do surprises me," Mitchell said. "Basically, it's obvious that he's guilty. Everybody knows that he's guilty, and I know it's flippant to say that, but it's true.</p> <p>"And now they're just looking for some way to save his life. We have to step back and ask ourselves, what is their motivation?</p> <p>"Well, their motivation obviously is to prep the battlefield, the legal battlefield, to make him appear a victim, to make it appear like he's more human, and to set the grounds for some kind of plea agreement that doesn't involve the death penalty."</p> <p>Mitchell participated in waterboarding and walling sessions involving Mohammed. Walling involves putting a special collar around a detainee and slamming him against a wall. The collar is designed to prevent the person's head from striking the wall.</p> <p>Mitchell was adamant Mohammed's torture sessions were conducted under the rules.</p>

	<p>"We did not slam his head against the wall, and that's the thing that gets repeatedly said," Mitchell said. "In fact, he was walled no harder than we wall our own soldiers. And there were, specifically, things that were put in place by the CIA to ensure that the kind of head damage that he's alleging couldn't have occurred."</p> <p>Those controls included the collar and numerous checks by a doctor, Mitchell noted.</p> <p>Mohammed's lawyers argued in court documents in March that scans of his brain taken in January showed "evidence of head injuries consistent with the physical trauma suffered by Mr. Mohammed and documented in the SSCI Executive Summary."</p> <p>The SSCI Executive Summary was the 2014 Intelligence Committee report on the CIA's post-9/11 torture program.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Court: Muslims can sue over no-fly list</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/muslims-sue-fly-list-designation/story?">https://abcnews.go.com/US/muslims-sue-fly-list-designation/story?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Federal agents who put Muslim men on a No-Fly list can be held individually liable for alleged violations of religious rights, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday.</p> <p>The opinion from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit revived a lawsuit brought by a group of Muslim men who said they were improperly put on the No-Fly list because they refused to serve as government informants.</p> <p>The men claimed they turned down repeated requests because of “sincerely held religious beliefs” and were retaliated against by being put on the No-Fly list despite never being accused of posing a threat to aviation safety.</p> <p>The men, who were born overseas, immigrated at a young age and now live legally in New York and Connecticut, claimed their religious freedoms were violated.</p> <p>While the agents could not be sued in their official capacity, the Second Circuit said, they could be held liable as individuals.</p> <p>The Religious Freedom Restoration Act “permits a plaintiff to recover money damages against federal officers sued in their individual capacities for violations of RFRA’s substantive protections,” the decision said.</p> <p>The case, first filed in 2015, was sent back to the district court where the men can resume their quest for damages.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Gitmo detainee transferred to Saudis</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/guantanamo-detainee-transferred-saudi-custody-1st-trump-administration/story?">https://abcnews.go.com/US/guantanamo-detainee-transferred-saudi-custody-1st-trump-administration/story?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The U.S. military announced Wednesday it has transferred the first detainee out of Guantanamo Bay prison during the Trump administration.</p> <p>Mohammed Ahmed Haza al-Darbi, who pleaded guilty to participating in a 2002 al-Qaeda attack on a French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen, was transferred from the U.S. detention facility in Cuba to his home country of Saudi Arabia to serve the remainder of his 13-year sentence.</p>

	<p>Al-Darbi agreed to testify against two other Guantanamo detainees as part of his plea deal.</p> <p>Forty detainees remain at Guantanamo Bay.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Attack on ISIS media portal short lived</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/isis-amaq-online-propaganda-hit-cyber-takedown-bounces-back-in-just-days/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/isis-amaq-online-propaganda-hit-cyber-takedown-bounces-back-in-just-days/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>LONDON -- The cyber divisions of law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and seven other countries launched a massive operation last Thursday to disrupt the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)'s "capability to broadcast terrorist material for an undetermined period of time." A primary target was ISIS' online media portal, Amaq.</p> <p>On Wednesday, CBS News discovered that the "undetermined period of time" may only have been a few days.</p> <p>Amaq did disappear from the internet on Thursday -- the day before the coordinated operation was publicized by pan-European police agency Europol. But by Wednesday morning, Amaq was back online, seemingly hosted on a server in Phoenix, Arizona. ISIS used its freshly relaunched propaganda machine to claim a deadly attack Wednesday in the capital of Libya.</p> <p>Its rapid resurrection after the coordinated international "takedown action" clearly demonstrates the challenge facing law enforcement agencies across the globe as they try to derail terror groups' efforts to radicalize, recruit and spread their messages.</p> <p>It is a game of cyber whack-a-mole, and it may ironically be a less effective means of countering terrorism online than the old-fashioned methods of capturing or destroying people and hardware on the ground. But that doesn't necessarily make it less important.</p> <p>Europol said in its Friday statement that the operation involving authorities in the U.S., United Kingdom, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, the Netherlands and Romania had "compromised" ISIS' "capability to broadcast and publicise terrorist material."</p> <p>Europol spokesperson Tine Hollevoet told CBS News on Wednesday that the press release on the coordinated operation was deliberately vague in stating its achievements.</p> <p>"We never claimed that we silenced them (ISIS) forever," Hollevoet said.</p> <p>Regardless, Hollevoet said Europol remains "convinced of the seriousness of the damage that we were able to do."</p> <p>Rob Wainwright, Europol's executive director, lauded the effort in a quote included in the Friday statement, saying: "With this ground-breaking operation we have punched a big hole in the capability of IS to spread propaganda online and radicalise young people in Europe."</p> <p>ISIS "is no longer just losing territory on the ground -- but also online. We will not stop until their propaganda is entirely eradicated from the Internet," said Europol commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos last week.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 ISIS-inspired teen charged in terror plot</b>
-----------------	--

SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/officials-teen-inspired-by-isis-plotted-mass-shooting-at-dallas-area-mall/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/officials-teen-inspired-by-isis-plotted-mass-shooting-at-dallas-area-mall/</a>
GIST	<p>DALLAS -- A suburban Dallas teenager accused of planning a mass shooting at a mall inspired by the Islamic State terror group has been charged with terrorism. The Collin County district attorney's office says 17-year-old Matin Azizi-Yarand of Plano had planned to release a "Message to America" explaining his reasons for the attack.</p> <p>Azizi-Yarand is charged with criminal solicitation of capital murder and making a terroristic threat. He is being held Wednesday at the Collin County jail on a \$3 million bond. Online jail records don't indicate that he has an attorney.</p> <p>He faces life in prison on the criminal solicitation charge alone.</p> <p>The shooting at the Stonebriar Centre in Frisco was allegedly planned to happen sometime in May, reports CBS DFW. Azizi-Yarand is said to have spent \$1,400 on weapons and tactical gear for his alleged attack.</p> <p>Law enforcement officials have obtained the Plano High School student's "manifesto" in which he allegedly pledged allegiance to ISIS. Authorities said that Azizi-Yarand was also trying to solicit others into joining him in the mass shooting spree, though affidavits suggest that he wanted to be a "lone wolf."</p> <p>The FBI says they are not aware of any additional threats following the arrest.</p> <p>"This case exemplifies the wide reach terrorist groups have through social media and other means to radicalize others in communities across our country," said Chief Gregory Rushin of the Plano Police Department.</p> <p>In his earliest conversations with the FBI's source, Azizi-Yarand allegedly said, "It is not about how many kill, but how much money you will make these countries spend in security just for a simple attack... although having a high number will get their attention."</p> <p>"I want to put America in the state that Europe is in, which is having to have soldiers deployed in streets," Azizi-Yarand said, according to an affidavit. "Something that will cost them a lot financially too."</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

HEADLINE	<b>05/02 Claim: Syria hospital destroyed in strike</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/charity-war-monitor-syrian-hospital-destroyed-strike-54886255?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/charity-war-monitor-syrian-hospital-destroyed-strike-54886255?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
GIST	<p>A medical charity and a Syria war monitoring group say a hospital has been destroyed in an airstrike in opposition-held northwest Syria.</p> <p>The Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations charity, which supports hospitals and doctors in opposition territory, says the hospital in the village of Kafr Zeita was targeted Wednesday morning. It said in a statement the hospital was struck four times, and one worker was killed.</p> <p>It said the hospital in the rural north Hama countryside served 5,000 patients per month.</p> <p>The Britain-Based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported the strike. It said the hospital suffered heavy damage and could no longer serve patients. The Observatory said it could not determine if Russian or Syrian government jets were behind the strike.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

**Suspicious, Unusual**

HEADLINE	<b>05/02 Police plead: end 'paintball wars'</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/8f4d06eb56b348f0bc34303eaff6aa33/Police-plead-for-end-to-'paintball-wars'-inspired-by-videos">https://apnews.com/8f4d06eb56b348f0bc34303eaff6aa33/Police-plead-for-end-to-'paintball-wars'-inspired-by-videos</a>
GIST	<p>MILWAUKEE (AP) — Police across the country have responded to hundreds of paintball fights in recent weeks, a trend that authorities say began around the time an Atlanta rapper began posting YouTube videos encouraging people to trade real guns for paintball weapons.</p> <p>But what started as an attempt to reduce gun violence has become anything but harmless. Police believe the phenomenon led to shooting deaths last month in Greensboro, North Carolina, and near Atlanta. The fast-moving paintballs have also injured bystanders caught in the crossfire and caused property damage in Milwaukee, Detroit and Atlanta.</p> <p>“The message we want to put out is that while there’s a movement to curb violence, this particular activity is a nuisance, and it causes significant damage. And we strongly believe this particular activity led to the death of a young man,” said Capt. Nathaniel Davis of the Greensboro Police Department.</p> <p>When officers responded to an April 20 report of a shooting, they found 19-year-old Zyquarius Shalom Quadre Bradley with gunshot wounds and paintball damage around his car. Police also found paintball guns and a mask. The investigation continues. No one has been arrested, Davis said.</p> <p>A few weeks earlier, on April 1, a 3-year-old boy was killed in Dekalb County, Georgia, when a teenager shot a real gun at his attackers during a paintball fight. One of the bullets struck the boy, police said.</p> <p>Greensboro police have responded to nearly 40 reports of paintball fights since the start of April.</p> <p>The numbers are larger in bigger cities. Milwaukee police received at least 65 calls about paintball battles over the past week and arrested one person. Hours after Milwaukee officers held a news conference Monday to alert the public, a 32-year-old bicyclist was shot in the eye with a paintball.</p> <p>During the news conference, police emphasized that paintballs can do serious damage on the streets because they travel up to 300 feet per second. At venues where people pay to play, participants shield themselves with face masks and other protective gear, including padded vests.</p> <p>Police have not said conclusively what sparked the trend. But in Atlanta, one of the cities where paintball fights were first reported, the calls began near the end of March — around the same time that rapper 21 Savage began posting YouTube videos with the message “Guns Down, Paintballs Up,” according to Sgt. John Chafee. In the videos, the rapper and his friends record themselves having “paintball wars” around the city.</p> <p>“We do not consider this a game and have been taking it very seriously,” Chafee said in an email. “There are venues suitable for playing appropriate paintball games. We will not tolerate this activity in public areas, and we stand ready to make arrests when needed.”</p> <p>Atlanta police could not immediately say how many people they have arrested or how many calls they have received about paintball battles. Before last month, incidents involving paintball guns were so rare they were not specifically tracked, police said.</p> <p>21 Savage, whose real name is Shayaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, did not respond to an email from The Associated Press.</p> <p>In Detroit, police received 145 calls about paintball fights in just the past week. During one of those fights, a Detroit police captain’s car was struck 11 times. One injured bystander is at risk of losing his eye, Detroit Police Chief James Craig said.</p> <p>“It’s under the guise of pick up paintball guns instead of real guns,” Craig said. “That part is well-</p>



	<p>intentioned. But what’s misguided is it’s out in the public, and they’re actually engaging in criminal activity when you talk about malicious destruction of property, when you talk about people who are being assaulted or injured.”</p> <p>Detroit police have arrested 10 people since last week and assembled a special unit to deal with the problem. Although there’s been a slight decline in the number of calls in recent days, officers are still “taking a strong enforcement position,” Craig said.</p> <p>Paintball guns can also resemble real guns, making it difficult for police or someone else who is armed to tell the difference.</p> <p>“So it really puts that person at tremendous risk,” Craig said.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Canada police investigate public mischief</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://time.com/5263967/canada-prank-car-suspended-from-bridge/">http://time.com/5263967/canada-prank-car-suspended-from-bridge/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Canadian police have blamed pranksters for dangling a car from a busy Toronto bridge Wednesday morning.</p> <p>Officers were called to the scene after receiving a report that a blue sedan was hanging from the Millwood Road bridge. They found the vehicle suspended by cables at least 40 feet off the ground.</p> <p>Initially, police thought the stunt may have been part of a movie shoot, the BBC reports. But when they were unable to locate a filming permit, they opened an investigation into “public mischief.”</p> <p>Firefighters then safely removed the vehicle.</p> <p>“At this time, it is believed this incident was intended as a prank,” the Toronto Police Service said in a statement.</p> <p>“This incident resulted in the use of significant resources that were not available to attend to genuine emergency calls for service,” it added.</p> <p>This isn’t the first time Canadians have attempted such an antic.</p> <p>In 2009, students from the University of British Columbia tried to suspend a car from a bridge in Vancouver, but the cables broke, sending the vehicle careening into the water below, according to the BBC. Five students were later caught and threatened with criminal charges.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Trash closes popular swimming hole</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/975242/party-trash-forces-army-to-close-popular-swimming-hole/">http://mynorthwest.com/975242/party-trash-forces-army-to-close-popular-swimming-hole/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP) — The natural resource manager of a popular Snake River swimming hole says he’s never seen anything like the mess recently left by partygoers.</p> <p>The Tri-City Herald reports that Granite Point has been closed without a reopening date in sight as broken glass and other hazards still line the area where officials say they’ve already cleared 800 pounds (363 kilograms) of garbage.</p> <p>The Army Corps, which owns the rock formation over the swimming hole, went to the area on Friday after receiving a call from the Whitman County Sheriff’s Office. Authorities say it was reported that 300 to 500 people were gathered.</p>

The spot is popular with Washington State University and University of Idaho students.

The Army Corps says it will develop a plan to manage the area when it reopens.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Boeing: 2M aviation workers needed</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2018/05/02/boeing-report-20m-aviation-jobs-needed-by-2036-to-keep-us-safe-in-the-sky/">http://q13fox.com/2018/05/02/boeing-report-20m-aviation-jobs-needed-by-2036-to-keep-us-safe-in-the-sky/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE – A Boeing study shows the aviation industry will need 2 million new commercial pilots, maintenance technicians, and cabin crew members over the next 20 years.</p> <p>When there’s an emergency landing as we’ve seen twice over the past couple of weeks with two Southwest Airlines planes, if there’s a problem with a plane itself...</p> <p>“You take it very personally. It hurts you in the midsection,” said Selena MacFadden, who is as an adjunct instructor at South Seattle College's Aviation Maintenance Technology program.</p> <p>She teaches students how to keep planes up in the air.</p> <p>“You know what’s going on as far as how the mechanics are feeling, who that aircraft was assigned to, who was on board, everybody asks themselves, 'Did I have a part to do in it? Did I work on it? What happened?’” asked MacFadden.</p> <p>However, the number of people responsible for keeping our planes in tip-top shape is declining due to retirement and a lack of new recruits.</p> <p>“There’s an immediate fear of math and physics,” said David Skogerboe, a South Seattle College embedded career specialist.</p> <p>At 50 years of age, Adrian Claybourne is answering the call. The former pastry chef who spent years sailing in the Caribbean is heading back to school to be an aviation mechanic.</p> <p>“In the Caribbean, there are no mechanics really, so I decided I should probably learn how to fix my own plane,” said Claybourne.</p> <p>It’s Skogerboe’s job to connect students like Adrian with the countless openings across the nation.</p> <p>“People are starting to realize I can go to school for two years and make a lot of money pretty quickly,” said Skogerboe.</p> <p>But a baseline salary of \$20 an hour isn’t enough to fuel the shortage of aviation professionals.</p> <p>“They think it’s low-tech, just turning wrenches and things like that,” said Claybourne.</p> <p>Maintenance work isn’t all just about using your hands on complex parts. There’s a growing tech side.</p> <p>“The electronics in an aircraft -- and that is exploding in need as aircrafts become more like computers,” said Skogerboe.</p> <p>Claybourne graduates with his degree and two FAA certifications next month. He leaves behind one of many open spots at the aviation program for more students passionate about keeping us safe when we fly.</p> <p>That same Boeing report shows there’s a shortage of pilots. One local flight instructor says money is a</p>

	factor. Pilots don't make as much money as what they used to and going to flight school is expensive and normally doesn't come with opportunities for grants, scholarships, or student loans.
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 NKorea relocates imprisoned Americans?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-prisoners/u-s-checks-reports-three-american-detainees-relocated-in-north-korea-official-idUSKBN1I3329">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-prisoners/u-s-checks-reports-three-american-detainees-relocated-in-north-korea-official-idUSKBN1I3329</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON/SEOUL (Reuters) - The U.S. government is looking into reports that three Americans detained in North Korea have been relocated from a labor camp to a hotel near Pyongyang ahead of a planned summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a U.S. official said on Wednesday.</p> <p>The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was no immediate confirmation of any change in the detainees' status. Trump administration officials have pressed for their release as a show of goodwill by North Korea before the unprecedented U.S.-North Korea summit expected in late May or early June.</p> <p>"As everybody is aware, the past Administration has long been asking for three hostages to be released from a North Korean Labor camp, but to no avail. Stay tuned!" Trump said in a Twitter post late on Wednesday.</p> <p>Earlier on Wednesday, South Korean media reports quoted a South Korean activist as saying North Korea had relocated the three Americans from a labor camp to a hotel on the outskirts of Pyongyang. Choi Soung-yong, the activist, told Reuters that Kim Hak-song, Tony Kim and Kim Dong-chul were moved in early April following instructions from superior authorities, citing residents in Pyongyang.</p> <p>The United States and North Korea "seem to have decided on a date to release these people," said Choi. "North Korea probably wants to straighten out their affairs; rehabilitate them."</p> <p>The activist added the three were being kept in separate rooms in the same hotel and said he did not know what had happened to them since being relocated.</p> <p>"We cannot confirm the validity of these reports," a U.S. State Department spokeswoman said.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Hawaii to ban sunscreen lotions?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/hawaii-set-ban-sunscreens-protect-coral-reefs-54896298">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/hawaii-set-ban-sunscreens-protect-coral-reefs-54896298</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Many sunscreen makers could soon be forced to change their formulas or be banned from selling the lotions in Hawaii.</p> <p>State lawmakers passed a measure this week that would ban the sale of sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate by 2021 in an effort to protect coral reefs. Scientists have found the two substances can be toxic to coral, which are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem and a popular draw for tourists.</p> <p>Consumers would only be allowed to buy sunscreen with the chemicals if prescribed by a health care provider, though the measure itself doesn't ban online purchases or tourists from bringing their own to Hawaii.</p> <p>It would become the first state to enact a ban on the chemicals if Democratic Gov. David Ige signs the bill; he has not indicated whether he will.</p> <p>Similar legislation failed last year, after it pitted environmental scientists against businesses and trade groups that benefit from the \$2 billion market for sun care products in the U.S.</p>

	<p>This is "a first step to help our reef and protect it from deterioration," said Hawaii state senator Donna Mercado Kim, a fellow Democrat who introduced the measure. Although other factors contribute to reef degradation, "hopefully, other jurisdictions will look at this legislation and follow suit."</p> <p>"This is the first real chance that local reefs have to recover," said Craig Downs, a scientist whose 2015 peer-reviewed study found oxybenzone was a threat to coral reefs. "Lots of things kill coral reefs, but we know oxybenzone prevents them from coming back." It also affects sea urchins and kills algae, a source of food for sea turtles, he said.</p> <p>He found as much as 14,000 tons of sunscreen lotion ends up in coral reefs annually.</p> <p>Opponents are skeptical of the science.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Oregon horse sues former owner \$100K</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/horse-named-justice-sues-owner-100000-neglect/story?id=54880051">https://abcnews.go.com/US/horse-named-justice-sues-owner-100000-neglect/story?id=54880051</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A horse in Oregon is suing his former owner for neglect.</p> <p>According to the caretakers for Justice, the horse, former owner Gwendolyn Vercher left the stallion outside during the winter without adequate food and shelter, causing him to suffer severe injuries.</p> <p>"He was extremely emaciated -- about 300 pounds below body weight for a horse -- and most significantly, he suffered from penile frostbite as a result of his exposure to the cold and that was left untreated for months," Matthew Liebman, Justice's lawyer from the Animal Legal Defense Fund, told ABC News' Brad Mielke during an interview for ABC News' daily podcast, "Start Here."</p> <p>At the time Vercher was caring for the horse, his name was Shadow. She said that when she put him up for adoption, she fully disclosed his injuries and conditions. And, when the new caretakers took her to court, Vercher said she paid for his care as part of her guilty plea.</p> <p>"I took a plea deal," Vercher told Mielke.</p> <p>She said she hadn't heard about the horse's lawsuit till the podcast had contacted her.</p> <p>"It's outrageous," she said.</p> <p>Lawyers for Justice are seeking more than \$100,000, which would go to a trust that would be used for his veterinary care.</p> <p>Liebman said that horses can sue people, particularly in the state of Oregon. In 2014, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that animals can be victims of crime in their own right.</p> <p>"The way we see it, animals already have legally protected rights," Liebman said.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Dangerous teen trend: JUULing at school</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://komonews.com/news/healthworks/dangerous-teen-trend-juuling-at-school">http://komonews.com/news/healthworks/dangerous-teen-trend-juuling-at-school</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BELLEVEUE, Wash. -- The Food and Drug Administration is now cracking down on a popular e-cigarette brand. And even if you haven't heard of JUUL, chances are any middle or high school student in your life knows exactly what it is. Teenagers are using them in school parking lots, bathrooms, even classrooms.</p>

"It's the new high school thing. Everyone's got the JUUL," said Jordan Woods at Rain City Vape. Woods says he regularly kicks teens younger than 18 years old out of the store and confiscates fake ID's.

The makers of JUUL say it's supposed to help adults quit smoking. But teens are a driving force behind JUUL's popularity.

"It's incredibly prevalent in the schools," said Officer Jeff Borsheim of Bellevue Police. He's the school resource officer at Bellevue High School, but says vaping devices are showing up in middle schools, too.

Alex Edwards is a senior at Eastlake High School. "The first time I used the vape was right before 8th grade," he said. "The buzz was nice and it was immediately an attraction to do it again."

He's now 18 years old, legal to buy vaping products. But he says age isn't much of a factor. "Very popular. Every grade at my school," he said. "I'm a senior and all the freshmen, sophomore, junior, we all do 'em."

The JUUL first hit the market in 2015, and already accounts for more than half the e-cig sales in the country.

The look is a big part of the attraction. JUULs are slim, black devices that could pass for a flash drive.

"That's what people tell their teachers a lot, too," Edwards said. "If you charge it during class, they'll just say, it's my flash drive."

They're not just charging them in class. Some kids actually take hits in class, too. But it's hard to catch them in the act, because a JUUL doesn't produce a big vapor cloud.

"They'll just take a little hit or puff off them and then can hold the vapor in their mouth for a little while," Borsheim said. "There's minimal vapor. They'll also just blow into their sleeve or into their hoodie."

Teenagers are also attracted to the fruity flavors, which still pack a serious punch of nicotine. A single pre-filled JUUL pod is the equivalent of a pack of cigarettes.

Cathleen Leader is a counselor with Youth Eastside Services who works with students at Eastlake High. "Maybe most kids don't consider themselves addicted to nicotine, but especially with JUULs, the concentration is so high that it's a quick addiction," Leader said.

In Washington's most recent Healthy Youth Survey, one in five high school seniors said they vaped in the last month. Only about a third of sophomores said they thought vaping was dangerous.

But the kids themselves tell counselor Cathleen Leader, vaping is a gateway to other drugs, like marijuana. She wants parents to talk to their kids without judgement.

"If parents would open up these conversations and then just listen and not offer advice, I think that's probably the most important thing," Leader said.

Borsheim could write vaping teens a ticket at school, but he doesn't think that would help. Instead, kids are referred to counseling. "I'll talk to them. I'll say, do you actually know what you're consuming?" Borsheim said. "There really haven't been a lot of studies to truly determine what the health consequences are."

Edwards says vaping helped him give up cigarettes and other drugs. But he tries to educate others about the dangers of nicotine and says with just a month left of his senior year, you won't catch him taking a hit at school.

"I don't want to get suspended for something as stupid as vaping," he said.

The makers of JUUL insist they are not marketing to teenagers. A spokesperson told KOMO News, "we want to be a leader in seeking solutions. We are actively engaging with with, and listening to, lawmakers, community leaders and educators on how best to effectively keep young people away from JUUL." The company also supports raising the legal tobacco purchasing age to 21+.

After the FDA announced its nationwide crackdown on underage use, JUUL Labs CEO Kevin Burns said, "we are already seeing success in our efforts to enable adult smokers to transition away from cigarettes and believe our products have the potential over the long-term to contribute meaningfully to public health in the U.S. and around the world. At the same time, we are committed to deterring young people, as well as adults who do not currently smoke, from using our products. We cannot be more emphatic on this point: No young person or non-nicotine user should ever try JUUL."

As for the flash drive design, the JUUL Labs spokesperson said, "as former smokers, JUUL Labs co-founders James Monsees and Adam Bowen designed JUUL to be as easy to use as a cigarette but not to look like one. We know adult smokers who want to switch do not want to be reminded of combustible cigarettes. JUUL's rectangular shape is a prime example of our intention to develop something different than a cigarette to help current adult smokers switch."

The consequences for vaping at school vary from district to district.

Leader said in the Lake Washington School District, students face an in-school suspension. They also undergo an assessment on their use, to determine if further treatment is needed. The student and family also receive education about nicotine addiction.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Hospitals shortage critical opioid drugs</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2018/05/02/Hospitals-in-US-experience-shortage-of-critical-opioid-drugs-survey-shows/7141525284156/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=ls&amp;utm_medium=5">https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2018/05/02/Hospitals-in-US-experience-shortage-of-critical-opioid-drugs-survey-shows/7141525284156/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=ls&amp;utm_medium=5</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WEDNESDAY, May 2, 2018 -- U.S. hospitals are running short of the injectable opioids and anesthesia drugs that most surgery patients need during and after their procedures, a new survey shows.</p> <p>More than 98 percent of anesthesiologists responding to the survey said they regularly experience shortages of these drugs.</p> <p>And recent efforts by the federal government to curb the opioid crisis -- by cutting back on the raw materials used to make opioids -- may partly explain why.</p> <p>Unfortunately, 95 percent of those surveyed said the shortages have affected the way they treat their patients.</p> <p>The top five drugs in shortest supply are opioids like hydromorphone (Dilaudid), fentanyl and morphine, the local anesthetic bupivacaine, and the lifesaving allergy drug epinephrine, the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) survey found.</p> <p>"Physicians out there are frustrated because they want to do great work for people, and they are struggling with supplies," said ASA President Dr. James Grant.</p> <p>Particularly troubling is the shortage of bupivacaine, which is most often used to ease pregnant women's pain during a C-section delivery without putting her to sleep, Grant noted.</p> <p>"We have very little and we ration it," Grant said of bupivacaine. "That, frankly, is a first for us."</p> <p>The shortages stem in part from manufacturing problems with a production facility in Kansas that the drug company Pfizer acquired when it purchased rival drug maker Hospira in 2015, Grant said.</p>

	<p>"Pfizer bought the company and went in and found a number of quality production issues," Grant said. "Instead of closing the factory down in phases, to bring it up to standards, they shut the whole factory down at once."</p> <p>Pfizer said in a November 2017 letter to customers that full production will not resume at the plant until early 2019.</p> <p>Other drug companies have tried to fill the gap, but they have been hampered by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) efforts to reduce availability of prescription opioids by cutting back on the raw materials used for the painkillers.</p> <p>The agency has recently reversed course, based on complaints that hospitals are running low on opioids necessary for pain management, said Arika Trim, associate director of media relations for the American Hospital Association.</p> <p>"DEA recently granted some additional quota for raw materials to West-Ward Pharmaceuticals and Fresenius Kabi USA so that they can produce certain injectable opioid medications that are experiencing severe shortages," Trim said.</p> <p>In the meantime, anesthesiologists say they are struggling to properly care for patients.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Hawaii volcano eruption possible</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/05/02/dozens-quakes-rattle-hawaii-volcano-eruption-possible.html">http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/05/02/dozens-quakes-rattle-hawaii-volcano-eruption-possible.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>HONOLULU – Dozens of earthquakes are rattling Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano as magma flows into a new area east of the Puu Oo vent.</p> <p>Officials with the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory say the increased activity Wednesday is associated with the collapse of the crater floor at Puu Oo.</p> <p>The floor began to collapse Monday, triggering lava to move into a new area of the volcano and causing a series of earthquakes.</p> <p>There have been about 50 small quakes detected in the area on Wednesday morning alone.</p> <p>Lava moved down the slope of the volcano and into the Big Island's Puna District. Geologists believe that the magma may have gone under Highway 130, which leads to a popular volcano access point.</p> <p>Scientists say a new eruption in the area is possible.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 US: NKorea pulls cables out nuke site</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/north-korea-starts-pulling-cables-from-tunnels-at-nuclear-test-site/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/north-korea-starts-pulling-cables-from-tunnels-at-nuclear-test-site/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>U.S. intelligence says the North Koreans have started pulling cables from the tunnels at their nuclear test site -- a first step toward closing them down, CBS News' national security correspondent David Martin reports. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to shut down the country's nuclear test site in May, Seoul's presidential office said on Sunday.</p> <p>Kim had made the comments during his summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday at a border truce village. The leaders of the two countries met Friday for the first time since 1953.</p>

	<p>Kim and Moon during the summit promised to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula, though they did not mention specific plans or timetables. They also agreed to work toward formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War and push for three-way talks with Washington or four-way talks that also include Beijing to do so.</p> <p>The Koreas can't officially end the war themselves because South Korea wasn't a direct signatory to the armistice that stopped the fighting but left the peninsula technically in a state of war.</p> <p>More substantial discussions on the North's denuclearization -- including what, when and how it would occur -- are expected between Kim and President Donald Trump, who could meet in May or June. On Monday, Mr. Trump suggested the Korean Demilitarized Zone could be a possible option to host the eventual talks, calling it an "intriguing" choice.</p> <p>The president also said that Kim has been "very open and very straightforward so far" in discussing the possibility of removing nuclear testing sites and halting the launching of ballistic missiles.</p> <p>While the Kim-Trump talks is shaping up to be crucial, there's still widespread doubt whether Kim will ever agree to entirely abandon his nuclear weapons when he apparently sees them as providing his only guarantee of survival in a region surrounded by enemies.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to</a> <a href="#">Top</a></p>	

## Crime, Criminals

[Top of page](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Man charged w/bomb threats</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.kirklandreporter.com/news/man-charged-with-making-bomb-threats-holding-woman-hostage-in-kirkland/">http://www.kirklandreporter.com/news/man-charged-with-making-bomb-threats-holding-woman-hostage-in-kirkland/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>King County prosecutors have charged a homeless man who made bomb threats at a Kirkland 76 gas station earlier this month.</p> <p>Mark Van-Noy Nelson, 21, is being held on \$100,000 bail for one count of making a threat to bomb or injure property and another count of unlawful imprisonment.</p> <p>According to charging documents, Nelson walked into the gas station, 11848 NE 95th St., and waited a couple of minutes before locking the store door and telling a single 60-year-old woman he needed to make a bomb threat. She gave him the store phone and the suspect called 911.</p> <p>It was then that he told the 911 dispatcher he had a bomb on his body and had placed a bomb at the Church of Scientology at 300 W. Harrison St. in Seattle.</p> <p>He then told the woman in the store he had several bombs in his pants along his waist and thighs.</p> <p>“[The woman] was very shaken as she explained to police detectives that she had actually taken a sharp meat thermometer and placed it in her pocket, thinking she could stab the suspect if she got the chance,” court records state. “[The woman] was highly distraught as she reported, thinking ‘Can I do this? Can I do this?’”</p> <p>Police spoke to Nelson for some time before he demanded the woman grab his hand and walk out with him.</p> <p>The two exited the gas station store and the woman ran to the right near officers, as instructed, while the suspect lay on the ground as he was arrested. It was then police discovered he had no bombs, nor were there bombs at the church in Seattle either.</p> <p>In an interview with Nelson, he told a detective he woke up that day wanting to die and figured he would</p>



	<p>kill himself by committing suicide by cop.</p> <p>“He stated he could not actually kill himself, but desperately wanted to die,” charging documents state. “Nelson spoke about his increasing paranoia and how the Church of Scientology has been following and harassing him for the past several months.”</p> <p>Nelson also told police he never wanted to hurt anyone but was “desperate to have the church and others feel the fear and paranoia that he lives with every day.”</p> <p>Court documents state Nelson said he has mental health illnesses and self-medicates with methamphetamine.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 China to crackdown rural organized crime</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-crime-rural/china-vows-to-crack-down-on-rural-organized-crime-ministry-idUSKBN1I4009">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-crime-rural/china-vows-to-crack-down-on-rural-organized-crime-ministry-idUSKBN1I4009</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SHANGHAI (Reuters) - China will crack down on organized crime in the countryside in a bid to prevent gangs from manipulating elections or exploiting rural resources, the civil affairs ministry said.</p> <p>The Ministry of Civil Affairs said in comments published on its website late on Wednesday it would crack down on attempts by rural gangsters to intervene in village-level politics, monopolize rural resources, take over collectively owned assets and use “clan power” to oppress village communities.</p> <p>The ministry also said it would improve the education and supervision of rural officials and fight against bureaucratism as part of the “protracted battle” against rural organized crime.</p> <p>It said only a small minority of village committee members were involved in organized crime but local civil affairs departments needed to provide more staff and funding to help fight against violations.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Arrested May Day protester released</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/975052/woman-accused-of-throwing-rock-at-amazon-spheres-released/">http://mynorthwest.com/975052/woman-accused-of-throwing-rock-at-amazon-spheres-released/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — A 21-year-old Tacoma woman who was arrested on May Day for allegedly throwing a rock at the Amazon Spheres has been released on personal recognizance after a judge found probable cause that she committed malicious mischief.</p> <p>The Seattle Times reported Wednesday that the suspect was initially described by police as a masked man, but court records show she identifies as a woman.</p> <p>Probable cause documents say she is accused of throwing a “hard object” at the Spheres in downtown Seattle, which created a four-inch scratch in one of the glass panes. The statement says each pane in the Spheres’ specialized windows costs \$10,000.</p> <p>The documents say witnesses at the scene photographed the incident and identified the woman to police.</p> <p>May Day activities in the region were among the most peaceful in recent years. Seattle police reported no problems during the March for Immigrant and Workers Rights.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Racial tensions, fights Spanaway HS</b>
-----------------	--

SOURCE	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/974954/spanaway-lake-high-school-tensions/">http://mynorthwest.com/974954/spanaway-lake-high-school-tensions/</a>
GIST	<p>Rising racial tensions among students at Spanaway Lake High School has prompted the Pierce County Sheriff's Office to post deputies at the school to prevent further violence.</p> <p>“We want this thing to ramp down before it ramps up,” said Ed Troyer with the Pierce County Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>Troyer said that a sexual assault was reported about a week ago. That case has been investigated and forwarded to the prosecutor's office. But the incident has sparked a conflict between groups of black and Samoan students. The two groups have generally gotten along, but have recently become confrontational along race lines at the high school about 12 miles south of Tacoma.</p> <p>“What we do know is that last week, we had a reported sexual assault,” Troyer said. “That's been investigated and sent to the prosecutor's office. Since then there has been some retaliation; an assault where somebody was thrown into a window. Unfortunately, it's escalated to the point where we believe we have about 50 people involved. They've lined up on race lines of Samoan and black. It's a mutual, combative situation at this point. We are not holding anybody accountable for causing it at this point. We just want it to end.”</p> <p>Troyer says that the violent incident when a person was thrown into a window happened at the school Tuesday. There have been multiple fights in the school and the surrounding area, he says, including students and family members. A spokesperson for Spanaway Lake High School said that they would not comment on any racial tensions at the school. They did say that there was a recent fight and that the school was placed in lockdown as a result on Tuesday.</p> <p>“The situation is ongoing,” Troyer said. “We are working with the schools and we are making it perfectly clear that a lot of people could be in trouble here. This is the wrong time of year for students to be kicked out of school with graduation coming ... let us handle the people that have done anything bad and don't retaliate because all that's going to do is get people into more trouble, more people kicked out of school, and more people possibly arrested.”</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

HEADLINE	<b>05/02 Newark NJ mass surveillance program</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/legal/newarks-new-mass-surveillance-program-criticized-by-civil-liberties-org/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/legal/newarks-new-mass-surveillance-program-criticized-by-civil-liberties-org/</a>
GIST	<p>A network of surveillance cameras in various locations throughout Newark, NJ will enable people to monitor these locations for criminal activity. The program, the Citizen Virtual Patrol, has been described by local leaders as “a block watch on steroids”. The project was launched last Thursday, along with the announcement that there are now 62 cameras, available around the city, for registered users and it is expected that soon the city will have 125 cameras.</p> <p>“Using it is an opportunity for residents in their neighborhood to be looking at everyday things in their community, not just police looking at occurrences that are accidental, or hurricanes, dramatic experiences,” Mayor Ras J. Baraka explained. Baraka said that it will allow the public “to immediately act upon any suspicious or criminal activity while it's occurring.”</p> <p>In order to participate, residents need a desktop or laptop computer and it will need to be registered through the Newark Police Division's website. Once in the system and set up to monitor the cameras, participants can report crimes and critical situations. Newark is also planning to develop a corresponding mobile app.</p> <p>Newark is New Jersey's largest city. With a population of over 280,000, it has one of the highest violent crime rates in the country. According to FBI data, the rate of crime is approximately 42.8 violent crimes per 10,000 residents. Newark is also among the top 15 murder capitals in the U.S.</p>

The city was awarded the cameras as part of a \$850,000 grant from the Department of Justice received last year under the federal SMART Policing Initiative. City expansion of public surveillance cameras is becoming a trend across the country. For instance, Police departments in Chicago have invested in a similar program in an attempt to rein in the crime rate.

As you may have surmised, not everyone is happy with this new development; not the least of which is the New Jersey branch of the ACLU. The civil liberties organization finds Newark's new program to be disturbing and an avenue for abuse.

The ACLU-NJ called on the City of Newark to consider the consequences and put an end to the mass live streaming of the surveillance feeds. The ACLU advised that the city should instead be focused on the federal consent decree in regard to the police department's civil rights violations.

A Department of Justice investigation was then cited, by the ACLU, in which 75 percent of the stops in Newark did not have a constitutional basis. While acknowledging that Newark is not alone in rolling out a city surveillance program, the ACLU said that Newark would be among the first in the U.S. to broadcast real-time, high-resolution video feeds aimed at encouraging people to snitch on members of the community.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 FBI: cities w/fewest crimes</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.businessinsider.com/us-cities-few-crimes-fbi-2018-5">http://www.businessinsider.com/us-cities-few-crimes-fbi-2018-5</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Every year, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation releases crime statistics that it compiles from cities across the country. The most recent report looks at metro areas in 39 states (plus Washington, DC) with a population over 100,000 between January 2017 to June 2017.</p> <p>The FBI has tallied the number of violent crimes committed in these cities, including murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Business Insider took these violent crime rates per 10,000 people to rank the cities with the fewest crimes in each state and DC.</p> <p>There are caveats to this data. For one, not every state reported its crime data (including Texas), and some states, like Wyoming, do not have any cities with at least 100,000 residents. Others only have one large city with available statistics, which we've noted in our ranking below.</p> <p>Furthermore, some cities have larger police presences than others, which could have skewed the data. Every city recruits its police force differently based on budgets, existing crime rates, density, and a number of other complex socioeconomic factors (like the area's racial makeup). For example, according to another recent FBI report, Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland are the most heavily policed American cities, with 63 officers and 47 officers per 10,000 residents respectively. For comparison, Newport, Delaware has just nine police officers per 10,000 residents.</p> <p>The Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan policy institute at the NYU School of Law, reports that overall crime rates in the nation's 30 largest cities remain at or near historic lows.</p> <p>Check out the ranking below:</p> <p>40. Baltimore, Maryland, had 98.6 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.</p> <p>39. Little Rock, Arkansas had 87.3 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.</p> <p>38. Anchorage, Alaska, had 57.0 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.</p>

37. Washington, DC, had 45.1 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
36. Montgomery, Alabama, had 32.8 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
35. Manchester, New Hampshire, had 31.4 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
34. Las Vegas, Nevada had 30.8 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
33. Murfreesboro, Tennessee, had 29.8 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
32. Independence, Missouri had 29.4 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
31. Lafayette, Louisiana, had 27.6 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
30. Billings, Montana, had 24.8 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
29. Allentown, Pennsylvania had 24.4 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
28. Providence, Rhode Island, had 24.3 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
27. Columbus, Ohio, had 23.8 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
26. Sioux Falls, South Dakota, had 22.4 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
25. Fort Wayne, Indiana had 17.6 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
24. Kenosha, Wisconsin, had 17.6 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
23. Fargo, North Dakota, had 17.5 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
22. Lincoln, Nebraska, had 17.2 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
21. Lexington, Kentucky, had 17.1 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
20. Salem, Oregon, had 16.3 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
19. Charleston, South Carolina, had 13.6 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
18. Lowell, Massachusetts, had 12.2 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
17. Honolulu, Hawaii, had 12.1 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
16. West Jordan, Utah, had 10.6 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
15. Stamford, Connecticut, had 9.6 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
14. Olathe, Kansas, had 9.4 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
13. Sterling Heights, Michigan, had 9.4 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
12. Centennial, Colorado, had 7.5 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
11. Virginia Beach, Virginia, had 7.5 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
10. Rochester, Minnesota, had 7.0 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.

9. Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, had 6.1 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
8. Amherst, New York, had 5.2 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
7. Bellevue, Washington, had 5.2 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
6. Sandy Springs, Georgia, had 4.9 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
5. Port St. Lucie, Florida, had 4.7 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
4. Woodbridge, New Jersey, had 4.7 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
3. Naperville, Illinois, had 4.3 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
2. Surprise, Arizona, had 4.3 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.
1. Irvine, California, had 3.2 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 'Kite bombs' set fire to Israel farmland</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Farmland-in-flames-as-Gaza-protests-give-rise-to-kite-terrorism-553329">https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Farmland-in-flames-as-Gaza-protests-give-rise-to-kite-terrorism-553329</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Palestinians in Gaza set fire to scores of acres of farmland Wednesday, employing a new airborne weapon, which Israeli politicians have taken to calling "Kite bombs."</p> <p>In the past, Gazans had simply thrown Molotov cocktails over the border fence. The kite bomb used on Wednesday followed a simple design: a flaming rag that was attached to a kite with the capability of getting farther across the fence and igniting dry farm fields. In recent weeks, Gazans have also attached Molotov cocktails to kites.</p> <p>Workers in the agricultural company Moshavim ha-Negev — an organization which is part of the regional councils of Merchavim and Sdot Negev — found another burning kite in the company's fields.</p> <p>Palestinians in Gaza have been protesting for their 'right of return' during past weeks, leading to <u>clashes on the fence between Gazans and IDF soldiers</u>. Dozens of Palestinians have died in the violence.</p> <p>Kite bombs are a more recent development, which, until Wednesday, have been exclusively used during protests.</p> <p>"When the courts in Jerusalem are discussing petitions from left-wing organizations to tie the hands of the soldiers standing in front of the Gaza rioters who want to break through the fence, the arson continues in the field of farmers," said Shai Hajaj, head of Merhavim Regional council.</p> <p>Hajaj continued: "It is necessary to remind both the judges and advocates for Palestinian rights that stone throwing and the burning of fields is violence, which has already caused severe economic damage and threatens human life. Palestinian rioters burning fields with kites is no longer limited to the Friday 'right-of-return' demonstrations, but rather an everyday event. We demand that the IDF stop this violence immediately."</p> <p>Member of Knesset Haim Jelin from the political party Yesh Atid, weighed in on the situation after the attack on Wednesday: "It is forbidden to downplay the most recent Kite terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip, which have ignited fields in three separate attacks. The person who downplays this now will find himself with more threats in Israeli territory."</p>

"Kites are a lovely childhood game, but kite terrorism has moved us into a new era of terrorism. I have demanded an urgent discussion in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, since we must deal with this urgent and complex issue," said Member of Knesset Ayelet Nahmias and Rabin, a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"We known very well who is on the other side of the kite and it is crucial for them to know that we will not continue to be silent in the face of these dangers," she said.

At the moment, 86 acres of grain fields owned by the Negev Moshavim company have been burned and damaged by the recent kite attacks — amounting to over NIS 175,000 in damage.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

**HEADLINE** 05/02 'White Rabbits' charged in bomb plots

**SOURCE** <http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2018-05-02/ford-county-terrorism-suspects-charged-champaign-clinic-bombing-try.html>

**GIST** A federal grand jury returned a superseding indictment against four Ford County men, charging three of them with attempted arson in the Nov. 7 attempted bombing of a women's health clinic in Champaign.

Michael Hari, 47; Joe Morris, 22; Michael McWhorter, 29; and, Ellis Mack, 18, all of Clarence, had been previously charged in March only with possession of a machine gun, even as authorities suspected the three older men were involved in the attempted bombing of Women's Health Practice.

Hari, Morris and McWhorter have also been charged in Minnesota in the August 2017 bombing of a mosque there.

The superseding indictment also alleges that the four men violated the Hobbs Act, which accuses them of "conspiracy to interfere with commerce by threats and violence," according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois.

Hari, a former Ford County sheriff's deputy and one-time Libertarian candidate for sheriff, is believed to be the leader of a homegrown terrorism group called the White Rabbits. He has also been charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, accused of possessing four AR-style rifles without serial numbers and four 12-gauge shotguns.

The indictment accuses the four men of forming the group in August and meeting in Clarence to plan various robberies and bombings.

The allegations include:

- Robbing or attempting to rob Walmart stores in Watseka and Mt. Vernon in December.
- Robbing or attempting to rob people suspected of trafficking drugs in Ambia, Ind., in December.
- Damaging or attempting to damage Canadian National Railway railroad tracks near Effingham with an explosive device in January and then attempting to extort money from the railroad.
- Planting materials that could be used to make bombs on the property of someone in Clarence, with the goal of putting law enforcement on the tracks of this person rather than the White Rabbits.

The four had been scheduled to begin their trial in Illinois on June 5 and remain in custody.

Prosecutors in Minnesota plan to proceed with their case after the one here wraps up.

An arraignment date hasn't been set yet for the four men.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Vandals strike Olympia after May Day</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2018/05/02/vandals-strike-in-downtown-olympia-the-night-after-may-day/">http://q13fox.com/2018/05/02/vandals-strike-in-downtown-olympia-the-night-after-may-day/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>OLYMPIA, Wash. — About 10 to 20 people in dark clothing broke windows and painted graffiti at the US Bank and other buildings on 4th Avenue in downtown Olympia Wednesday night, police said.</p> <p>The Olympia Police Department said it happened very quickly, around 10 p.m., and that there had been no arrests and they had no suspects.</p> <p>“Damage will be assessed in the morning,” a spokesman said. “We’ll also be looking for any helpful surveillance.”</p> <p>Police officers were posted at various buildings afterward.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 South Sudan: kidnapped aid workers freed</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2018/05/02/Kidnapped-South-Sudanese-aid-workers-released/5281525303098/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=ts tn int&amp;utm_medium=6">https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2018/05/02/Kidnapped-South-Sudanese-aid-workers-released/5281525303098/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=ts tn int&amp;utm_medium=6</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>May 2 (UPI) -- An armed opposition group released 10 South Sudanese aid workers kidnapped in April after holding them for five days, the United Nations announced.</p> <p>The humanitarian coordinator for South Sudan, Alain Noudehou, said the 10 workers were returned safely and in good health Monday. Their abduction took place April 25 s the workers were en route from Yei to Tore as part of an aid convoy.</p> <p>Of the 10 who were kidnapped, one was from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, two from the U.N. International Children's Fund, one from the South Sudanese Development Organization, two from South Sudanese NGO Across, three from Plan International and one from Action Africa Help.</p> <p>Noudehou said it was the second abduction of aid workers in April and third in six months.</p> <p>"I am deeply concerned by the insecurity faced by aid workers in South Sudan, who are risking their lives to save others," he said. "I strongly urge the parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law and ensure that humanitarians are safe while delivering assistance and services to people in need."</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 'Mexican Mafia' crackdown w/85 arrests</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/05/03/mexican-mafia-crackdown-results-in-85-arrests-in-southern-california.html">http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/05/03/mexican-mafia-crackdown-results-in-85-arrests-in-southern-california.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A major gang crackdown aimed at so-called Mexican Mafia operations in Orange County, Calif., has led to 85 arrests of “middle management” gang leaders, officials said Wednesday.</p> <p>The three-month investigation, dubbed “Operation Scarecrow,” was one of the largest operations in county history, Orange County Undersheriff Don Barnes told the Orange County Register.</p> <p>Authorities confiscated 36 firearms, 14 pounds of methamphetamine and three pounds of heroin, the report said.</p> <p>The investigation was also the largest crackdown on gang activity in California this year, the OC Breeze reported.</p> <p>The name “Operation Scarecrow” came from its connection to a Mexican Mafia shot-caller with the street</p>

	<p>moniker “Crow,” the Register reported.</p> <p>The investigation targeted the Surenos street gang and its criminal activities directed by the Mexican Mafia, the report said.</p> <p>“We will continue to hold accountable those who terrorize our communities and jeopardize our public safety,” California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said, according to the Register. “All families in California deserve to know that their loved ones, especially their children, are safe.”</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/03 Connecticut: explosion injures 8 cops</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/05/02/north-haven-barn-explosion-hostage-situation/575848002/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/05/02/north-haven-barn-explosion-hostage-situation/575848002/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>NORTH HAVEN, Conn. — A barn behind a house in Connecticut exploded Wednesday night while police and a SWAT team were negotiating with a man who had taken his wife hostage, leaving up to eight officers injured, officials said.</p> <p>The officers were taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after the explosion around 8:30 p.m., North Haven Deputy Police Chief Jonathan Mulhern said.</p> <p>Mulhern would not comment when asked early Thursday if the suspect was in custody.</p> <p>“This is still an active, ongoing scene,” he said. “This is not a stable scene at this point.”</p> <p>First Selectman Michael Freda said the wife escaped before the blast.</p> <p>“This started late this afternoon with what was apparently a very violent domestic call,” Freda told WTIC-TV. The police “were trying to coax him ... out of the house and really try to calm the situation down. Then things took a turn for the worse with an explosion.”</p> <p>Police were heard continuing to try to coax the man out of the house even after the explosion.</p> <p>“It’s quite surprising,” Freda said. “This is a quiet residential neighborhood. It’s been a very emotional scene.”</p> <p>Residents near the home said on the police department’s Facebook page that they heard the explosion and felt their own homes shake. Additional police rushed to the scene as the fire raged, and sounds of smaller explosions also were heard.</p> <p>The blaze was still burning early Thursday, said fire officials, adding that power was out to the area and a local firehouse had been set up as a “refuge” for affected residents.</p> <p>State police said they were assisting North Haven police with the investigation. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives also responded to the scene.</p> <p>North Haven is located just outside of New Haven, home to Yale University.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Vegas shooting body-cam video release</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/police-release-bodycam-video-las-vegas-shooters-hotel/story?id=54864344">https://abcnews.go.com/US/police-release-bodycam-video-las-vegas-shooters-hotel/story?id=54864344</a>
<b>GIST</b>	Six months after the worst mass shooting in American history, the public today is seeing the first video



footage from the hotel suite that allowed the killer to rain down hellfire on a Las Vegas concert crowd.

Videos from police body cameras – which were released in response to a lawsuit from news organizations, including ABC – show the inside of the 32nd floor suite at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino where Stephen Paddock committed his crimes on Oct. 1, 2017.

Images show the moment a SWAT team breaches Paddock’s hotel room.

While still in the hallway, one officer spots the surveillance equipment that Paddock had installed outside his room, hidden on a service cart.

“Looks like it may be a camera of some sort,” the officer says.

The officers then gingerly enter Paddock’s hotel suite and spot some high-powered rifles resting on chairs and on both of the beds.

Twenty-three guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition were ultimately found in Paddock’s hotel suite.

Paddock was found dead inside the hotel room as well – from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Police have pored through thousands of hours of body cam footage from officers who responded to the shooting.

Still photos from inside the suite were previously circulated. But the Las Vegas Metro Police Department repeatedly refused reporters' efforts to obtain copies of police videos, forcing media companies to sue.

Paddock, 64, opened fire on the crowd at the Route 91 Harvest music festival as the show was ending late that Sunday night. He fired more than 1,100 rounds, killing 58 people and injuring more than 800. He killed himself before advancing police could arrest him.

Though many theories have been offered, law enforcement officials say they still have no clear understanding of what led Paddock, a high-stakes Vegas regular, to kill.

During a news conference Tuesday, Las Vegas Sheriff Joe Lombardo said he was justified for initially refusing to release the footage.

“There are many reasons why we didn't or couldn't release hundreds of records and bodycam [footage] immediately after this incident,” said Lombardo, a near-constant presence on TV in the days after the attack. “Primarily, we are still investigating all the circumstances.”

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Group: 11,232 flee violence in Mexico</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rights-group-11232-displaced-mexico-violence-54883305?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rights-group-11232-displaced-mexico-violence-54883305?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A Mexican rights group says 11,232 people were forced to flee their homes due to drug gang violence in 2017.</p> <p>The Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights says residents in six states fled because of "organized armed groups," including cartels, local gangs and vigilantes.</p> <p>The commission said Wednesday that a total of 329,917 people were forced to flee between 2006 and 2017, though it was unclear how many have since returned.</p> <p>In April, soldiers escorted a convoy of 92 people terrorized by drug cartels out of their mountain hamlet in</p>

	<p>Guerrero state.</p> <p>The group said another 8,928 people had to flee in 2017 because of local land, political or religious conflicts.</p> <p>Most of those displacements occurred in indigenous communities in the southern state of Chiapas.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 Men arrested at Starbucks settle w/city</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/black-men-arrested-starbucks-settle-200k-program-54882092?cid=clicksource_81_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/black-men-arrested-starbucks-settle-200k-program-54882092?cid=clicksource_81_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Two black men arrested for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything settled with the city Wednesday for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise from officials to set up a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.</p> <p>The men and their lawyer told The Associated Press the settlement was an effort to make sure something positive came out of the incident.</p> <p>"We thought long and hard about it and we feel like this is the best way to see that change that we want to see," said Donte Robinson, one of those arrested. "It's not a right-now thing that's good for right now, but I feel like we will see the true change over time."</p> <p>The arrest of Rashon Nelson and Robinson on April 12 touched off a furor around the U.S. over racial profiling. They were led away in handcuffs and accused of trespassing after the manager called police, saying the men refused to buy anything or leave. After spending hours in jail, they were released and no charges were filed.</p> <p>Their arrest record will be expunged as part of the deal.</p> <p>The men said they were waiting at the coffee shop in the city's well-to-do Rittenhouse Square neighborhood for a business meeting with a third man about a potential real estate opportunity.</p> <p>"I am pleased to have resolved the potential claims against the city in this productive manner," Mayor Jim Kenney said. "This was an incident that evoked a lot of pain in our city and put us under a national spotlight for unwanted reasons."</p> <p>The entrepreneur program will be for Philadelphia public high school students.</p> <p>Nelson said he considers the incident a case of being at "the wrong place at the right time because of the outcome that can come out of it."</p> <p>Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross, who is black, at first defended his officers' conduct, but days later issued a televised apology for the way the Starbucks call was handled.</p> <p>During the uproar, Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson came to Philadelphia to apologize to the men. He also announced that more than 8,000 Starbucks stores in the U.S. would close on the afternoon of May 29 so nearly 175,000 employees can get training in unconscious bias.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/02 France under fire May Day chaos</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.yahoo.com/news/french-government-under-fire-may-day-chaos-080848538.html">https://www.yahoo.com/news/french-government-under-fire-may-day-chaos-080848538.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	Paris (AFP) - France's interior minister promised Wednesday to boost security at protests after hooded

youths ran amok at a May Day rally in Paris, torching cars and a McDonald's restaurant.

Police said 109 people were in custody after the violence, which has sparked criticism that the government was unprepared for the 1,200 black-clad troublemakers who joined the traditional May 1 march for workers' rights.

"The authority of the state, reduced to statements of 'strong condemnation', has been tarnished once again," read a column in the right-leaning Figaro newspaper.

Regional daily L'Est Republicain deplored "the sight of these 1,200 thugs dressed in black on the Austerlitz bridge", while the L'Alsace newspaper declared: "Governing means planning ahead."

Interior Minister Gerard Collomb pledged to look again at how to police protests given the rise of far-left "black bloc" protesters who turn up with the intention of attacking police or property.

"For the next demonstrations there will be even more security forces, this time with the intention of totally separating protesters from those who have come to smash things up," Collomb told France 2 television.

But he defended the way police had handled the violence, saying little could be done to stop troublemakers from infiltrating the crowds.

"We can only detain a certain number of people who turn up like you or I in civilian clothing and then suddenly are dressed in black bloc outfits in the middle of the crowd," he said.

"We cannot keep up, even with 21 police units mobilised against movements which all of a sudden appear on a scale we've never seen before."

[Return to Top](#)

**Information From Online Communities and Unclassified Sources/InFOCUS is a situational awareness report published daily by the Washington State Fusion Center.**

If you no longer wish to receive this report, please submit an email to [intake@wsfc.wa.gov](mailto:intake@wsfc.wa.gov) and enter UNSUBSCRIBE InFOCUS in the Subject line.

**DISCLAIMER** - the articles highlighted within InFOCUS is for informational purposes only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Washington State Fusion Center, the City of Seattle, the Seattle Police Department or the Washington State Patrol and have been included only for ease of reference and academic purposes.

**FAIR USE Notice** - All rights to these copyrighted items are reserved. Articles and graphics have been placed within for educational and discussion purposes only, in compliance with 'Fair Use' criteria established in Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976. The principle of 'Fair Use' was established as law by Section 107 of The Copyright Act of 1976. 'Fair Use' legally eliminates the need to obtain permission or pay royalties for the use of previously copyrighted materials if the purposes of display include 'criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research.' Section 107 establishes four criteria for determining whether the use of a work in any particular case qualifies as a 'fair use'. A work used does not necessarily have to satisfy all four criteria to qualify as an instance of 'fair use'. Rather, 'fair use' is determined by the overall extent to which the cited work does or does not substantially satisfy the criteria in their totality. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use,' you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

For more information go to: <<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>>  
**THIS DOCUMENT MAY CONTAIN COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL. COPYING AND DISSEMINATION IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNERS.**  
**Source: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>**  
[Return to Top](#)