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Latest News

- The House and Senate are not in session this week. Both chambers will return on February 27. Next week, President Trump will address a Joint Session of Congress on February 28. There is also a good possibility that greater clarity on the budget priorities for the Trump Administration could be released in conjunction with his speech.
- **US Sentencing Commission Report** - The USSC released a new report on recidivism rates among federal drug trafficking offenders. The report examines a group of 10,888 federal drug trafficking offenders who were released in 2005. Over the eight-year follow-up period, 50 percent of federal drug trafficking offenders released in 2005 recidivated by being rearrested for a new crime or rearrested for a violation of supervision conditions. Of those drug trafficking offenders who recidivated, the median time from release to the first recidivism event was 25 months. You can view the report [here](#).

- **RISS Congressional Briefing** - On February 22, the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition hosted two congressional briefings on capitol hill on the Regional Information Sharing Systems program. House and Senate staffers heard from state and local law enforcement officials on the value of the RISS program and the important role the RISS program plays in keeping law enforcement officers safe, sharing of critical information, and helping to build cases.



Sheriff Hoss Mack, Baldwin Cty, AL; Chief Joseph Costa, DeSoto (TX) Police Dept.; Ron Hampton, Major, NJ State Police; Chief John Miller, Biloxi (MS) Police Dept.; Ron Brooks, Ex. Dir, NNOAC

- **Immigration Executive Orders** - On February 21, DHS Secretary Kelly released two implementation memo's detailing how DHS will implement the [Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States \(Fact Sheet, Q&A\)](#) and the [Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements \(Fact Sheet, Q&A\)](#) Executive Orders. The implementation memo outlining how DHS will enhance interior enforcement can be found [here](#). The implementation memo outlining how DHS will enforce border security can be found [here](#). This memo discusses the restoration of the Secure Communities Program, and the 287 (g) Program, which allows state and local law enforcement to be designated "immigration officers." Note, this memo does not provide any clarity to the threat of the revocation of grant funding for "sanctuary" cities.
- **Coalition Letter in Support of ONDCP** - A large coalition of law enforcement, addiction advocacy groups, and others sent a letter to the Trump Administration reiterating their support for the overall mission of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Rumors have circulated with regards to the potential closing of the office in recent weeks. While assurances have been made that these rumors are untrue, and that combating the

scourge of drugs and addiction remains a priority for the administration, this letter reiterates the strong support that exists for ONDCP's mission. You can view the letter [here](#).

- **House Homeland Report on Airport Security** - On February 6, the House Homeland Security Committee released a report on the safety and security at our nation's airports. Findings from this investigation include: inconsistencies exist across the aviation system on how airport and air carrier security officials educate their credentialed populations on responsibly using their access and reporting suspicious activities, a majority of airports do not have full employee screening at secure access points, and conflict between industry and government stakeholders often impedes needed improvements to aviation security. You can view the report [here](#).
- **Terror Threat Snapshot** - The House Homeland Security Committee released its February terror threat snapshot which is an assessment of the growing threat America, the West, and the world face from ISIS and other Islamist terrorists. Key takeaways from the snapshot are: although ISIS faces continued counterterrorism pressure in its key safe havens, the group's external operations plotting appears undiminished; European nations are moving forward with counterterrorism reforms designed to cope with the surging terror threat; and in the U.S., ISIS and radical Islamist ideology may have played a part in inspiring an attack this month on travelers at a Ft. Lauderdale airport. You can view the January snapshot [here](#).
- **House E&C Committee Seeks Answers on Fentanyl** - Leaders of the House Energy & Commerce Committee sent a letter to ONDCP Acting Director Chester seeking answers from various federal agencies on what their plans are to address the threat of fentanyl. The Committee is seeking answers on where and how fentanyl is being trafficked, the extent of the current epidemic, and the extent of efforts to counter the problem. You can view the letter [here](#).

- **ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

- **Pro-Pot Lawmakers to Join Forces, Launch Cannabis Caucus Roll Call | Stephanie Akin**

- Lawmakers looking to draw attention to pet issues have formed groups in favor of everything from auto care to zoos. Now, there's a caucus for cannabis. Rep. Earl Blumenauer said the move — to be announced at a press conference Thursday — is a sign of how mainstream the drive for marijuana legalization has become. "This is happening all across the country, and its going to continue," said the Oregon Democrat, an advocate for legalized marijuana since the 1970s. "The industry is growing, as is public acceptance and demand for medical marijuana." **Continue reading [here](#).**

- **White House hints at crackdown on recreational marijuana The Hill | Jordan Fabian**

- White House press secretary Sean Spicer on Thursday suggested the Trump administration will step up enforcement of federal laws against recreational marijuana. "I do believe that you'll see greater enforcement," Spicer said, while adding the exact policy is "a question for the Department of Justice." It's the latest sign President Trump is poised to take a tougher approach than the Obama Justice Department did in states that have legalized the use of recreational marijuana. **Continue reading [here](#).**

- **China's move to ban fentanyl could help curb drug addiction crisis in US Fox News | Elizabeth Llorente**

- The Chinese government's recent decision to ban the manufacture and sale of four types of the synthetic drug fentanyl next month came too late for Carlos Castellanos. The 23-year-old Pennsylvania man had been off drugs for 10 months when he was found dead in a car parked by a train station. Castellanos looked happy and healthy when he walked his mother, Pam Garozzo, down the aisle at her wedding on Dec. 3. But on Dec. 23 Castellanos relapsed, overdosing on a drug apparently laced with fentanyl. "It took us by total shock," Garozzo said of her son's death. "He was very happy, healthy, he had a girlfriend, he had plans to go back to college, he wanted to be an engineer, he was facilitating meetings to help other people in drug recovery. But the drugs are toxic and they're everywhere." **Continue reading [here](#).**

Pruitt confirmation adds another strong anti-marijuana voice to Trump cabinet**Washington Examiner | Todd Shepherd**

Scott Pruitt's confirmation last week to lead the Environmental Protection Agency puts a second voice in President Trump's cabinet who has taken a strong stance against the growing trend of liberalization of marijuana laws across the country. Pruitt won't interface with marijuana policy in his day-to-day work as EPA chief. But for those who invest in the Beltway theory of "the last person to talk to Trump wins," Pruitt could be a weighty ally if called upon by the administration's toughest opponent of pot legalization, Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Continue reading [here](#).

Crime data helps police thrive: NYPD commissioner**USA Today | James P. O'Neill and Dermot Shea**

For more than a decade, coteries of academics, and ex-cops who became academics, have been selling the idea that CompStat, the police command accountability and crime strategy system developed in the New York Police Department in the mid-1990s, is responsible for the deterioration of police-community relations across the country. Nothing could be further from the truth. These critics are not that knowledgeable about CompStat as it is practiced, and certainly not as it has been practiced in the NYPD over the past three years.

Continue reading [here](#).

Senate takes another crack at bringing email protections into 21st century**Washington Examiner | Daniel Chaitin**

The second coming of the Email Privacy Act has technology companies cheering, but the bill's future is far from certain. This month, the House passed new legislation to update the decades-old Electronics Communications Privacy Act of 1986 by requiring law enforcement agencies to obtain a warrant before seizing emails and other digital communications older than 180 days. Last April, the first iteration of the bill passed the House in a rare unanimous vote, only to be killed in the Senate after some Republicans offered amendments that would strip the legislation of its privacy protections. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Hearings & Markups Happening This Week

The House and Senate are not in session this week.

Legislation on the Floor This Week

House:

The House is not in session this week.

Senate:

The Senate is not in session this week.

Recap of Last Week's Hearings & Markups

Note: For more details on any of the following hearings, we can provide access to hearing transcripts upon request.

House Homeland Security Committee - Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Hearing - February 14

[The Future of FEMA: Stakeholder Recommendations for the Next Administrator](#)

Summary: This hearing heard from various stakeholders on priority recommendations for the next FEMA Administrator. Witnesses testified on the importance of embracing states as key partners in emergency management, do more to align investments to current threats, increase involvement of fire and other emergency management officials within the fusion centers, the importance of interoperability and FirstNet, and the value of the various FEMA administered grants.

House Education Committee - Early Childhood Subcommittee Hearing - February 15

[Providing Vulnerable Youth the Hope of a Brighter Future Through Juvenile Justice Reform](#)

Summary: This hearing discussed reforming the country's juvenile justice system to promote safe communities and set at-risk youth on the pathway to success. Witnesses testified that the need for improved support of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act to better assist the effort among families and local leaders to keep communities safe while also ensuring vulnerable youth are able to succeed in life. Additionally, witnesses exclaimed that reforms should include alternatives that keep kids from becoming repeat offenders.

Senate Appropriations Committee - Labor HHS Subcommittee Hearing - February 15

[Mental Health Care: Examining Treatments and Services](#)

Summary: This hearing improve examined access to mental health care and treatment, learned what programs are most valuable, and better understand how resources should be directed to ensure that we effectively support states, communities, and individuals who are dealing with mental illness. Chief Don De Lucca, President of IACP testified discussing his concerns with the sheer volume of individuals who suffer a mental health disorder, the continued stigma attached to having a disorder, the drug and alcohol addictions that many of these individuals also suffer from, and the insufficient mental healthcare infrastructure that exists, which does not meet the needs for those who may be seeking treatment. He also discussed the need for sufficient resources for law enforcement and others in the criminal justice system to expand and sustain their collaborative efforts to improve their crisis responses and decision making concerning those with a mental illness, and that support needs to come in the form of funding for training, equipment, grants for innovative approaches to help encourage partnerships, and mental health courts.

House Homeland Security Committee - Border Subcommittee Hearing - February 16

[A Dangerous and Sophisticated Adversary: The Threat to the Homeland Posed by Cartel Operations](#)

Summary: This hearing examined threats at our southern border posed by cartels smuggling drugs over land and sea. Officials told the committee that more resources to counter cartel operations, including equipment, Coast Guard cutters, and manpower is needed. The Coast Guard testified that the previous year was the largest increase in the flow of cocaine into the U.S. they have observed, which is the predominant drug trafficked into the U.S. via maritime routes. Additionally, Chief Beeson stated that continued collaboration with local law enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations units, and intelligence gatherers, was critical to combat drug trafficking by cartels.

Senate Commerce Committee - Aviation Operations Subcommittee Hearing - February 16

[Stakeholder Perspectives on Improving TSA for the Security of the Traveling Public](#)

Summary: This hearing examined the Transportation Security Administration, and what may or may not be needed to improve aviation security. Senators heard from aviation stakeholders on innovation and modernization ideas to better screen passengers, current configuration of screening checkpoints, and expanding the PreCheck program. Discussions about the security in public areas was a topic of importance for many members, and the use of passive screening technology touted as one possible solution to addressing threats in areas before screening checkpoints.

House Homeland Security Committee - Oversight Subcommittee Hearing - February 16

[Watchdog Recommendations: A Better Way Ahead to Manage the Department of Homeland Security](#)

Summary: This hearing heard from the DHS IG and GAO on recommendations to improve DHS' management and operations. The IG laid out their priorities which included: unifying the Department, employee morale, acquisition management, grant management, cybersecurity, and improving management fundamentals. With regards to the grants, the IG stated that FEMA does a poor job ensuring that the money is not wasted, and that they have failed to take advantage of their recommendations to provide greater oversight over them. The IG also stated that improvement in oversight of state grantees and proactively engaging with states to improve the management and guidance of subgrantees. Since the creation of DHS, GAO has made about 2,500 recommendations to strengthen its manage-

ment efforts, improve efficiency, and improve overall operations of the agency. DHS has implemented more than 70 percent of those recommendations, and continues to implement others. One item to note from GAO's recently released [report on high risk areas](#) was the removal of sharing and managing of terrorism-related information from the list of concerns.

Legislation Considered Last Week

House:

Nothing affecting the law enforcement or homeland security community.

Senate:

[H.J.Res 40](#) - Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Social Security Administration relating to Implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007.

Status: Approved by the Senate on 2/15; Approved by the House on 2/2.

Summary: This joint resolution nullifies the "Implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007" rule finalized by the Social Security Administration on December 19, 2016. The rule implements a plan to provide to the National Instant Criminal History Background Check System the name of an individual who meets certain criteria, including that benefit payments are made through a representative payee because the individual is determined to be mentally incapable of managing them. (Current law prohibits firearm sale or transfer to and purchase or possession by a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective.)

Legislation Introduced Last Week

Date Introduced	Bill Number	Sponsor	Description
2/16/2017	HR 1196	Lee Zeldin (R-NY-1)	To require a plan to combat international travel by terrorists and foreign fighters, accelerate the transfer of certain border security systems to foreign partner governments, establish minimum international border security standards, authorize the suspension of foreign assistance to countries not making significant efforts to comply with such minimum standards, and for other purposes.
2/16/2017	HR 1188	Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI-5)	To reauthorize certain programs established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, and for other purposes.
2/16/2017	HR 1184	Bobby Rush (D-IL-1)	To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to prescribe rules regulating inmate telephone and video service rates, and for other purposes.
2/16/2017	HR 1129	Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12)	To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to strengthen student visa background checks and improve the monitoring of foreign students in the United States, and for other purposes.
2/16/2017	HR 1110 S 406	Ted Poe (R-TX-2)/ Ron Wyden (D-OR)	To repeal certain amendments made to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.
2/16/2017	S 424	Cory Booker (D-NJ)	A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to include certain Federal positions within the definition of law enforcement officer for retirement purposes, and for other purposes.
2/16/2017	S 419	Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	A bill to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program, and for other purposes.
2/16/2017	S 415	Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)	A bill to nullify the effect of the recent executive order that makes the vast majority of unauthorized individuals priorities for removal and aims to withhold critical Federal funding to sanctuary cities.
2/16/2017	S 412	Gary Peters (D-MI)	A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require State and local coordination on cybersecurity with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center, and for other purposes.
2/16/2017	S 411	Ben Cardin (D-MD)	A bill to eliminate racial, religious, and other discriminatory profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.
2/15/2017	HR 1081	Tom Emmer (R-MN-6)	To eliminate the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the definition of the term "official purpose" as it applies to drivers' licenses and personal identification cards, and for other purposes.
2/15/2017	HR 1076	Yvette Clarke (D-NY9)	To provide that section 9 of Executive Order 13768, relating to sanctuary jurisdictions, shall have no force or effect, to prohibit the use of funds for certain purposes, and for other purposes.
2/15/2017	HR 1067	Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI-5)	Build up Illegal Line Defenses with Assets Lawfully Lifted Act of 2017 - To amend section 524(c) of title 18, United States Code, to use lawfully forfeited drug seizures to increase border security.
2/15/2017	HR 1062	Jason Chaffetz (R-UT-3)	To amend title 18, United States Code, to specify the circumstances in which a person may acquire geolocation information and for other purposes.

2/15/2017	HR 1061	Jason Chaffetz (R-UT-3)	Cell Location Privacy Act of 2017 - To amend title 18, United States Code, to regulate the use of cell-site simulators, and for other purposes.
2/15/2017	S 395	Ron Wyden (D-OR)	A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify the circumstances in which a person may acquire geolocation information and for other purposes.
2/14/2017	HR 1055	Bobby Rush (D-IL-1)	To acknowledge the fundamental injustice and the subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against those African-Americans impacted by the "War on Drugs" and the subsequent disparate and discriminatory mass incarceration, to determine the role that private corporations played in the prison industrial complex, to determine the impact of these forces on their families, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.
2/14/2017	HR 1047	Jody Hice (R-GA-10)	Fairness in Firearm Testing Act - To require the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to make video recordings of the examination and testing of firearms and ammunition, and for other purposes.
2/14/2017	HR 1043	Ted Deutch (D-FL-22)	To amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the recovery of damages in a civil action related to the disclosure of certain personal information from State motor vehicle records, and for other purposes.
2/14/2017	HR 1039	David Reichert (R-WA-8)	Probation Officer Protection Act of 2017 - To amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties.
2/14/2017	HR 1035	Ted Poe (R-TX-2)	Extending Justice for Sex Crime Victims Act of 2017 - To extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses.
2/14/2017	S 367	Orrin Hatch (R-UT)	A bill to amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties.
2/13/2017	HR 1023	Patrick Meehan (R-PA-7)	To create penalties for massage establishment owners and employees who fail to report knowledge or reasonable suspicion of sexual assault.
2/13/2017	HR 1006	Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-7)	To clarify the rights of all persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any detention facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



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