



## Warning: You WILL be interrogated for driving within 100 miles of the Canadian border

Random checkpoints are being set up by U.S. Customs [DHS] agents in the northeast within 100 miles of the Canadian border



by [MassPrivate](#) | May 18, 2015

Random checkpoints are being set up by U.S. Customs [DHS] agents in the northeast within 100 miles of the Canadian border.

The Border Patrol operates a national network of internal checkpoints, illegally stopping motorists up to 100 miles inside our border! These illegal checkpoints allow DHS to stop and search law-abiding American citizens without justification.

It's about to get much WORSE, the [Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee](#) approved [Bill S.750](#) which gives Border Patrol/DHS agents "immediate access to federal land within 100 miles" of both national borders and prohibit the "Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture" from impeding any CBP activities.

*"Border Patrol already has unfettered access to protected federal public lands along the border,"* Dan Millis, borderlands program coordinator for the [Grand Canyon Chapter](#) of the [Sierra Club](#). *"In fact, Border Patrol currently has more access to the border and surrounding lands than the public."*

**Imagine this: You and your family drive to Maine to visit [Acadia National Park](#) which receives over **2 MILLION tourists**. Acadia is within 100 miles of the border and our govt sets up checkpoints to interrogate EVERY visitor! That's the future of Police State America if we allow this B.S. to continue.**

Christian Ramírez, director of the [Southern Border Communities Coalition](#), criticized the legislation not only for what it sets out to do, but for what it doesn't do. "What any border bill should include are reforms to Customs and Border Protection to ensure greater oversight and accountability, none of which are included in S.750."

***"Imagine this: Border Patrol decides to construct a surveillance tower dozens of feet tall, armed with cameras and motion sensors, in Saguaro National Park — Tucson's backyard gem — with no public consultation," added Millis. "It demonstrates the overreach and overkill of waiving laws 100 miles inland. That's what McCain's bill does."***

The [ACLU](#) has called for rejection of the 100-mile designation and wants CBP's authority to be limited to "no more than 25 miles from the border and...incursions onto private property to no more than 10 miles." "The '100-Mile Rule' has never been subjected to meaningful debate or scrutiny in Congress. There is nothing in the record to indicate whether the Justice Department's designation of 100 miles as a 'reasonable distance' was anything other than an arbitrary selection."

On May 11th., 2015 Pennsylvania State Police attempt to punish man at checkpoint by towing his truck:

Scott Marshall who was holding a sign warning people of an upcoming checkpoint. That's when he realized that Officer Shair, of the PA State police, was attempting to tow his car that was parked on the side of the road and recorded the following video. On May 12th., 2015 [DHS visited a mans house](#) after he was Tasered & tackled by Border Patrol Agents for refusing to answer questions at a roadside checkpoint.

**The [Watertown Daily Times](#) describes how the Border Patrol is interrogating motorists in the Northeast:**

Last week, Jessica A. Cooke, 21, Ogdensburg, was pulled over at a border checkpoint in Waddington by border patrol agents who wanted to search her car's trunk. During an altercation that followed, [Ms. Cooke was Tasered for recording them!](#)

No charges have been filed and Ms. Cooke said she never was read her Miranda rights, adding she was told by agents they were trying to decide whether to file state or federal charges of assaulting an officer.

***["They are trying to say that I put my hands on him first," Ms. Cooke said. "That's stupid; I had both hands on my phone, recording."](#)***

The incident, which was captured on a cellphone video taken by Ms. Cooke, has prompted a spirited debate on social media sites. Ms. Cooke, a SUNY Canton criminal justice major who graduated Saturday, claims she was wrongfully assaulted and has threatened to file a lawsuit. Several people said they believed both parties deserve some blame for the altercation: Ms. Cooke for provoking agents with an uncooperative attitude and the agents for using excessive force to restrain her.

**Local citizens and visitors: speak out:**

In Watertown, Antonio F. Gigliotti said he does not consider road checkpoints set up by the Border Patrol to be cause for concern. *"They don't bother me," he said. Mr. Gigliotti said he has traveled through checkpoints before without an issue. He said since he does not have anything to hide, he never feels worried when he passes through one.*

William R. Wagstaff Jr., Massena, said he believes border patrol agents at times abuse their power by asking to inspect vehicles without having reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed.

*"This woman had every right to refuse to open her trunk," Mr. Wagstaff said in an email. "I have refused several times to let them search me and put their K-9 in my vehicle."*

Mr. Wagstaff said he filed a complaint with the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., and received a letter of apology. He also filed a complaint with border patrol officials in Swanton, Vt. *"Now I don't get harassed anymore," he said.*

A 26-year-old SUNY Canton student who asked that his name be withheld said he has personally experienced aggressive questioning by border patrol agents in Buffalo where he resides. He believes he was targeted because he is a black man who was traveling to Grand Island, a predominately white community. *"Protection is definitely needed, but it's wrong when that authority gets abused," he said. "They (border patrol agents) have a role to play, but it must be contained in that role."*

Referring to Ms. Cooke's situation, he said, *"Her tone was a little abrasive, but they shouldn't have put their hands on her. She wasn't a threat to them or anyone around her."*

Edward B. Foote, 21, Canton, said he felt border patrol checkpoints were necessary to catch people with illegal drugs. *"They (border patrol) probably push the limits sometimes, but I've never had that experience," Mr. Foote said.*

John Woodard Jr., Massena, said he believed the patrol officer in question in Ms. Cooke's case went overboard with his behavior. *"I think it was a little too excessive, actually," Mr. Woodard said. "I think they've got a lot of stipulations for you to get across the border. People that have just minor felonies can't even go across the border."*

Tim Drew, an Arizona resident who was interviewed in Massena, said while he has had limited experience dealing with border patrol on the U.S.-Canada line, he said he is familiar with border issues on the border with Mexico.

***"I mean it's regrettable, but when you enforce procedures in light of the recent security situations, innocent people do sometimes get hurt and it's unfortunate, but I don't find it***

***to be wrong.”***

Therein lies the problem, the public finds Border Patrol/DHS abuse “regrettable but don’t find it to be WRONG”!

There are too many SHEEPLE who don’t care if our rights are destroyed by DHS run law enforcement.

## US biker shoot-out: 192 face charges in Waco, Texas

- 42 minutes ago
- From the section [US & Canada](#)



Central Waco went into lockdown as police officers began their investigation into the shoot-out. Texas police say 192 people are to face organised crime charges after the Waco bike-gang shooting, which left nine people dead and 18 others injured.

The feud broke out between several gangs at a shopping district in Waco.

What started as a fist fight, soon descended into a battle with knives, clubs, chains and eventually guns.

One witness described the scene as "a war zone", while a Waco policeman called it the most gruesome scene he had encountered in his career.

The incident happened shortly after midday on Sunday at the Twin Peaks Sports Bar and Grill in a shopping area called the Central Texas Market Place.



Bullet casings, knives, a club, bodies and pools of blood were all found inside the restaurant. Up to five rival gangs got into a fight, apparently over parking space near the restaurant. Diners and staff at the nearby cafe managed to lock themselves in a freezer room for safety and were later escorted off the premises by armed police.

In addition to announcing the large number of arrests, Waco police department said on Monday they had temporarily closed the Twin Peaks restaurant for at least a week "due to the ongoing danger it presents to our community".

The authorities have increased security in the area to prevent further outbreaks of violence amid fears some of the gang members might return.

Police spokesman Sgt W Patrick Swanton said preliminary findings indicated that a dispute broke out in a bathroom and eventually spilled over into the restaurant car park.

"I was amazed that we didn't have innocent civilians killed or injured," Sgt Swanton said.

"In 34 years of law enforcement, this is the most violent crime scene I have ever been involved in," he added.



## Europe should overcome US pressure, resume cooperation with Russia - Duma chief

Published time: May 18, 2015 12:13

[Get short URL](#)



Reuters / Francois Lenoir

State Duma Speaker Sergey Naryshkin has urged European politicians to stop listening to US propaganda and start working on common Eurasian economic interests with Russia.

Naryshkin expressed his views on the best possible course for European politics in an article entitled “Natural Allies”, published on Monday in the Russian government daily Rossiiskaya Gazeta.

He wrote that the foundations of the European Union or “Big Europe” had been laid by people who remembered the lessons of the First and Second World Wars and these people still assert NATO’s eastward expansion was a mistake. Europe is taking great risks if it remains in the political wake of a nation located thousands of miles from the European continent. The Ukrainian crisis is yet another confirmation of the fact that EU member countries must decide on their foreign policies without any foreign interference, he noted.

If this doesn’t happen, Washington will eventually destroy the EU’s economic sovereignty by skillful manipulation of WTO mechanisms, Naryshkin wrote. Large-scale, rigid deals the United States is pushing through, under the guise of liberalization of trade, are in reality bringing the European economy under US control, he noted.

The Duma speaker expressed hope that more people in Europe are beginning to understand that cooperation with the US is leading the EU into a dead end. “*As American propaganda’s scary tales vanish like smoke more people in Europe will understand that they had been deceived again,*” he wrote.

He emphasized that the latest crisis in European security was caused largely by US actions and their disregard for international law. To overcome this crisis, Europe must return to the classical model of statehood based on morals, politics and law, he added.

Naryshkin also pointed out that Russia was much closer to Europe both geographically and mentally, and suggested that European partners return to a discourse on common interests, stressing the question of the southern and southeastern borders of the future major bloc is still open.

“*Russia is a natural ally for all European countries. It was Russia that brought peace to the whole continent in 1945 and it deserves much more trust than those who thoroughly and for a long time rewrote history in order to start the fires of confrontation in our peaceful home,*” the Duma chief wrote.

In April, Naryshkin backed the idea of a future merger between the Russian Federation and the European Union, and suggested immediately starting consultations. The idea of the possibility of such a merger originally came from Czech President Milos Zeman, who confessed to having a dream that one day Russia would join the EU.

“*Zeman didn’t exclude the possibility of EU nations joining the Russian Federation. Our country has repeatedly admitted the possibility of a merger between two regional unions – the Eurasian Economic Union and European Union,*” Naryshkin wrote. He added that in his view the plan wasn’t a fantasy because Russia “*has always been and will always remain in the common family of European people.*”

# Global intervention required to stop ISIS destroying ancient sites - Boris Johnson

Published time: May 18, 2015 12:24

[Get short URL](#)



Reuters / Jamal Saidi

London Mayor and newly-elected MP Boris Johnson says Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) militants could sabotage the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra if the international community doesn't stop it destroying age-old artifacts.

Johnson warned on Monday in his column in the Daily Telegraph that the radicalized "*loonies*" could take over Egypt within a few decades and destroy the pyramids there. The Pyramids of Giza are renowned internationally as one of the seven modern wonders of the world.

*"Presumably their ideology would demand the dynamiting of the Pyramids, Karnak, Luxor,"* Johnson wrote.

Last week, Islamic State fighters seized parts of the historic city of Palmyra in Syria. Palmyra, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was one of the most important cities of the ancient world. Johnson has now called for an international intervention to prevent the destruction of ancient Roman-era temples, sculptures, ruins and colonnades in Palmyra at the hands of the "*monsters*" of the IS.

Since the terror group seized large swathes of Syria and Iraq, the group has destroyed ancient sights, including the Assyrian archaeological site Nimrud in Iraq, large parts of the ancient city

of Aleppo as well as the Iraqi UNESCO World Heritage site Hatra, which dates back 2,000 years to the Seleucid Empire.

*“The maniacs of ISIL are so narcissistic and so generally up themselves that they cannot cope with the idea of a great culture that predates Islam,”* Johnson said.

*“They are so pathetic, so troubled, so fearful, so small, that they are driven to destroy – because they apparently cannot stand beauty; they cannot abide representations of the human form; and some of them are seemingly the kind of self-hating homosexuals who throw gays off cliffs.”*

Johnson conceded, however, it would be difficult to justify saving archaeological landmarks when *“we in the West have collectively decided to do very little to help hundreds of thousands of Syrian human beings.”*

Yet, he says there would be something *“peculiarly catastrophic”* about the loss of Palmyra. *“Their behavior is an abomination to all of us, Muslims and non-Muslims alike,”* he said of the IS, *“and we cannot allow them to continue with their public and juvenile desecration of everything that is good and beautiful.”*

Johnson also warned that the destruction of Palmyra could have a detrimental effect on the Syrian economy and tourism industry.

*“If we don’t make a stand now, in the face of this barbarism, when will we stick up for our common human heritage,”* he said.

## Migrant crisis: UK offers drones, warships to help tackle human traffickers in Libya

Published time: May 18, 2015 12:24

Edited time: May 18, 2015 12:55

[Get short URL](#)



Reuters / Antonio Parrinello

Britain is to offer military and intelligence support in the fight against people smugglers in Libya in an effort to halt the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea.

The offer comes as EU foreign and defense ministers continue to discuss solutions to the crisis, which has led to the deaths of roughly 1,800 migrants in recent months.

Former Navy chief Admiral Lord West has said a “*close blockade*” of the Libyan coast is feasible but would be difficult. He also argued human traffickers would quickly find alternative routes.

Britain’s proposal of military assistance comes after the UK government refused to accept an EU plan aimed at resettling migrants who attempt to cross the Mediterranean.

UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and Defence Secretary Michael Fallon are to offer a series of measures to tackle people smugglers at an EU meeting in Brussels on Monday.

One proposal includes switching one of Britain’s biggest warships, the HMS Bulwark, to a combat role to counter human trafficking networks.

Led by Commodore Martin Connell, the warship is currently involved in search-and-rescue efforts to save people at risk of drowning on unsafe boats.

A draft EU military plan features small ground operations in Libya, such as destroying traffickers’ fuel dumps and embarkation facilities.

“*A presence ashore might be envisaged if agreement was reached with relevant authorities,*” the plan states.

It adds that “*action taken ashore could be undertaken in a hostile environment.*”

Other proposals in the plan include high-seas boat seizures using aircraft and amphibious ships.

Boarding migrant ships to arrest traffickers would involve “*a high risk of collateral damage including loss of life,*” the plan adds.

Military operations in the area will face a “*robust threat*” according to the EU draft proposal, as militias in Libya have set up artillery batteries on the coast.

Britain intends to contribute intelligence gathering through the use of Royal Air Force or Royal Navy drones.

Such intelligence would be used to monitor people smugglers as part of any offensive.

Former Navy chief Admiral Lord West said the plan would be relatively low risk and would save lives.

He told BBC Radio 4's Today program: “*It would be difficult but it's certainly achievable and I believe that a close blockade of the Libyan coast in these territorial seas is feasible and not too high risk and I think we could stop then the flow of people trying to get out into the Mediterranean. That will save lives and it will dry up the funding to these dreadful people-smugglers.*”

“*And I think within a matter of weeks they would be looking for other ways of achieving it, which of course they will always try and do that,*” he added.

Lord West said Britain should aim for a UN Security Council resolution to support the proposed operations.

He went on to say it was difficult dealing with Libyan authorities, given the fragmented state of the country.

“*I think we should try and deal with - there are effectively two governments in Libya at the moment which makes life difficult, and lots of warring groups - come to some agreement with them that we can send boats back into a harbor, and some way of disabling them, or disable them at sea and send the people back into shore,*” he said.

The peer added the finances of people smugglers should be tracked, as the money often ends up in London or Switzerland.

A government spokesman said details of the EU plan were under discussion, emphasizing that there would be no boots on the ground in Libya.

He said: “*Discussions remain ongoing in the EU on the proposed common security and defense policy (CSDP) operation alongside parallel discussions at the UN Security Council.*”

The proposal comes a week after Home Secretary Theresa May reiterated her refusal to accept a mandatory EU refugee quota system aimed at sharing Mediterranean migrants across Europe.

May's hardline approach was condemned by human rights groups, including Amnesty International who said the UK should “*remain open-minded*” about the scheme.

## Okinawa governor demands suspension of Osprey flights after deadly Hawaii crash

Published time: May 18, 2015 12:32

[Get short URL](#)



An MV-22 Osprey aircraft of the U.S. Marine Corps flies to land at the Marines' Futenma Air Station in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture (REUTERS/Kyodo)

Okinawa's governor has demanded flights of all Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft be suspended following a deadly crash in Hawaii, as public concerns over the further deployment of the aircraft in Japan gain momentum.

*"From the (Okinawan) residents' point of view, Osprey deployment is not acceptable to begin with,"* Governor Takeshi Onaga told a televised news conference, as cited by AP.

He said he plans to demand the US military suspend all Osprey flights until the causes of Sunday's crash at Bellows Air Force Base in Waimanalo in Hawaii are investigated. The accident killed one and injured 21 others on board.

*"The significance of this crash is extremely big. We seek adequate investigation into the cause and explanation, and of course eventually demand withdrawal of the Ospreys."*

**[READ MORE: US marine dies, 21 injured in Osprey crash-landing at Hawaii base](#)**

The crash of the MV-22 Osprey, a loud tilt-rotor aircraft, renewed safety concern among Okinawa residents.

*"I worry that we don't know when an Osprey flying overhead might go down in a residential area,"* Chieko Oshiro, a 61-year-old resident near the Marines' Futenma Air Station in Ginowa, told Kyodo News.

The accident occurred just a week before Onaga plans to visit Washington in a bid to stop the planned relocation of the US base in his prefecture. He said he hopes to speak with members

of Congress and the Defense and State departments. Before going to Washington, the governor plans to visit Hawaii.

*"I will say that not only will we not let the base be built, it simply cannot happen. I hope the US side will hear me as I relay the voices of the people of Okinawa who call that area home."*

The US operates 24 Ospreys, both MV-22 (such as the one that crashed in Hawaii) and CV-22 (that has proved to be significantly controversial) on Okinawa.

Japan announced last week that it would let the US Air Force deploy a number of CV-22 Osprey aircraft at an airbase in western Tokyo from 2017.

[\*\*READ MORE: Controversial US planes to be deployed in Tokyo despite local opposition\*\*](#)

Thousands have been marching in Okinawa and across Japan since Friday in protest against the planned relocation of a US military base in Okinawa. The protesters criticized the Japanese government, who appear to be turning a deaf ear to the locals.

On Sunday, the march gathered about 35,000 people in the prefecture that hosts nearly half the 47,000 US troops based in Japan.

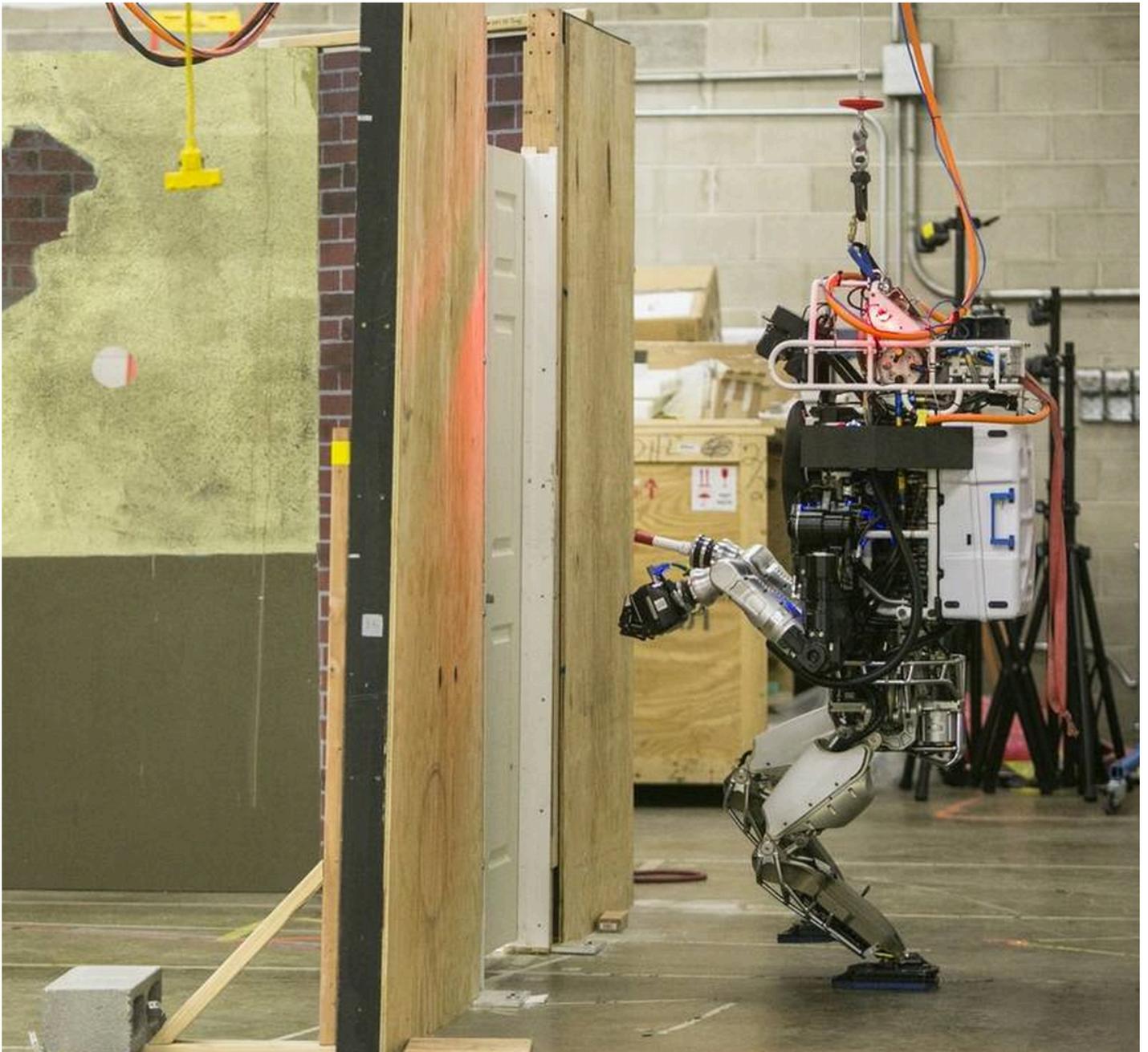
The US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station, in heavily populated Ginowan city, has been a cause of tension between American troops and locals for decades.

Tokyo wants to shut the base down and open a new one in the more remote town of Henoko, in the center of Okinawa. However, the majority of local residents, as well as Onaga, want the construction of the replacement base to be scrapped.

In March, the Okinawa governor demanded the underwater survey needed to build an offshore airstrip for the new base be stopped, citing environmental damage.

Onaga met Defense Minister General Nakatani in May to discuss the relocation plan. However, they failed to reach a solution.

## Pentagon sees value in robot warriors



It's 6-foot-2, with laser eyes and vise-grip hands. It can walk over a mess of jagged cinder blocks, cut a hole in a wall, even drive a car. And soon, Leo, Lockheed Martin's humanoid robot, will move from the development lab to a boot camp for robots, where a platoon's worth of the semiautonomous mechanical species will be tested to see if they can be all they can be. Next month, the Pentagon is hosting a \$3.5 million, international competition that will pit robot against robot in an obstacle course designed to test their physical prowess, agility, and even their awareness and cognition.

Galvanized by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power disaster in 2011, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency — the Pentagon's band of mad scientists that have developed the "artificial spleen," bullets that can change course midair and the Internet — has invested nearly \$100 million into developing robots that could head into disaster zones off limits to humans.

[Read Full Article](#)

## FBI claims security researcher took control of plane



When Chris Roberts [was pulled off a United Airlines flight last month](#) — and [banned by the airline](#) — was it just because of a tweet that he deemed humorous?

The security expert seemed to suggest in the tweet that he could make the oxygen masks deploy, just by hacking into a box under his seat.

Now, [a search warrant application](#) connected with that event has emerged — [first noticed by Canada's APTN](#) — that puts even darker nuances to the tale.

[Read Full Article](#)

## Netanyahu Pledges: Jerusalem Will Never be Divided Again



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Sunday evening participated in the Jerusalem Day celebration [at the Mercaz Harav Yeshiva](#), declaring that Jerusalem will be forever united. Referring to recent terror incidents in Jerusalem, Netanyahu stated, “We are determined to pursue the terrorists and confront all our enemies like a fortified wall, like the walls of Jerusalem.”

“At the same time,” continued Netanyahu, “we have another eternal answer to terrorism – we will continue to develop the city, to build it, to make it a superpower in education and science, the center of the Torah. I pledge that as Prime Minister I will continue to develop the city. The city was united, and will never be divided again.”

[Read Full Article](#)

## Senate fight looms as law allowing NSA to collect Americans’ phone data set to expire



A major supporter of the National Security Agency’s anti-terrorism surveillance program, which allows the bulk collection of Americans’ phone records, is pushing for an extension of the program, setting up a battle with critics who argue that Congress must fix the current law or let it expire.

“This has been a very important part of our effort to defend the homeland since 9/11,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Sunday while defending the program in an interview on ABC’s “This Week.” “We know that the terrorists overseas are trying to recruit people in our country to commit atrocities in our country.”

McConnell, R-Ky., introduced a bill Thursday night that would temporarily renew the expiring provisions of the Patriot Act for two months.

[Read Full Article](#)

## ‘Islam must be banned’: French Mayor in trouble after extreme tweets, calls to deport Muslims



A mayor of a French town has been suspended from former president Nicolas Sarkozy’s UMP party after urging a ban on Islam in the country and the immediate “escorting to the border” of those practicing the religion.

“*The Muslim religion must be banned in France,*” Robert Chardon, mayor of the southern town of Venelles, wrote on Twitter earlier this week.

All followers of Islam should be “*immediately escorted to the border,*” the mayor added, forecasting that the Muslim faith will be banned in France by 2027.

[Read Full Article](#)

## How Supremes could cripple Christian schools



If the Supreme Court finds there is a constitutional right to same-sex marriage next month, the tax-exempt status of any nonprofit groups that refuse to embrace the movement could soon be on the chopping block.

Writing in a [column for USA Today](#), Home School Legal Defense Association Chairman Michael Farris said religious and even non-religious nonprofit institutions will likely be targeted by the government for holding to traditional standards on sex, marriage and morality.

“All of these entities are exempt from taxation under the same section of the IRS code. And even though churches can be exempt without application, their exemption can nonetheless be revoked,” Farris wrote. “Even if it takes the IRS years to begin the enforcement proceedings against such institutions, we can expect other fallout from this decision to begin shortly after the release of the Supreme Court’s opinion.”

The premise for this concern is rooted in a widely reported exchange during the Supreme Court’s oral arguments on marriage held on April 28.

[Read Full Article](#)

## Russia, China Kick Off Active Phase of Mediterranean Naval Drills



Russia and China has kicked off the active phase of their naval drill in the Mediterranean Sea. “Russian and Chinese warships have arrived in the sea area allocated for the “Naval Cooperation 2015” military drills,” Deputy Commander in Chief of the Russian Navy Vice Admiral Alexandr Fedotenkov said on Sunday.

The vessels have replenished their stocks and are currently hove to at their set locations.

[Read Full Article](#)

## Russia Says It Can Deploy Nuclear Arms to Crimea



Russia's envoy to the NATO alliance said on Friday that Moscow will bolster military forces in occupied Ukraine, and is not banned from deploying nuclear arms in Crimea.

“Everything that we do in Crimea fully complies with all obligations of the Russian Federation under international treaties. We do not violate anything, there are no prohibitions on us deploying certain weapons systems,” said Alexander Grushko, the envoy, when asked if nuclear arms would be placed in Crimea.

Grushko also declined to say whether nuclear arms currently are deployed inside the Ukrainian territory forcibly annexed by Russia in March 2014. He made the remarks in a video press conference from Moscow with reporters in Brussels, where NATO headquarters is located.

[Read Full Article](#)

Measure

Measure

## Saudi Arabia to buy nuclear bombs from Pakistan



Saudi Arabia will join the nuclear club by buying “off the shelf” atomic weapons from Pakistan, US officials told a London newspaper.

The Saudis — who financed much of Pakistan’s nuke program — are fearful of international efforts to keep its enemy Iran from acquiring a bomb, [the Sunday Times of London reports](#).

The Saudis think the deal, backed by President Obama, will actually accelerate Iran’s nuke push.

[Read Full Article](#)

## On International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, Obama Vows to ‘Keep Fighting’ for LGBT Rights



In honor of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, President Obama this weekend vowed to “keep fighting, for however long it takes, until we are all able to live free and equal in dignity and rights.”

The president, who just last month called for an end to “conversion” therapy for gay youth, proclaimed in a statement that “[LGBT rights are human rights](#).”

Since taking office, Obama has consistently advocated equal rights for LGBT people worldwide. In 2010, he [signed the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,”](#) the U.S. military’s policy forbidding openly gay men and women from serving. In 2011, he signed an official memorandum directing agencies to combat criminalization of gays abroad.

In a watershed moment, Obama formally [endorsed gay marriage](#) in an interview with ABC’s Robin Roberts in 2012, just a few days after Vice President [Joe Biden](#) preempted him. Then, in 2014, he signed an [executive order](#) to protect transgendered federal employees from [workplace discrimination](#), and earlier this year, he became the first president to [call for protections for “transgender” individuals](#) in the [State of the Union](#) address.

[Read Full Article](#)

