



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY FACT SHEET

The Trump Shutdown: Jeopardizing America's Homeland Security

As the Trump Shutdown passes the one-month mark, here is a look at how it is jeopardizing the Department of Homeland Security, its personnel, and the security of our homeland.

🎯 Transportation Security Administration

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is responsible for securing our nation's transportation systems, with direct responsibility for securing air travel. **TSA's 47,000 Transportation Security Officers screen passengers, baggage, and cargo to prevent dangerous people and items from flying. All are currently working without pay.**

Unfortunately, unscheduled absences and resignations have increased among the TSA Officers and will likely increase if they continue to miss paychecks. **Staffing shortages could lead to significant wait times and congestion in public airport areas, creating major security vulnerabilities.** Furthermore, attrition could have a long-term impact that TSA will struggle to recover from as the busy spring and summer travel periods approach.

The shutdown is also affecting aviation security outside our borders. With employee travel generally prohibited during the shutdown, it is unclear whether TSA can continue its activities to ensure compliance with regulations and security directives at international airports that are last points of departure to the United States. **Given significant threats to aviation from overseas, a lack of TSA inspections could lead to major security vulnerabilities.**

Furthermore, because many TSA headquarters employees are furloughed, TSA will likely fall behind on acquisitions projects to upgrade security technologies, including the procurement of Computed Tomography (CT) machines for screening carry-on luggage, which TSA has identified as critical to countering current threats.

🎯 U.S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard is a branch of our Nation's military responsible for an array of maritime duties, from helping defend America's borders to protecting the maritime environment to performing rescue missions in severe conditions. **Nearly 42,000 men and women are actively serving in the Coast Guard, supported by thousands more reservists and civilian personnel. All are working without pay during the shutdown, a disgraceful way to treat an integral part of our military.**

Many members of the Coast Guard are deployed away from home, where they are less able to help dependents during a lapse in pay. **Enlisted members of the Coast Guard also face the most drastic repercussions of any DHS employees for missing work, as absent members are considered Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and can face disciplinary action up to and including a court-martial.**

The Coast Guard has curtailed activities such as routine patrols, safety checks, and issuance and renewals of licenses during the shutdown, and it is not clear how the shutdown will affect its ongoing efforts to upgrade its fleet. The Coast Guard has also been unable to pay for boot-camp graduates to move to new assignments. **Over time, these issues will have an increasingly large impact on the mission readiness of this branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.**

🕒 U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one of our Nation's largest law enforcement organizations. It is charged with keeping terrorists, their instruments, and illegal goods outside of the United States while at the same time facilitating lawful travel and trade. Each day, CBP officers welcome more than one million travelers and conduct operations at 328 ports of entry, 135 border patrol stations, and in 50 countries.

During President Trump's Shutdown, over 91 percent of CBP personnel, including approximately 40,000 Border Patrol agents, CBP officers, and Agriculture Specialists, are being forced to work. All are doing so without pay, and many are required to work overtime due to staffing shortages at ports of entry. Moreover, hiring has come to a halt and newly hired agents and officers cannot start training until the training centers are reopened, meaning thousands of vacancies at CBP will go unfilled and its staffing shortages will only be exacerbated if agents and officers seek other employment.

🕒 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is responsible for enforcing immigration law and investigating a wide range of cross-border criminal activity including financial crimes, cyber crimes, human trafficking, and the exploitation of children.

An estimated 80 percent of ICE employees are required to work during the shutdown, and they are doing so without pay. Furthermore, nearly 400 of the nation's immigration judges have been furloughed, forcing thousands of immigration cases to be postponed. The shutdown only makes the immigration court backlog worse by forcing people to wait years before their cases are rescheduled.

🕒 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

The newly established Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is DHS' cybersecurity arm and leads Federal efforts to defend against threats to critical infrastructure. **Despite its vital mission, almost half of CISA's workforce is furloughed and the rest are working without pay.**

CISA's National Risk Management Center – the home of CISA's essential strategic planning activities on supply chain security, pipeline security, and understanding systemic risk – is on hold during the shutdown. In particular, its Tri-Sector Working Group with government and industry partners from the energy, financial services, and telecommunications sectors has been paused. Election security activities have also been dramatically slowed, even as States work to understand and protect against security threats that could impact the Presidential elections in 2020.

Moreover, the Department of Homeland Security has suspended regulatory enforcement of the Chemical Facilities Antiterrorism Standards Program. **That means that no one is inspecting high-risk chemical facilities to ensure compliance with regulations designed to prevent terrorists from stealing chemicals to make weapons to weaponizing the facilities themselves.**