

Trump authorizes use of National Guard at ICE facilities

BY CHRIS CAMERON, HAMED ALEAZIZ AND ERIC SCHMITT
NYT News Service

The Trump administration authorized the deployment of National Guard units at immigration facilities, escalating its use of the military as part of President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown.

In a private memo obtained by The New York Times, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials informed field offices that the National Guard would be deployed to assist in “alien processing” – the term used by immigration officials for paperwork done before placing immigrants in detention. It added that ICE leadership would “direct” the troops assigned to the mission.

The National Guard troops would be deployed in 20 states with Republican governors, including Florida, Georgia, Virginia, Texas and Louisiana, according to a Defense Department official who was not authorized to speak publicly. ICE did

not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The deployment of the National Guard troops – part of a reserve military force controlled by individual states – appears to be aimed at allowing military units to directly participate in federal immigration enforcement.

A statement from the Pentagon last week outlined a plan to swap Marine Corps and Naval Reserve units supporting ICE with National Guard troops that would be allowed to have “direct interaction with individuals in ICE custody.” The statement said that about 1,700 troops have now been authorized to assist ICE. The first deployments of National Guard troops were scheduled for early August, according to the ICE memo.

The use of the military for civilian law enforcement is limited as part of the Constitution’s protections for civil liberties and state sovereignty. But state governments maintain the authority to keep order within their borders

– a power given to them under the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 – and Republican governors have previously deployed National Guard troops to assist in border control.

The deployment of the National Guard to ICE facilities would more directly meld military operations with the agency’s domestic law enforcement duties. The ICE memo said National Guard troops would directly assist ICE agents with “administrative and clerical tasks, field office program management, case management and transportation.”

The memo did not authorize the National Guard to take part in immigration raids directly, but replacing ICE agents in clerical roles with National Guard troops would free those agents to participate in enforcement duties.

ICE has also established a “strategic planning task force” that will coordinate the deployment of the National Guard troops, according to the memo.

Earlier this year, the Department of Homeland Security requested more than 20,000 National Guard troops to help with the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown, following a request by Trump to increase DHS ranks by pulling in thousands of officers from state or federal agencies.

Teens shot at car that wrecked, killing two Wichita men. Sentence handed down

BY AMY RENEE LEIKER
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A 22-year-old man was sentenced Monday to more than 15 years in prison for his role in the deaths of two people in 2022.

James L. Lowe Jr. pleaded guilty on May 1 to two counts of voluntary manslaughter and one count each of criminal discharge of a firearm and aggravated battery in a chase and shooting that resulted in a fatal accident on Feb. 21, 2022.

Amill Williams, 21, and Alonzo Montgomery, 20, both of Wichita, were killed in the crash.

Police have said Lowe was among a group of teenagers that chased and fired shots at the men while they were driving a 2005 Ford Five Hundred in the area of Lincoln and George Washington Boulevard. The car veered into oncoming traffic as the men fled and crashed into a tree at 83 mph, killing both, court records say.

A woman riding with them was flung from the car but survived.

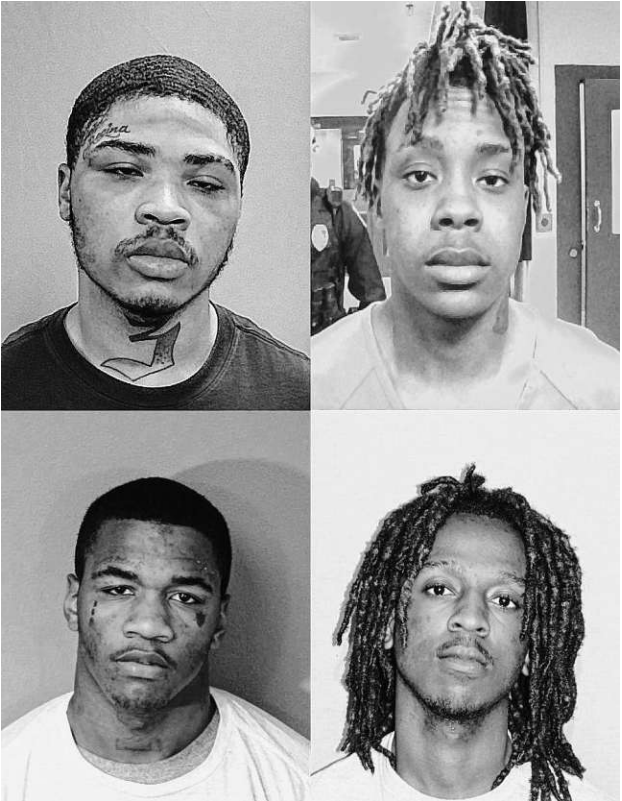
The teens started chasing the men after they visited a southeast Wichita apartment and someone told the group that members of an opposing gang were in the car, a probable cause affidavit says.

Witnesses called 911 to report shots fired in the area of Lincoln and George Washington Boulevard around 1:30 a.m. When officers arrived, they found the wrecked car and several shell casings from four different guns, according to the affidavit.

Lowe received a 181-month prison sentence, Sedgwick County District Attorney’s Office spokeswoman Lyndsee Stover said by email.



COURTESY Screen grab/online obituaries
Amill Williams and Alonzo Montgomery died on Feb. 21, 2022.



COURTESY Kansas Department of Corrections, Sedgwick County Jail
Top left to right: Tre'Breh Jones, James Lowe Jr. Bottom left to right: Javion Wimbley, Elijah Sullivan

The others involved in the shooting and chase are 21-year-old Elijah Sullivan, 19-year-old Javion Wimbley and 22-year-old Tre’breh Deshane Jones. They are serving lengthy prison sentences after

pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter and other charges.

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YURI GRIPAS UPI

President Donald Trump delivers remarks at the Making Health Technology Great Again event Wednesday at the White House. Trump introduced a proposal that would make sharing health care information among medical service providers easier.

Tech initiative proposed to streamline health care services

BY MIKE HEUER
UPI.com

Sharing healthcare information among medical service providers might be easier under a plan proposed by President Donald Trump on Wednesday.

Trump and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr. proposed a partnership with tech firms to make it easier for Americans to share their personal health care information with health services providers.

“This will allow patients to easily transmit information from one doctor to another, even if they’re [in] different networks and using different record-keeping systems,”

Trump said during an event dubbed Make Health Tech Great Again on Wednesday.

“America’s health care networks have been overdue for a high-tech upgrade, and that’s what we’re doing,” Trump said.

“The existing systems are often slow, costly and incompatible with one another,” he added. “But with today’s announcement, we take a major step to bring health care into the digital age.”

He called the move “vital” for making it more convenient and faster for people to obtain improved health care services and enjoy better health.

Officials with more than 60 companies agreed to partner with the Trump

administration to make the sharing of health information easier and more efficient through apps and other forms of electronic communications.

“For decades, bureaucrats and entrenched interests buried health data and blocked patients from taking control of their health,” Kennedy said during the event.

“That ends today,” he said. “We’re tearing down digital walls, returning power to patients and rebuilding a health system that serves the people.”

“This is how we begin to make America healthy again,” he added.

In addition to Trump and Kennedy, many others in the Trump administration attended the event that was held at the White House on Wednesday afternoon.

The announcement has raised concern about the security of people’s sensitive health information, which Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services spokeswoman Catharine Howden downplayed.

Police find body in search for missing Wichita woman, suspect arrested for murder

BY AMY RENEE LEIKER
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Police have found a body in their search for a missing Wichita woman and say a suspect has been arrested on suspicion of first-degree premeditated murder.

Mariana Christian, 31, was last seen on July 19 around Harry and Rock Road, according to a Facebook post from the Wichita Police Department on Sunday asking for the public’s help locating her.

Tuesday evening, agency spokesman Andrew Ford said in an email to local news organizations that authorities have recovered a body. A Facebook post says police were “conducting an ongoing

investigation in the area of Lincoln and Armour” on Tuesday evening and that there “is no threat to the community.”

The body was discovered in Cottonwood Park around 5:11 p.m., Officer Kris Gupilan told media at the scene. The suspect arrested in connection with the case has been booked into the Sedgwick County Jail, he said.

“As the investigation has progressed, at this time we believe that we have located the body of

missing person case, Mariana Christian,” Ford wrote in his email.

“We cannot officially confirm the individual’s identity at this time. The Medical Examiner’s Office will make an official identification,” he wrote.

“The investigation remains active and ongoing. Further information will be released as it becomes available.”

Police records show Christian was reported missing on July 21 after she didn’t show up for work.

No other details were immediately released Tuesday.

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