Cruz And Rubio Spar In Fifth Republican Debate

BY JULIE PACE AND JULIE BYKOWICZ Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — In a presidential race reshaped by national security concerns, Sens. Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio clashed over U.S. military intervention and government spying on Americans' communications Tuesday night, as front-runner Donald Trump defended his provocative call for banning Muslims from the United States.

Struggling former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush found his footing in trying to discredit Trump's qualifications for the White House, chiding the brash billionaire for trying to "insult your way to the presidency."

Tuesday night's debate

was the first for Republicans since the attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California, which heightened fears of terrorism in the United States. The attacks have ignited a political debate about President Barack Obama's campaign to defeat the Islamic State in the Middle East and the nation's security posture in preventing attacks in the U.S.

Trump's call for temporarily banning Muslims from the U.S. — a proposal roundly criticized by his rivals - dominated much of the discussion heading into the debate. He said he wasn't seeking to discriminate against Muslims. "We are not talking about

isolation; we're talking about security," he said. "We are not talking about religion, we are talking about security.'

Bush dismissed the proposal as unserious, saying "Donald is great at the one-liners, but he's a chaos candidate and he'd be a chaos president.'

In contrast, Cruz and Rubio said they understood why Trump had raised the idea of banning Muslims and avoided directly criticizing the front-runner. Instead, they focused on each other, engaging in lengthy debates over their differences on national security.

Rubio accused Cruz of weakening the government's ability to track terrorists because he voted in favor of legislation to eliminate the National Security Agency's bulk phone-records collection program and replace it with a more restrictive effort to keep the records in phone

companies' hands.

Cruz insisted the new law gives the government more access to cellphones and other technology terrorists are more likely to use - a contention Rubio disputed.

"There is nothing we are allowed to do under this bill that we were not allowed to do before," Rubio said. Beginning after the Sept.

11, 2001, terror attacks, the NSA secretly collected the daily calling records - but not contents of conversations — for most Americans, including people never suspected of any crime.

A new law, called the USA Freedom Act, passed in June with broad, bipartisan support. It ordered the NSA to end bulk collection after a six-month transition that expired last week.

national security for weeks. The Texas senator is on the rise, particularly in Iowa's kickoff caucuses, where he's challenging Trump's monthslong lead. The senators — both Cuban-Americans in their

40s — also clashed over whether the U.S. should seek to remove dictators in the Middle East, including Syrian President Bashar Assad. Cruz argued that the governments that replace autocrats can often be worse than the ones opposed by the U.S., while Rubio said of Middle East dictators, "If they go, I will not shed a tear."

Cruz and Rubio have

been sparring from afar over

The senators also displayed differences in their strategies for targeting the Islamic State. The extremist

the three-year boat registrations of Nebraska residents beginning in 2016, the NGPC news release said. The nonresident boaters' \$15 fee is for the purchase an annual decal. That decal is required of every motorized watercraft registered outside of Nebraska before that craft may be launched from any Nebraska boat ramp.

The non-resident decal can be purchased at OutdoorNebraska.org or at NGPC offices in Lincoln, Omaha, Norfolk, North Platte, Alliance, Kearney and

The 3-inch-square decal must be permanently affixed to the starboard and rearward side of the boat, on the outside of the hull above the water line.

AIS may cause significant ecological problems because they have been introduced into habitats in which there are no natural pathogens, parasites or predators, the NGPC release said. AIS can also impact recreational opportunities, municipalities, and water supplies.

The time for keeping zebra mussels out of Lewis and Clark Lake has passed, Zeutenhorst said. Removal of the invaders is also physically impossible and financially impractical, she

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

group claimed responsibility for the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris, and one of the shooters in California pledged allegiance to the group on Facebook shortly before she and her husband shot and killed 14 people at a holiday party.

Cruz called for using "overwhelming air power" to destroy the Islamic State, while Rubio said airstrikes would have to be supplemented by ground troops, including American special operations forces.

President Obama has largely relied on airstrikes to target the militants in Iraq and Syria. However, he's also sent troops to Iraq to help train and assist local forces and recently approved sending special operations forces into Syria.

'You can't eradicate

invasive species from Lewis

size and its moving water,"

and Clark Lake because of its

she said. "Besides (problems

with) the lake's free flow, the

zebra mussels can live up to

The focus has turned to

containing zebras mussels as

horst said. The two-pronged

check and preventing the in-

vasive species from entering

ing to stop their spread," she

said. "Hopefully, we educate

the public on all we can do

to stop the spread of these

aquatic invasive species in

Find answers to fre-

Invasive Species Program

and fees by visiting: http://

magazine.outdoornebraska.

gov/2015/12/aquatic-invasis-

ways to prevent an infesta-

tion by visiting neinvasives.-

Follow @RDockendorf on

Learn more about AIS and

ked-questions/.

com.

Twitter.

about the Nebraska Aquatic

quently asked questions

'Right now, we're work-

five days outside of water."

much as possible, Zeuten-

attack consists of keeping

Lewis and Clark Lake in

other waterways.

all areas."

added.

Mussels

From Page 1

Although usually less than an inch in size as adults, the zebra mussel can rapidly spread under the right conditions, according to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P). The zebra mussels have the potential to clog water intake structures and attach themselves to docks, boat motors and anything else that rests in the water for periods of time.

The Yankton conference will be organized by Mike Smith from South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) and Allison Zach of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Lepisto said. Smith and Zach direct the AIS programs in their respective states.

Smith and Zach couldn't be reached Tuesday for further information or comment

Lepisto said he didn't have further details on the Yankton conference. However, he said the event will seek solutions.

"Other states and communities are already dealing with (the zebra mussel) in other waters," he said.

CREATING CLEAN BOATS

A current program already battles the zebra mussel and other invasive species. The annual Clean Boat Event at Yankton offers an educational outreach. Volunteers spend a week in May approaching boaters for

a short presentation or to leave information packets on watercraft.

The effort seeks to create awareness of the zebra mussel's presence and harmfulness, Lepisto said. In addition, the outreach seeks to educate the public on ways of keeping watercraft free of the invaders.

Next year's Clean Boat Event can work hand in hand with the AIS conference the following month, Lepisto said. "We can use next May's event to promote the twoday conference at Yankton in June," Lepisto said.

In previous years, the Clean Boat Event sought to prevent zebra mussels from entering Lewis and Clark Lake.

However, that effort changed greatly in focus last year, according to a GF&P news release

In November 2014, a single adult mussel was found by the GF&P staff on a dock removed from the lake. That discovery, along with the discovery of larval quagga mussels at Angostura Reservoir in western South Dakota, prompted GF&P officials to put new rules in

stepped up enforcement of the regulations and emphasized compliance. Boaters saw an increase of GF&P staff at all Lewis and Clark Lake boat ramps.

'We want to make sure people are aware of the regulations and the importance of draining all water from their livewells, baitwells and hulls," said Arden Petersen, the GF&P assistant director of the Division of Wildlife.

CONTINUING THE BATTLE

The zebra mussels' presence continues, said Karla Zeutenhorst, a park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Around 200 zebra mussels were found by the (Gavins Point Dam) power plant guys," she told the Press & Dakotan on Tuesday. "(The invaders) were taken off during inspections on the stop logs.

An aquatic nuisance task force combines the resources and knowledge of South Dakota, Nebraska and federal agencies, Zeutenhorst said. The task force deals with different species and aspects of the problem, she said.

Lepisto hopes to take the effort a step further by enlisting the help of anglers and boaters, including those who use Lewis and Clark Marina near Yankton.

stakeholders. They can get involved," he said. "We can form a loose network and take advantage of groups that can help us out." Nebraska has enlisted

the assistance of boaters in a different way - with their pocketbooks. Starting in 2016, boaters in Nebraska will help the

state's effort to prevent AIS infestation and its spread, according to a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) news release

cies Program was created by the Nebraska Legislature in 2015. An Aquatic Invasive Species Fee, to be collected from resident and non-resident boaters, will help fund the program.

The fees will pay for edu-

of the IWLA supported and testified in favor of the legislation (LB 142) during the session," Lepisto said. "South Dakota doesn't have an AIS stamp or boat fee to

A \$5 Aquatic Invasive



The Aquatic Invasive Spe-Bassett.

cation programs; prevention efforts such as monitoring water bodies, inspection and decontamination of

tions and other projects as needed. "The Nebraska Division

this point.

Species Fee will be added to

boats; control of AIS popula-