

## Hastert Accused Of More Abuse

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Montana woman says her brother was sexually abused by former House Speaker Dennis Hastert during the years when the GOP leader was a wrestling coach at a suburban Chicago high school.

Jolene Burdge of Billings, Montana, told The Associated Press on Thursday that the FBI interviewed her last month about Hastert, who was charged last week in a federal indictment alleging that he agreed in 2010 to pay \$3.5 million to someone so that person would stay quiet about “prior misconduct.”

Fifteen years before Hastert allegedly promised to pay that money, Burdge's brother died. But years before his death, his sister said, he told her that his first homosexual contact was with Hastert and that it lasted throughout his high school years.

Stephen Reinboldt attended Yorkville High School, where Hastert was a history teacher and coach from 1965 to 1981.

In an interview aired Friday on ABC's “Good Morning America,” Burdge said Hastert had been a father figure to her brother but also caused him irreparable harm.

## Social Security Overpaid \$17 Billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Social Security overpaid disability beneficiaries by nearly \$17 billion over the past decade, a government watchdog said Friday, raising alarms about the massive program just as it approaches the brink of insolvency.

Many payments went to people who earned too much money to qualify for benefits, or to those no longer disabled. Payments also went to people who had died or were in prison.

In all, nearly half of the 9 million people receiving disability payments were overpaid, according to the results of a 10-year study by the Social Security Administration's inspector general.

Social Security was able to recoup about \$8.1 billion, but it often took years to get the money back, the study said.

“Every dollar misallocated is a dollar lost for those who truly need it most,” said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. “Today's report shows the inability of the Social Security Administration to properly safeguard payments, which has no doubt contributed to speeding the fund toward exhaustion.”

## US Adds Solid 280,000 Jobs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Employers last month delivered a vote of confidence in the U.S. economy.

They added 280,000 jobs — a surprisingly robust total at a time when consumers are hesitant to spend and the economy appears less than fully healthy. Some key industries, from energy to manufacturing, have been struggling. And economic troubles overseas have put investors on edge.

Yet Friday's report from the Labor Department showed that employers seem confident that the economy is regaining its footing after shrinking at the start of the year and that their customer demand will accelerate.

“It's kind of a strange situation because consumers are getting jobs, and their incomes are improving,” said John Silvia, chief economist at the bank Wells Fargo.

Six years after the worst downturn in more than seven decades officially ended, Silvia said, “We've moved beyond the Great Recession.”

## Storms Sweep Through Colorado

BERTHOUD, Colo. (AP) — Violent storms across Colorado have swirled into tornadoes that destroyed homes, popped open a sinkhole that swallowed a police cruiser and dropped so much hail on a Denver neighborhood that residents had to dig out of waist-deep ice with shovels.

Forecasters warned Friday that more severe weather and flooding was on the way.

The National Weather Service placed the eastern half of the state under a tornado watch and posted flood advisories in the north.

No serious injuries have been reported from the storms that raked areas from Fort Collins in the north to Pueblo, nearly 180 miles south.

As lightning flickered from horizon to horizon and heavy rain pelted Denver overnight, Sgt. Greg Miller of the Sheridan police department drove his SUV into a 15-foot-deep, 20-foot-wide sinkhole that he couldn't see on a suburban street.

## John Hinckley's Voice Comes Through

WASHINGTON (AP) — The man who shot President Ronald Reagan wants more than anything to “fit in” and be “a good citizen.” He tried to get a fast-food job, and loves to drive. His musical tastes run from Elvis and Paul McCartney to Nirvana.

John Hinckley Jr. has been barred for years from talking to the media, but court documents made available this week contain rare snippets of his voice.

A federal judge is deciding whether to allow Hinckley to live full-time outside St. Elizabeths, the mental hospital that has been his home since he was found not guilty by reason of insanity in the 1981 shooting that wounded Reagan and three others.

Hinckley has spent longer stretches of time on the outside in recent years, staying at his mother's home in Williamsburg, Virginia, where the hospital says he's ready to live full-time. Prosecutors have pushed for tight restrictions including wearing an ankle bracelet, a requirement the judge has dismissed in the past.

# Giant Hack May Be First Step In Pursuit Of Bigger US Secrets

BY TED BRIDIS, KEN DILANIAN  
AND ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—A giant hack of millions of government personnel files is being treated as the work of foreign spies who could use the information to fake their way into more-secure computers and plunder U.S. secrets.

Federal employees were told in a video Friday to change all their passwords, put fraud alerts on their credit reports and watch for attempts by foreign intelligence services to exploit them. That message came from Dan Payne, a senior counterintelligence official for the Director of National Intelligence.

“Some of you may think that you are not of interest because you don't have access to classified information,” he said. “You are mistaken.”

Federal officials said Friday the cyberattack appeared to have originated in China, but they didn't point fingers directly at the Chinese government. The Chinese said any such accusation would be “irresponsible and unscientific.”

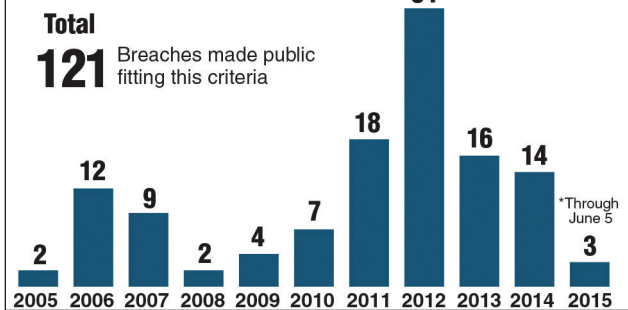
“We know that the attack occurred from somewhere in China, but we don't know whether it was an individual or a group or a nation-state attack,” said Rep. Jim Langevin, a Rhode Island Democrat and leading voice in Congress on cybersecurity. He added, though that it had “all the hallmarks of a nation-state attack.”

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said he couldn't divulge much while the case was under investigation. Still, he noted that investigators “are aware of the threat that is emanating from China.”

One U.S. official said the breach of data involving more than 4 million past and present federal workers was being investigated as a national security matter. That suggests authorities believe a nation was behind it rather than a more loosely organized gang of cybercriminals. The official was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

## U.S. government hacks

Here is a look at data breaches by an outside party on the U.S. government or military using malware or spyware from 2005-2015.



The breach was an embarrassing showing for the U.S. government's vaunted computer-defense system for civilian agencies — dubbed “Einstein” — which is costing \$376 million this year alone. It's supposed to detect unusual Internet traffic that might reflect hacking attempts or stolen data being transmitted outside the government.

A wide range of information is prized by spies — classified military secrets but also economic strategy and internal foreign policy debates.

This latest breach occurred in December but wasn't discovered until April, officials say. It was made public Thursday.

“The scale of it is just staggering,” said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. There's no telling how many more attacks could be spawned by the information stolen in this case, he said.

Although most Americans think of identity thieves stealing from credit card or bank accounts, the information about civilian federal workers has other value for spies.

“They're able to identify people who are in positions with access to significant national security information and can use personal data to target those individuals,” said Payne, the counterintelligence official.

He said details from personnel files could be used to craft personalized phony messages to trick workers. Federal employees who think

they're opening an email from co-workers or family members might infect their computers with a program that would steal more information or install spy software.

Spies also could use details about an employee's interests or background to befriend them and try to manipulate them into revealing secrets.

Kevin Mitnick, a former hacker who now runs Mitnick Security Consulting of Las Vegas, called confidential details about federal employees “a gold mine.”

“What's the weakest link in security?” Mitnick said. “The human. Now you know all about your target.”

The hackers may have made off with even more information about workers who undergo security clearance background checks. That information includes the names of family, neighbors, even old bosses and teachers, as well as reports on vices, arrests and foreign contacts.

However, OPM spokesman Samuel Schumach said there was no evidence to suggest that security clearance information collected by OPM was compromised. It's stored separately from routine personnel files, he said.

“The kind of data that may have been compromised in this incident could include name, Social Security Number, date and place of birth, job assignments, training files, performance ratings and current and former addresses,” Schumach said in an email.

# Mexican Elections Marred By Pre-Balloting Violence

BY MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY—The Mexican government announced Friday it was sending army troops, marines and federal police to southern states to protect polling places as violence threatened the country's midterm weekend elections.

The decision came after radical teachers attacked the offices of political parties in the southern state of Chiapas, burning the contents, and vowed to block the voting.

The deployment is “aimed at ensuring all Mexicans can go to the polls peacefully,” Mexico's Interior Department said in a statement. It said troops would be sent particularly to southern states and Oaxaca, where many of the attacks and ballot burning have occurred.

Violence ahead of the Sunday elections for Congress, governorships and mayors has already claimed the lives of three candidates, one would-be candidate, and at least a dozen campaign workers or activists.

But unlike the years from 2010 to 2012, when the violence appeared to come largely from drug cartels, radical movements now appear to pose the greatest threat.

Radical teachers on Friday burned or attacked the offices of five political parties in Tuxtla Gutierrez, the capital of Chiapas. They broke into the offices, ransacked the contents — computers, paperwork and furniture — and burned it in the street.

In the southern state of Guerrero, unidentified assailants tossed an explosive device at the offices of the conservative National Action Party, damaging the windows.

There have been tense moments in recent days as army and police forces faced off with protesters intent on breaking into electoral offices to burn ballots, as they have done in recent days.

“I think this is the worst (election violence) in a lot of

ways,” said Jesus Silva-Herzog Marquez of the Monterrey Technological University. “We didn't have this level of violence even in 1994, when we had elections at the same time as the Zapatista guerrilla conflict.”

The teachers have issued wildly ambitious demands, including 100 percent pay hikes and the end of a constitutionally-mandated teacher evaluation system.

In the colonial city of Oaxaca, teachers have burned ballots and blocked gasoline distribution facilities. Their leaders told local media they would block elections, even if they got the pay hikes.

“They are using pressure, not to get any demand met, but rather to block the elections, that is their goal,” said Raul Benitez, a security expert at Mexico's National Autonomous University.

In 2010, a drug cartel assassinated a leading candidate for governor in the northern

The breach occurred at a network maintained by the Department of Interior, which also houses the personnel agency's files. Schumach said agencies share computer systems partly to save money — and it's also supposed to strengthen security.

Security experts said the hackers may have gone after the personnel agency because it's an easier target than the Pentagon or National Security Agency.

Private cybersecurity researchers said they believe the personnel agency was targeted by the same hackers who got into the Anthem and Primera health insurance groups last year.

John Hultquist, head of cyberspace intelligence at iSight, said the Dallas-based security firm had found evidence linking the insurance and government attacks, but declined to say whom they suspect. “We think they are creating a database they can leverage for follow-on espionage,” Hultquist said.

A spokesman for the Director of National Intelligence declined to discuss whether there was evidence against China or whether intelligence agency employees were among those whose information was compromised.

U.S. investigators have improved their ability to attribute cyberattacks in recent years, officials said, and Chinese attacks often have identifiable signatures.

The Homeland Security Department noted that the Einstein defenses were just one part of the government's cybersecurity, and said it was used to confirm the breach. But that's like a smoke alarm sounding after the house burned down.

Einstein also helped understand how the break-in happened and protect against a repeat of a similar attempt.

“It didn't fare so well,” said James Lewis, a leading cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think-tank. “It's only a victory if you defeat the opponent, and we didn't.”

state of Tamaulipas, and also killed several mayors. In this year's elections, it is not yet clear whether the killing of a candidate in Michoacan and another on the outskirts of Mexico City were related to drug violence. Two contenders for mayors were also killed in Guerrero, where it appears more likely that criminal gangs were involved.

“I think organized crime isn't getting involved in these cases, except in Guerrero,” said Benitez, suggesting the drug cartels may be happy to see the radical movements causing disturbances that would draw police attention away from the gangs.

“The more unstable Guerrero is, the better it is for the criminals,” Benitez said.

Electoral officials have said they will go ahead with Sunday's elections as planned, but that they don't want to militarize the elections.

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