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Border Patrol is monitoring US drivers and detaining those with 'suspicious' travel patterns



The U.S. Border Patrol is monitoring millions of American drivers nationwide in a secretive program to identify and detain people whose travel patterns it deems suspicious. (AP video: Marshall Ritzel) [Read More](#)

BY [BYRON TAU](#) AND [GARANCE BURKE](#)

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The [U.S. Border Patrol](#) is monitoring millions of American drivers nationwide in a secretive program to identify and detain people whose travel patterns it deems suspicious, The Associated Press has found.

The predictive intelligence program has resulted in people being stopped, searched and in some cases arrested. A network of cameras scans and records vehicle license plate information, and an algorithm flags vehicles deemed suspicious based on where they came from, where they were going and which route they took. Federal agents in turn may then flag local law enforcement.

Suddenly, drivers find themselves pulled over — often for reasons cited such as speeding, failure to signal, the wrong window tint or even a dangling air freshener blocking the view. They are then aggressively questioned and searched, with no inkling that the roads they drove put them on law enforcement's radar.

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Once limited to policing the nation's boundaries, the Border Patrol has built a surveillance system stretching into the country's interior that can monitor ordinary Americans' daily actions and connections for anomalies instead of simply targeting wanted suspects. Started about a decade ago to fight illegal border-related activities and the trafficking of both drugs and people, it has expanded over the past five years.

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The Border Patrol has recently grown even more powerful through collaborations with other agencies, drawing information from license plate readers nationwide run by the [Drug Enforcement Administration](#), private companies and, increasingly, local law enforcement programs funded through federal grants. Texas law enforcement agencies have asked Border Patrol to use facial recognition to identify drivers, documents show.

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This active role beyond the borders is part of the quiet transformation of its parent agency, [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), into something more akin to a domestic intelligence operation. Under the Trump administration's heightened immigration enforcement efforts, CBP is now poised to get more than \$2.7 billion to build out border surveillance systems such as the license plate reader program by layering in artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

The result is a mass surveillance network with a particularly American focus: cars.

This investigation, the first to reveal details of how the program works on America's roads, is based on interviews with eight former government officials with direct knowledge of the program who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media, as well as dozens of federal, state and local officials, attorneys and privacy experts. The AP also reviewed thousands of pages of court and government documents, state grant and law enforcement data, and arrest reports.

The Border Patrol has for years hidden details of its license plate reader program, trying to keep any mention of the program out of court documents and police reports, former officials say, even going so far as to propose dropping charges rather than risk revealing any details about the placement and use of their covert license plate readers. Readers are often disguised along highways in traffic safety equipment like drums and barrels.

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The Border Patrol has defined its own criteria for which drivers' behavior should be deemed suspicious or tied to drug or human trafficking, stopping people for anything from driving on backcountry roads, being in a

rental car or making short trips to the border region. The agency's network of cameras now extends along the southern border in Texas, Arizona and California, and also monitors drivers traveling near the U.S.-Canada border.

And it reaches far into the interior, impacting residents of big metropolitan areas and people driving to and from large cities such as Chicago and Detroit, as well as from Los Angeles, San Antonio, and Houston to and from the Mexican border region. In one example, AP found the agency has placed at least four cameras in the greater Phoenix area over the years, one of which was more than 120 miles (193 kilometers) from the Mexican frontier, beyond the agency's usual jurisdiction of 100 miles (161 kilometers) from a land or sea border. The AP also identified several camera locations in metropolitan Detroit, as well as one placed near the Michigan-Indiana border to capture traffic headed towards Chicago or Gary, Indiana, or other nearby destinations.



A license plate reader used by U.S. Border Patrol is hidden in a traffic cone while capturing passing vehicles on AZ Highway 85, Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025, in Gila Bend, Ariz. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

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Border Patrol's parent agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said they use license plate readers to help identify threats and disrupt criminal networks and are "governed by a stringent, multi-layered policy framework, as well as federal law and constitutional protections, to ensure the technology is applied responsibly and for clearly defined security purposes."

"For national security reasons, we do not detail the specific operational applications," the agency said. While the U.S. Border Patrol primarily operates within 100 miles of the border, it is legally allowed "to operate anywhere in the United States," the agency added.

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While collecting license plates from cars on public roads has generally been upheld by courts, some legal scholars see the growth of large digital surveillance networks such as Border Patrol's as raising constitutional questions. Courts have started to recognize that "large-scale surveillance technology that's capturing everyone and everywhere at every time" might be unconstitutional under the Fourth Amendment, which protects people from unreasonable searches, said Andrew Ferguson, a law professor at George Washington University.

Today, predictive surveillance is embedded into America's roadways. Mass surveillance techniques are also used in a range of other countries, from [authoritarian governments such as China](#) to, increasingly, democracies in the U.K. and Europe in the name of national security and public safety.

"They are collecting mass amounts of information about who people are, where they go, what they do, and who they know ... engaging in dragnet surveillance of Americans on the streets, on the highways, in their cities, in their communities," Nicole Ozer, the executive director of the Center for Constitutional Democracy at UC Law San Francisco, said in response to the AP's findings. "These surveillance systems do not make communities safer."

'We did everything right and had nothing to hide'



A license plate reader stands along the side of a road, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025, in Stockdale, Texas. (AP Photo/Dan Read More

In February, Lorenzo Gutierrez Lugo, a driver for a small trucking company that specializes in transporting furniture, clothing and other belongings to families in Mexico, was driving south to the border city of Brownsville, Texas, carrying packages from immigrant communities in South Carolina's low country.

Gutierrez Lugo was pulled over by a local police officer in Kingsville, a small Texas city near Corpus Christi that lies about 100 miles from the Mexican border. The officer, Richard Beltran, cited the truck's speed of 50 mph (80 kph) in a 45 mph (72 kph) zone as the reason for the stop.

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But speeding was a pretext: Border Patrol had requested the stop and said the black Dodge pickup with a white trailer could contain contraband, according to police and court records. U.S. Route 77 passes through Kingsville, a route that state and federal authorities scrutinize for trafficking of drugs, money and people.

Gutierrez Lugo, who through a lawyer declined to comment, was interrogated about the route he drove, based on license plate reader data, per the police report and court records. He consented to a search of his car by Beltran and Border Patrol agents, who eventually arrived to assist.



Image recognition analysis overlaid on drivers and vehicles on Texas roads. (AP video Marshall Ritzel)

They unearthed no contraband. But Beltran arrested Gutierrez Lugo on suspicion of money laundering and engaging in organized criminal activity because he was carrying thousands of dollars in cash — money his supervisor said came directly from customers in local Latino communities, who are accustomed to paying in cash. No criminal charges were ultimately brought against Gutierrez Lugo and an effort by prosecutors to seize the cash, vehicle and trailer as contraband was eventually dropped.

Luis Barrios owns the trucking company, Paquetería El Guero, that employed the driver. He told AP he hires people with work authorization in the United States and was taken aback by the treatment of his employee and his trailer.

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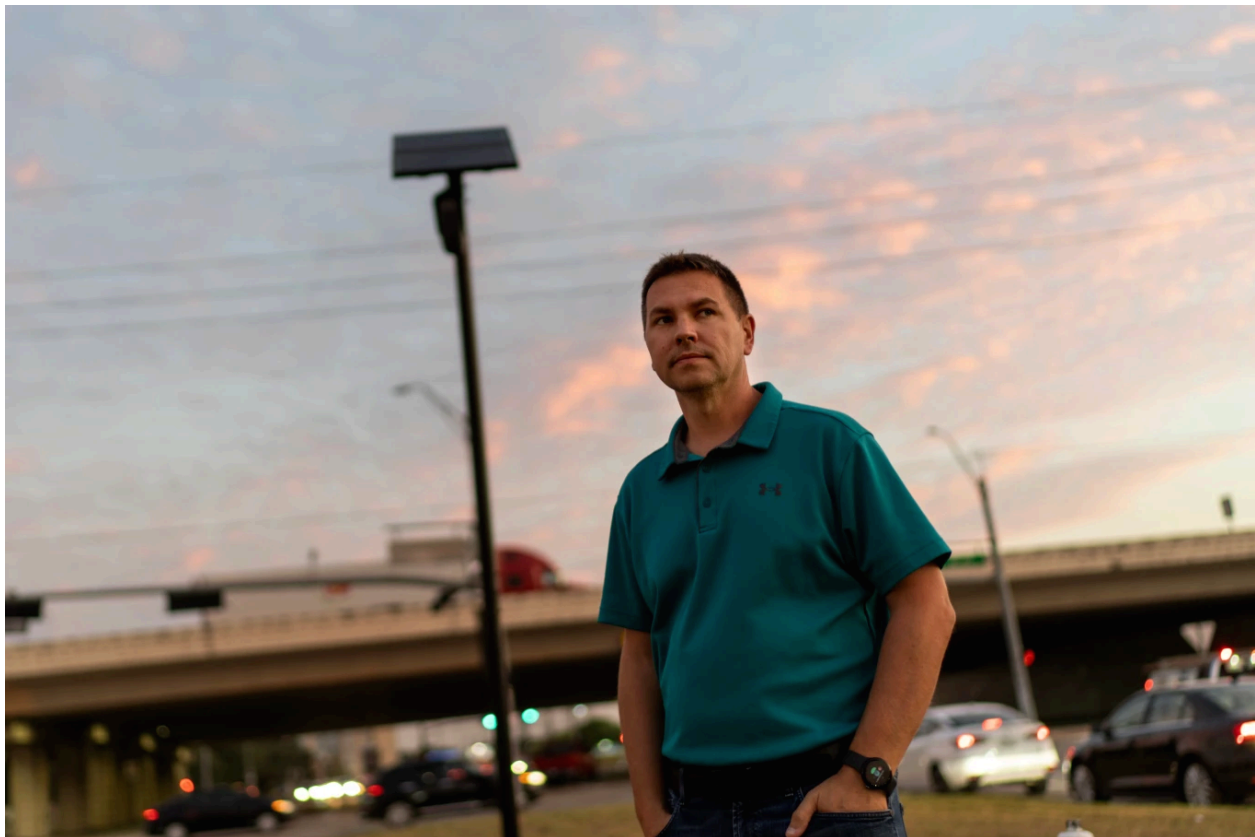
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"We did everything right and had nothing to hide, and that was ultimately what they found," said Barrios, who estimates he spent \$20,000 in legal fees to clear his driver's name and get the trailer out of impound.

Border Patrol agents and local police have many names for these kinds of stops: "whisper," "intel" or "wall" stops. Those stops are meant to conceal — or wall off — that the true reason for the stop is a tip from federal agents sitting miles away, watching data feeds showing who's traveling on America's roads and predicting who is "suspicious," according to documents and people interviewed by the AP.

In 2022, a man from Houston had his car searched from top to bottom by Texas sheriff's deputies outside San Antonio after they got a similar tipoff from Border Patrol agents about the driver, Alek Schott.



Alek Schott stands next to a Flock Safety license plate reader in his neighborhood, Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, in Houston. (AP Photo/Dan Read More

Federal agents observed that Schott had made an overnight trip from Houston to Carrizo Springs, Texas, and back, court records show. They knew he stayed overnight in a hotel about 80 miles (129 kilometers) from the U.S.-Mexico border. They knew that in the morning Schott met a female colleague there before they drove together to a business meeting.

At Border Patrol's request, Schott was pulled over by Bexar County sheriff's deputies. The deputies held Schott by the side of the road for more than an hour, searched his car and found nothing.

"The beautiful thing about the Texas Traffic Code is there's thousands of things you can stop a vehicle for," said Joel Babb, the sheriff's deputy who stopped Schott's car, in a deposition in a lawsuit Schott filed alleging violations of his constitutional rights.



Alek Schott watches police body camera video of his vehicle search, Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, while sitting at his home in Houston. (AP Photo/David Goldman) [Read More](#)

According to testimony and documents released as part of Schott's lawsuit, Babb was on a group chat with federal agents called Northwest Highway. Babb deleted the WhatsApp chat off his phone but Schott's lawyers were able to recover some of the text messages.

Through a public records act request, the AP also obtained more than 70 pages of the Northwest Highway group chats from June and July of this year from a Texas county that had at least one sheriff's deputy active in the chat. The AP was able to associate numerous phone numbers in both sets of documents with Border Patrol agents and Texas law enforcement officials.

The chat logs show Border Patrol agents and Texas sheriffs deputies trading tips about vehicles' travel patterns — based on suspicions about little more than someone taking a quick trip to the border region and back. The chats show how thoroughly Texas highways are surveilled by this federal-local partnership and how much detailed information is informally shared.

In one exchange a law enforcement official included a photo of someone's driver's license and told the group the person, who they identified using an abbreviation for someone in the country illegally, was headed westbound. "Need BP?," responded a group member whose number was labeled "bp Intel." "Yes sir," the official answered, and a Border Patrol agent was en route.

Border Patrol agents and local law enforcement shared information about U.S. citizens' social media profiles and home addresses with each other after stopping them on the road. Chats show Border Patrol was also able to determine whether vehicles were rentals and whether drivers worked for rideshare services.



Alek Schott sits for a photo in his car near a route he occasionally takes for work trips Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025, in Stockdale, Texas. (AP Photo/David Goldman) [Read More](#)

In Schott's case, Babb testified that federal agents "actually watch travel patterns on the highway" through license plate scans and other surveillance technologies. He added: "I just know that they have a lot of toys over there on the federal side."

After finding nothing in Schott's car, Babb said "nine times out of 10, this is what happens," a phrase Schott's lawyers claimed in court filings shows the sheriff's department finds nothing suspicious in most of its searches. Babb did not respond to multiple requests for comment from AP.

The Bexar County sheriff's office declined to comment due to pending litigation and referred all questions about the Schott case to the county's district attorney. The district attorney did not respond to a request for comment.

The case is pending in federal court in Texas. Schott said in an interview with the AP: "I didn't know it was illegal to drive in Texas."

'Patterns of life' and license plates



A license plate reader used by U.S. Border Patrol is hidden in a sand crash barrel along the state Highway 80, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025, in Douglas, Ariz. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin) [Read More](#)

Today, the deserts, forests and mountains of the nation's land borders are dotted with checkpoints and increasingly, surveillance towers, Predator drones, thermal cameras and license plate readers, both covert and overt.

Border Patrol's parent agency got authorization to run a domestic license plate reader program in 2017, according to a [Department of Homeland Security](#) policy document. At the time, the agency said that it might use hidden license plate readers "for a set period of time while CBP is conducting an investigation of an area of interest or smuggling route. Once the investigation is complete, or the illicit activity has stopped in that area, the covert cameras are removed," the document states.

But that's not how the program has operated in practice, according to interviews, police reports and court documents. License plate readers have become a major — and in some places permanent — fixture of the border region.

In a budget request to Congress in fiscal year 2024, CBP said that its Conveyance Monitoring and Predictive Recognition System, or CMPRS, "collects license plate images and matches the processed images against established hot lists to assist ... in identifying travel patterns indicative of illegal border related activities." Several new developer jobs have been posted seeking applicants to help modernize its license plate surveillance system in recent months. Numerous Border Patrol sectors now have special intelligence units that can analyze license plate reader data, and tie commercial license plate readers to its national network, according to documents and interviews.



A U.S. Border Patrol vehicle sits along the Rio Grande river across the border from Mexico, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, in Laredo, Texas. (AP Photo/David Goldman) [Read More](#)

Border Patrol worked with other law enforcement agencies in Southern California about a decade ago to develop pattern recognition, said a former CBP official who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal. Over time, the agency learned to develop what it calls “patterns of life” of vehicle movements by sifting through the license plate data and determining “abnormal” routes, evaluating if drivers were purposely avoiding official checkpoints. Some cameras can take photos of a vehicle’s plates as well as its driver’s face, the official said.

Another former Border Patrol official compared it to a more technologically sophisticated version of what agents used to do in the field — develop hunches based on experience about which vehicles or routes smugglers might use, find a legal basis for the stop like speeding and pull drivers over for questioning.

The cameras take pictures of vehicle license plates. Then, the photos are “read” by the system, which automatically detects and distills the images into numbers and letters, tied to a geographic location, former CBP officials said. The AP could not determine how precisely the system’s algorithm defines a quick turnaround or an odd route. Over time, the agency has amassed databases replete with images of license plates, and the system’s algorithm can flag an unusual “pattern of life” for human inspection.



A remote camera hidden in an electrical box is used as surveillance technology, Tuesday, July 29, 2025, in Sierra. Read More

The Border Patrol also has access to a nationwide network of plate readers run by the Drug Enforcement Administration, documents show, and was authorized in 2020 to access license plate reader systems sold by private companies. In documents obtained by the AP, a Border Patrol official boasted about being able to see that a vehicle that had traveled to “Dallas, Little Rock, Arkansas and Atlanta” before ending up south of San Antonio.

Documents show that Border Patrol or CBP has in the past had access to data from at least three private sector vendors: Rekor, Vigilant Solutions and Flock Safety.

Through Flock alone, Border Patrol for a time had access to at least 1,600 license plate readers across 22 states, and some counties have reported looking up license plates on behalf of CBP even in states like California and Illinois that ban sharing data with federal immigration authorities, according to an AP analysis of police disclosures. A Flock spokesperson told AP the company “for now” had [paused its pilot programs](#) with CBP and a separate DHS agency, Homeland Security Investigations, and declined to discuss the type or volume of data shared with either federal agency, other than to say agencies could search for vehicles wanted in conjunction with a crime. No agencies currently list Border Patrol as receiving Flock data. Vigilant and Rekor did not respond to requests for comment.

Also from AP's investigation into the use of surveillance technology:

- U.S. tech firms to a large degree [designed and built China's surveillance state](#), playing a far greater role in enabling rights abuses than known before.

- Across five Republican and Democratic administrations, [the U.S. government has repeatedly allowed and even actively helped American firms to sell technology to Chinese police](#).

Where Border Patrol places its cameras is a closely guarded secret. However, through public records requests, the AP obtained dozens of permits the agency filed with Arizona and Michigan for permission to place cameras on state-owned land. The permits show the agency frequently disguises its cameras by concealing them in traffic equipment like the yellow and orange barrels that dot American roadways, or by labeling them as jobsite equipment. An AP photographer in October visited the locations identified in more than two dozen permit applications in Arizona, finding that most of the Border Patrol's hidden equipment remains in place today. Spokespeople for the Arizona and Michigan departments of transportation said they approve permits based on whether they follow state and federal rules and are not privy to details on how license plate readers are used.

Texas, California, and other border states did not provide documents in response to the AP's public records requests.

CBP's attorneys and personnel instructed local cities and counties in both Arizona and Texas to withhold records from the AP that might have revealed details about the program's operations, even though they were requested under state open records laws, according to emails and legal briefs filed with state governments. For example, CBP claimed records requested by the AP in Texas "would permit private citizens to anticipate weaknesses in a police department, avoid detection, jeopardize officer safety, and generally undermine police efforts." Michigan redacted the exact locations of Border Patrol equipment, but the AP was able to determine general locations from the name of the county.

One page of the group chats obtained by the AP shows that a participant enabled WhatsApp's disappearing messages feature to ensure communications were deleted automatically.

Transformation of CBP into intelligence agency



A license plate reader used by U.S. Border Patrol sits along US Highway 191, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025, in Douglas, Ariz. (AP Photo/Ros) [Read More](#)

The Border Patrol's license plate reader program is just one part of a steady transformation of its parent agency, CBP, in the years since 9/11 into an intelligence operation whose reach extends far beyond borders, according to interviews with former officials.

CBP has quietly amassed access to far more information from ports of entry, airports and intelligence centers than other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. And like a domestic spy agency, CBP has mostly hidden its role in the dissemination of intelligence on purely domestic travel through its use of whisper stops.

Border Patrol has also extended the reach of its license plate surveillance program by paying for local law enforcement to run plate readers on their behalf.



Cochise County Sheriff's Deputy AJ Shaw drives during a patrol, Tuesday, June 17, 2025, in Naco, Ariz. (AP Photo/Ross) [Read More](#)

A federal grant program called Operation Stonegarden, which has existed in some form for nearly two decades, has handed out hundreds of millions of dollars to buy automated license plate readers, camera-equipped drones and other surveillance gear for local police and sheriffs agencies. Stonegarden grant funds also pay for local law enforcement overtime, which deputizes local officers to work on Border Patrol enforcement priorities. Under President Donald Trump, the Republican-led Congress this year allocated \$450 million for Stonegarden to be handed out over the next four fiscal years. In the previous four fiscal years, the program gave out \$342 million.

In Cochise County, Arizona, Sheriff Mark Dannels said Stonegarden grants, which have been used to buy plate readers and pay for overtime, have let his deputies merge their mission with Border Patrol's to prioritize border security.

"If we're sharing our authorities, we can put some consequences behind, or deterrence behind, 'Don't come here,'" he said.

In 2021, the Ward County, Texas, sheriff sought grant funding from DHS to buy a "covert, mobile, License Plate Reader" to pipe data to Border Patrol's Big Bend Sector Intelligence Unit. The sheriff's department did not respond to a request for comment.

Other documents AP obtained show that Border Patrol connects locally owned and operated license plate readers bought through Stonegarden grants to its computer systems, vastly increasing the federal agency's surveillance network.



Cochise County Sheriff Mark Dannels poses for a photograph, Tuesday, July 29, 2025, in Sierra Vista, Ariz. (AP Photo/Ros Read More

How many people have been caught up in the Border Patrol's dragnet is unknown. One former Border Patrol agent who worked on the license plate reader pattern detection program in California said the program had an 85% success rate of discovering contraband once he learned to identify patterns that looked suspicious. But another former official in a different Border Patrol sector said he was unaware of successful interdictions based solely on license plate patterns.

In Trump's second term, Border Patrol has extended its reach and power as border crossings have slowed to historic lows and freed up agents for operations in the heartland. [Border Patrol Sector Chief Gregory Bovino](#), for example, was tapped to direct hundreds of agents from multiple DHS agencies in the administration's immigration sweeps across Los Angeles, more than 150 miles (241 kilometers) from his office in El Centro, California. Bovino later was elevated to lead the aggressive immigration crackdown in Chicago. Numerous Border Patrol officials have also been tapped to replace ICE leadership.



A drone used as surveillance technology is flown by a Cochise County law enforcement official, Tuesday, July 29, 2025, in Sierra Vista, Ariz. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

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The result has been more encounters between the agency and the general public than ever before.

"We took Alek's case because it was a clear-cut example of an unconstitutional traffic stop," said Christie Hebert, who works at the nonprofit public interest law firm Institute for Justice and represents Schott.

"What we found was something much larger — a system of mass surveillance that threatens people's freedom of movement."

AP found numerous other examples similar to what Schott and the delivery driver experienced in reviewing court records in border communities and along known smuggling routes in Texas and California. Several police reports and court records the AP examined cite "suspicious" travel patterns or vague tipoffs from the Border Patrol or other unnamed law enforcement agencies. In another federal court document filed in California, a Border Patrol agent acknowledged "conducting targeted analysis on vehicles exhibiting suspicious travel patterns" as the reason he singled out a Nissan Altima traveling near San Diego.

In cases reviewed by the AP, local law enforcement sometimes tried to conceal the role the Border Patrol plays in passing along intelligence. Babb, the deputy who stopped Schott, testified he typically uses the phrase "subsequent to prior knowledge" when describing whisper stops in his police reports to acknowledge that the tip came from another law enforcement agency without revealing too much in written documents he writes memorializing motorist encounters.

Once they pull over a vehicle deemed suspicious, officers often aggressively question drivers about their travels, their belongings, their jobs, how they know the passengers in the car, and much more, police records and bodyworn camera footage obtained by the AP show. One Texas officer demanded details from a man about where he met his current sexual partner. Often drivers, such as the one working for the South Carolina moving company, were arrested on suspicion of money laundering merely for carrying a few thousand dollars

worth of cash, with no apparent connection to illegal activity. Prosecutors filed lawsuits to try to seize money or vehicles on the suspicion they were linked to trafficking.



Alek Schott sits for a photo in his car near a route he occasionally takes for work trips Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025, in Stockdale, Texas. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

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Schott warns that for every success story touted by Border Patrol, there are far more innocent people who don't realize they've become ensnared in a technology-driven enforcement operation.

"I assume for every one person like me, who's actually standing up, there's a thousand people who just don't have the means or the time or, you know, they just leave frustrated and angry. They don't have the ability to move forward and hold anyone accountable," Schott said. "I think there's thousands of people getting treated this way."

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Tau reported from Washington, Laredo, San Antonio, Kingsville and Victoria, Texas. Burke reported from San Francisco. AP writers Aaron Kessler in Washington, Jim Vertuno in San Antonio, AP video producer Serginho Roosblad in Bisbee, Arizona, and AP photographers Ross D. Franklin in Phoenix and David Goldman in Houston contributed reporting. Ismael M. Belkoura in Washington also contributed.

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Conversation



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fyrwerx1 · 2 DAYS AGO

What do you fear most crime or a surveillance state? I know my answer.

REPLY 0 0



PatrickLaManna · 2 DAYS AGO

When you are pulled over, roll down your window and, promptly when asked, give the officer your license, registration, and proof of insurance (have it ready). Answer only two questions: "have you had anything to drink?" and "have you taken any drugs?" or any variations of thereof (answer "no"). Answer all other questions with these "magic words": "I invoke my right to not answer questions, my right to have my lawyer present during questioning, and my right to have a lawyer provided to me." Follow that with the statement "I do not consent to any searches." Same answer, every question, each time a question is asked, regardless if you are threatened for repeating the statement. Ask only two questions: "why did you pull me over?" and "am I free to go?". Don't converse otherwise. Don't argue. Don't remain silent when you are questioned, rather reassert your rights not to answer questions, to have your lawyer present when you are questioned, and to have a lawyer provided for you; and repeat your non-consent to searches. Keep your hands in plain view of the officer at all times, and exit the vehicle promptly when ordered or "asked" to. Do all that and you minimize the ability of law enforcement to trump up charges against you and steal your property.

REPLY 1 REPLY 2 0



SilverSkull · 22 HRS AGO

Reply to PatrickLaManna

Think it can be condensed. Provide/show License/registration/proof of insurance when asked.

When asked, "do you know why I pulled you over?"

Answer, "I don't answer questions, but you pulled me over for some reason and so, please provide citation/ticket for why you pulled me over and otherwise; Am I free to go?"

This is when the cop is irritated and walks back to their unit and writes you up for a violation. They come back with ticket and give you attitude for not incriminating yourself and let you on your way.

If the cop is unhinged, next this will happen. They will try to unlawfully detain you and get you to incriminate yourself for something, anything. They will shout orders that may be unlawful. They will say you are not participating in an "investigation." You have no obligation to assist a police officer in an investigation. It's their job to secure the evidence lawfully and if you committed a crime you have no obligation to assist them with their investigation and at this point they need reasonable articulable suspicion and a moving violation doesn't satisfy that, so they really need to be focusing on issuing you the ticket and nothing more because that's why they pulled you over, right! The cop in this case is going to arrest you. That's fine, get an attorney and sue them for violating your rights and everything after for not simply issuing you citation/ticket for a moving violation. If you had been drinking or on drugs...you're screwed and deservedly so!

REPLY 0 0



Pucky_Yu · 3 DAYS AGO

Funnily enough, a bunch of YouTubers were able to break their Flock Cameras and easily deceive the AI.

Can't wait for families to have their parents stripped of their privacy and freedom, because driving to work is "Suspicious" when you want to take a detour to a post office, 1 day out of the month.

I am genuinely not proud to be in this dying country of pedophililia, brutality, and debt

EDITED

REPLY  2  0



ClassicBlunder · 3 DAYS AGO

I'll soon be doing some driving around the US for a few months. We have some beautiful country and fascinating culture...I've wanted to see more of it and I won't let the government scare me away. But putting my freedom at risk is a stress I wasn't expecting.

"You had to live – did live, from habit that became instinct – in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every moment scrutinized." (George Orwell, 1984)

REPLY  2  1



Testmeandfindout · 3 DAYS AGO

Freedom

REPLY  1  0



Mada · 3 DAYS AGO

And just another reason I wont be visiting the US anytime soon, or possibly ever again!

REPLY  4  0



IbramGaunt · 3 DAYS AGO

So tell me again how free we are and how we don't live in a police state.

REPLY  4  0



yoppy · 3 DAYS AGO

Just wait until Palantir Technologies gets all their fingers into this surveillance pie and A.I. runs most every aspect of our lives (reference SkyNet of the Terminator movies). The United States is headed for a surveillance system akin to China's "Social Credit" system.

People are unknowingly, therefore blindly, trading past freedoms for "peace and security".

Digital I.D. is the precursor to the "Mark of the Beast" system spoken of in our Bibles. See Revelation, Chapters 13 and 14 for more insight.

I am convinced that these surveillance systems are producing SOME benefits in combating drug and human trafficking... but at what cost to Americans and others across the Earth?

May God protect our LEOs everywhere as they risk their lives to "serve and protect". It is dangerous and unwise to label all LEOs as part of the evil cabal "Hell-bent" on enslaving humanity. So many are honorable men and women with families who are sworn to fight evil. Some have other motives.

There are only two types of people on this Earth - God's children and the Devil's children. We will know them by their "fruits" (deeds)!

Trust no man... but instead trust in Jesus Christ alone through faith alone.

REPLY  2  1



TM · 4 DAYS AGO

Worse, beginning in 2001 following the 9/11/2001 attacks, Congress passed the Patriot Act that expanded police powers as well as equipped them with heavy weapons and vehicles. Unfortunately, after we were attacked by foreigners, the Congress reinforced against Americans. The police have to remember to serve and protect our own people, not obey out of state control over our local police. The federal government is turning our own police against us.

REPLY  5  1



TM · 4 DAYS AGO

This is troubling in terms of relations between law enforcement and citizens. I don't want robots versus humans. The law is now the crime and the law writes the reports. This is certainly a Republican effort but Democrats are equally responsible for expanding the numbers of Police in our nation. It's predation now for stripes and paychecks, quotas by fact.

REPLY  1  1

**HomeoftheKnave** · 4 DAYS AGO

Outright violation of Article IV , Section 2 of our US Constitution and the 14th Amendment.

REPLY 1 1

**Mack** · 4 DAYS AGO

I'm sorry, is this America or North Korea?

I highly recommend having these two items in your car at all times:

A fully charged and activated dash cam.

A copy of the Constitution.

Know your rights!

EDITED

REPLY 3 0

**chestdishsteal** · 4 DAYS AGO

The Flock Safety pattern feature claims to ID cars without the plate info. News flash. This is now happening nationwide and all local LE Flock Safety ALPR data are going upstream into fusion centers run with Palantir's Gotham layer. This means ALL of us are in a permanent warrantless dragnet. 4th amendment means nothing to the authoritarian Trump regime. To avoid permanent surveillance perhaps we can paint our car a new color every day?

REPLY 1 1

**4Texas** · 4 DAYS AGO

Spray paint is a good deterrent. OTOH, lasers would probably be a good deterrent as well. Everybody needs to get a dashcam in your car so that, when you get pulled over, you have your documentation of the illegal stop underway. Excellent videos on illegal stops on YouTube.

EDITED

REPLY 2 0

**Pittipapa** · 4 DAYS AGO

There has been reporting on Sheriff's departments funding themselves by seizing vehicles and cash on "suspicion" of being contraband, and not having to return them, regardless of the outcome of the case. civil asset forfeiture. This, doubtless, further incentivizes the departments to behave this way.

REPLY 1 0

**Herb** · 4 DAYS AGO

It's called republicanism.

and it's why I say

"I love my country but I fear my government."

REPLY 1 REPLY 3 0

**affy** · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Herb**

You're right.

When the government fears the people, you have freedom. When the people fear the government, you have tyranny.

EDITED

REPLY 6 0

**Genetk44** · 4 DAYS AGO

"Land of the free.." bwahahahaha!!! NOT!!!

REPLY 4 0

**affy** · 4 DAYS AGO

We're rapidly becoming everything our longtime enemies are.

Freedom is going away folks and it's today's right who hates freedom regardless of how much they whine about it.

REPLY 3 0



Bubbie · 4 DAYS AGO

This does make me uncomfortable; creepy. But, more because of the aggression the agent displays when addressing the driver; why does it all have to be so rude and hostile. I have seen other videos during these type of stops & these guys were SO aggressive. What I wonder is why isn't this surveillance/tracking ability used when someone has been abducted, being stalked, car theft? You know for the good of all of us. Many of us were not aware that law enforcement could connect cameras across the US and track one of us until a TX police department used it to track down a woman running from an abusive partner who just happened to be in law enforcement. See what I mean?

REPLY 1 REPLY 5 0



Pucky_Yu · 3 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Bubbie**

Everyone is a criminal, and never innocent to Police. They treat people with aggression because If they're called out at all, it's not an easy job which generates a passive paycheck.

However if they get an arrest, it shows that the department is making excessive efforts to "Clean the community" which gives the department a higher budget, and money to dish out.

More arrests means, even higher budgets.

Yes, quota exists.

What doesn't, is actual happiness, just the United States of Misery.

REPLY 0 0



zeews · 4 DAYS AGO

Cant wait for red staters to start getting pulled over on the way home from their cartel weed dealers.

REPLY 5 1



BOBW5W2 · 4 DAYS AGO

Might as well as the Cities, Counties, States and Judges are not doing anything to protect the Public?

REPLY 1 REPLY 2 6



affy · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **BOBW5W2**

You'd be happier in Russia or China then.

REPLY 2 0



zeews · 4 DAYS AGO

They say they hate the nanny state but are ok with automated cameras every dozen feet in a matrix blanketing the entire nation.

REPLY 1 REPLY 7 1



ShermansMarch2 · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **zeews**

That's the republican way.

REPLY 2 0



pjleisch · 4 DAYS AGO

One thing no one mentioned is that in some jobs, like working in the financial industry, employees are advised not to take the same route to and from work all the time to avoid becoming a target for criminals. So that's going to create an odd pattern. It has nothing to do with the border activities. It is to protect people in high profile jobs and vulnerable industries. For example, people in IT and banking don't have to be in high paying positions for someone to target them just to get access to information or a building. I changed my route at times to avoid going through certain areas at night because I was a woman driving alone. So I'd have an odd route pop up every now and then by their description. So are people going to be stopped and scared to death by these guys just for going to work?

REPLY 3 REPLIES 5 0

JD

jdfromkc · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **pjleisch**

Yes, I know what you mean. I would change my route almost daily just to keep my girlfriends' husbands from getting suspicious.

REPLY 1 REPLY 0 1

IN

InstantExpert · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **jdfromkc**

Imaginary girlfriends don't have suspicious husbands

REPLY 0 0

SI

Siculamente · 4 DAYS AGO

This use of behavioral data by government and private corporations must be strictly curtailed and regulated. It can be easily abused by cross-referencing with voter registration or race and ethnicity, sold to banks and insurance companies, and hacked by criminals & foreign governments. It's the same kind if surveillance Communist China uses.

REPLY 2 REPLIES 5 0

ZE

zeews · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Siculamente**

Might want to do some reading on how Peter Thiel plans on using his tech companies to circumvent democracy because his political platform would never be democratically accepted.

That is to say: good luck because thats the point. BTW China hasnt been communist for decades. If the uptake really takes you that long you have no chance whatsoever fighting technology when you cant even understand incredibly slow human systems for what they are.

REPLY 2 0

IN

InstantExpert · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Siculamente**

What I'm reading in this article is that it's already being abused, just not to the extent it has the potential to be.

REPLY 2 0

HU

Humanity · 4 DAYS AGO

Just wondering, does it matter what your political leanings are? Do any of you think that surveillance like this is good? I guess when China does it, it's evil. But when you do it in America, it's okay? Weirdos. EDITED

REPLY 3 REPLIES 3 2

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

BO

BOBW5W2 · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Humanity**

Did you just see the woman who was set on fire Riding a Train in Chicago?

REPLY 1 REPLY 0 1

HU

Humanity · 2 DAYS AGO

Reply to **BOBW5W2**

Did you see that red herring?

REPLY 0 0

JO

Joe12345 · 4 DAYS AGO

Awesome, I'm all for it

REPLY 3 REPLIES 1 9

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES



zeews · 4 DAYS AGO
Reply to **Joe12345**

Fascists pretend to hate the nanny state but then set up statewide nannycams and elect a daddy because theirs failed. EDITED

REPLY 2 0



BoilingBoy · 4 DAYS AGO
Reply to **Joe12345**

Besides the freedoms and the rule of law is there anything else that makes America exceptional? Besides it's bloated military and AI bubble economy America is just fast food and wrestling and now you are glad that freedoms are being diminished. At this rate America will be a so called third world nation and no immigrants will ever come here and you'll be happy.

REPLY 3 0



valhh · 4 DAYS AGO
This is an egregious invasion of privacy and a violation of citizens' rights.
REPLY 8 1



BR44 · 4 DAYS AGO
So quick to blame Trump! 2015 was Obama. 2025 was Biden. Why blame Trump?
REPLY 4 REPLIES 1 6



SHOW OLDER REPLIES



DrJohnBrown · 4 DAYS AGO
Reply to **BR44**

We don't care about your lies
REPLY 2 0



Ricky_James56 · 4 DAYS AGO
Reply to **BR44**
2025 was Biden? Lol.
REPLY 1 0



AirBear · 4 DAYS AGO
Canada, here I come. Bleep this.
REPLY 3 2



Neutral · 4 DAYS AGO
The nonsense could stop tomorrow with the end of sanctuary policies. Just follow the example of San Francisco so there's no need for Federal law enforcement. COOPERATE! People in the country illegally have to go home and attempt re-entry (i.e. WAIT IN LINE!)
REPLY 4 REPLIES 2 9



SHOW OLDER REPLIES



DrJohnBrown · 4 DAYS AGO
Reply to **Neutral**

"Cooperate with illegal demands!"
Nah.
REPLY 2 0



DrJohnBrown · 4 DAYS AGO
Reply to **valhh**

In the twisted logic of the rightwing, they have a criminal record by being undocumented.

REPLY 3 0



sf1 · 4 DAYS AGO

I'm all about controlling the border better but this type of activity is going too far.

REPLY 1 REPLY 3 2



jdfromkc · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **sf1**

Ok. Please type the solution and explain exactly how far is far enough.

REPLY 0 0



HarryTuttle · 4 DAYS AGO

by "suspicious" they mean Driving While Latino.

REPLY 1 REPLY 7 1



DontTreadOnMe · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **HarryTuttle**

DWL is rather rampant these days I hear, we have to protect the children from this terrible disease! /s

REPLY 1 0



BG · 4 DAYS AGO

Excellent report AP. Yet another example of how we do that exact same things we criticize China and Russia for while our government is doing the exact same thing.

Frogs in a pot... all over the world.

REPLY 7 1



pnwcurmudgeon · 4 DAYS AGO

1st, 2nd, now 4th. which amendment is next?

REPLY 4 0



CakeEater · 4 DAYS AGO

Welcome to 1984. Please keep your hands in full view at all times.

REPLY 6 1



rsanzio · 4 DAYS AGO

Just as we've seen in dystopian movies, someday, perhaps 100 years from, there will be massive walls around cities. For those who abide by the city's rules, they can live inside the walls. For those who don't, they will be forced to live outside the walls - it will be up to you to decide which side of the wall you want to live on.

REPLY 3 REPLIES 1 0



SHOW OLDER REPLIES



Neutral · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **rsanzio**

So you've been to the Vatican!

REPLY 1 0



Spankymike · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **rsanzio**

Why do you think they're pushing for digital ID and currency? Dystopia isn't coming...it's already here...

REPLY 0 0

**LeneeTara** · 4 DAYS AGO

Interestingly AP news deleted my comment - this isn't new. 404 Media has been reporting on this for months. Go check it out. Search under "Flock" plus there is a story from 3 days ago about this same subject, so no, AP isn't the first to report on it.

REPLY 2 1

**DontTreadOnMe** · 4 DAYS AGO

"The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command."

REPLY 8 0

**messy57** · 4 DAYS AGO

Okay, Detroit, which is literally on the Canadian Border, shouldn't be mentioned as if it's somewhere in Kansas.

REPLY 2 REPLIES 0 1

**DistrustRightAndLeft** · 4 DAYS AGOReply to **messy57**

Why? It's still a major US city and shouldn't be subject to a police state. US citizens shouldn't feel like they're being watched EVERYWHERE. It's how trump likes it, he's single handily made the right the party of big government

REPLY 1 REPLY 6 1

**DrJohnBrown** · 4 DAYS AGOReply to **DistrustRightAndLeft**

There is only left and right. The center is a lie.

REPLY 3 3

**JustAskingQuestions** · 4 DAYS AGO

Trump must be impeached, convicted, and removed from office immediately

REPLY 3 REPLIES 10 1

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES**DontTreadOnMe** · 4 DAYS AGOReply to **Neutral**

There's a difference between subverting democracy and impeaching someone who's repeatedly been protested by millions in just a year, who's likely in the Epstein files, has been convicted of many crimes, and caused an insurrection, along with other things.

The DNC should not be in charge of elections: I think both parties should be abolished or at the very least, our two party system must be expanded to way more.

REPLY 2 0

**JustAskingQuestions** · 4 DAYS AGOReply to **Neutral**

Except that's not what I said. Why do you lie?

REPLY 1 0

**bfp91789** · 4 DAYS AGO

Jack Kerouac wept.

REPLY 5 0

**JustAskingQuestions** · 4 DAYS AGO

Tom Homan takes bribes

Never Forget

REPLY 8 0

FR

FrithFox · 4 DAYS AGO

This rings true to me. I was stopped once because I "had an a lot of people in the car" (everyone was in a seat belt—I was driving my daughter and three friends home from practice). The officer seemed a surprised to see white children and let us go.

REPLY 7 0

BE

Bebopbunny · 4 DAYS AGO

How is this constitutional? Travel does not indicate suspicion of a crime. We, as Americans, have a constitutional right to not be watched, monitored, questioned, impeded in any way unless there is reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed. How is this not the same as wire tapping without a warrant? Everything that ICE and border patrol is doing is a direct violation of our constitutional rights, that constitution that we all know and love because that is what we point to as representing America as "Free". If we can be tracked we are not free, if we can be held and questioned we are not free, if we can be arrested off the street with no warrant we are not free, if federal agents can enter into a home without a warrant we are not free, if we continue to allow the federal government act like fascist and defy the constitution, we are not free. Why aren't all Americans enraged by this?

REPLY 1 REPLY 9 0

NU

null640 · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Bebopbunny**

Literally its not. But we lost the bill of rights with Reaga

REPLY 2 0

SN

snowbank · 4 DAYS AGO

In a way, I sort of support the basic aims of this program, especially if it slows the flow of guns into Mexico. I disagree with stopping drivers at random locations on some trumped-up pretense; inspections should only be performed at the border.

REPLY 2 REPLIES 2 5

DR

DrJohnBrown · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **snowbank**

Those aims are fake. The oppression is the point. Wake up.

REPLY 12 1

TO

tomxp411 · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **snowbank**

If someone is stopped for speeding, then searching the driver's car for contraband should simply not be on the table. That's a clear Fourth Amendment violation.

I get that the Border Patrol and DEA are fighting a losing war, but I don't think it's fair to the people of this country to make their rights casualties of this war. Like the example above, people should not have to spend tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars to assert their rights. A right is a RIGHT. Not a paid-for privilege.

If BP wants to search every car at the border (without damaging it or tearing it apart), then that's their right. But once a car is even one inch past the border, it should be inviolable - even if the driver is speeding or has tinted windows.

REPLY 7 1

UM

UM_Insight · 4 DAYS AGO

We live in Texas. We used to drive around the state for business and pleasure. This is another reason to stay home in our old age. Where/when will someone defend our rights against the techno-police state?

REPLY 10 0

DR

DrJohnBrown · 4 DAYS AGO

The gop is the vanguard of fascism

REPLY 1 REPLY 5 0

VA

valhh · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **DrJohnBrown**

Agree absolutely.

REPLY 1 0

JU

JustAskingQuestions · 4 DAYS AGO

Donald Trump is desperate to deflect from:

1. His terrible economy.

2. Revelations of the Epstein files which will be very unflattering to him and Melania.

3. His 38% approval rating.

4. His worsening dementia.

How long will his sycophants allow him to continue?

REPLY 1 REPLY 7 0

WH

WhoVan · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **JustAskingQuestions**

I think approval is down to 33% but other than that, B-I-N-G-O!!!

REPLY 0 0

WI

Winston1984 · 4 DAYS AGO

Welcome to the police state.

REPLY 11 0

GR

Grateful · 4 DAYS AGO

The US is rapidly becoming like China. We are no longer a solid constitutional democracy. We still have the chance of regaining our democracy by voting out all who failed us at the national level, state and local level.

REPLY 1 REPLY 11 0

CA

Canuck416 · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Grateful**

The People's Republic of America.

REPLY 0 0

RE

RealAngry · 4 DAYS AGO

Where all the 2A people who claimed they were armed in case of government tyranny?

REPLY 3 REPLIES 15 0

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

JE

JerryGarcia · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **RealAngry**

They are busy licking boots.

REPLY 4 0

AN

AngryAmerican · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **RealAngry**

Right here. I will not hesitate to defend myself against any officer illegally threatening me or violating my rights.

REPLY 0 0

DR

DrJohnBrown · 4 DAYS AGO

Is this the small limited government rightwingers talk so much about?

REPLY  25  1**JustAskingQuestions** · 4 DAYS AGO

First they came for the Mexicans and I didn't speak out because I wasn't Mexican

.....you know how the rest goes

Wake up America.

REPLY 2 REPLIES  15  1**wanawakeboard** · 4 DAYS AGOReply to **JustAskingQuestions**

It's not a big deal if you understand your rights

REPLY 1 REPLY  0  13**Mamatank** · 4 DAYS AGOReply to **wanawakeboard**

Apparently, you didn't read the article.

REPLY  6  1**LogicalRetort** · 4 DAYS AGO

Wake up America. Surveillance, collection, and use like this is Tyranny. Doesnt matter the political party that does it. If you participate in this type of program for security while violating unwarranted seizure and privacy rights, you are no patriot to this country and a pawn of oppression.

REPLY  21  1**DemsForever** · 5 DAYS AGO

Wow! Super unconstitutional. I thought the GOP was all about smaller government. Lol! Yeah, and they're the law and order party who gave us our first convicted felon for POTUS!!!

REPLY 1 REPLY  21  1**daverhaver** · 4 DAYS AGOReply to **DemsForever**

We fought the red coats for our freedom and independence, now it looks like we are hurtling towards another rebellion/revolution against the red hats. At least the color of tyranny hasn't changed.

REPLY  11  0**bigthresher** · 5 DAYS AGO

THIS COUNTRY IS BECOMING A POLICE STATE

BP and ICE are akin to the GUSTAPO

REPLY 2 REPLIES  19  1**rbimd** · 4 DAYS AGOReply to **bigthresher**

gEstapo...

REPLY  4  1**AirBear** · 4 DAYS AGOReply to **bigthresher**

Gustapo? Are they like MTG's Gazpacho Police?

REPLY  1  0**daverhaver** · 5 DAYS AGO

This is just awful! Our leaders accuse foreign nations like China of using sneaky tactics to spy on American citizens, yet we ALLOW the government to deploy such devious methods of clearly borderline illegal surveillance.

REPLY 11 1



TXGunner1 · 5 DAYS AGO

This is dystopian fascist stuff. This administration and the republican party are not conservative, a conservative would not allow this to happen, let alone orchestrate it.

REPLY 19 1



SilverSkull · 5 DAYS AGO

Just when you thought it was 2025...further proof we're closer to 1984 than ever!

REPLY 18 0



UNVARNISHEDTRUTH · 5 DAYS AGO

This is what the AP does best - deep dives into what the government is up to. I often drive an interstate that is a major international trade corridor. There are poles every few miles with video cameras monitoring all vehicles moving along the corridor.

REPLY 3 REPLIES 12 3

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES



dodger · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **UNVARNISHEDTRUTH**

I bet you wouldn't like it if they decided your trips were somehow suspicious, stopped you, tried to nab you on fake charges and impounded your vehicle so you have to spend thousands to defend yourself and get your car back with no reimbursement at all. Think that can't happen? Just wait...

REPLY 1 REPLY 3 2



UNVARNISHEDTRUTH · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **dodger**

No idea where you got the notion I condone what is being done. Maybe you were just expounding to hear yourself talk.

REPLY 2 0



payasonaranjaped · 5 DAYS AGO

china surveillance on usa soil. great to make amedicagreatagain. gest@po crap

REPLY 5 0



IvliusMartinvs · 5 DAYS AGO

What's funny about this is that the Right are just equipping the Left to do the same thing when the Left win in 2028.

REPLY 1 REPLY 4 1



jnmcnally · 5 DAYS AGO

Reply to **IvliusMartinvs**

scanners that look for red MAGA hats or certain bumper stickers before they record the license plate would be useful

REPLY 5 1



PurpleSquirrel · 5 DAYS AGO

Trump is building at this very moment a Data center like Chinas to watch and monitor every American. Republicans are cheering on the advancement of monitoring Americans via AI. Trump really likes how tyrants rule their people and want that for American society. All the Republican hoopla about FISA and unwarranted surveillance of Americans is not even talked about anymore. I don't think we should give these agents that kind of power to watch citizens.

REPLY 1 REPLY 10 1



jnmcnally · 5 DAYS AGO

Reply to **PurpleSquirrel**

American companies facilitated China's efforts in this direction, so all the US needs to do is pay American contractors to bring it here ("job creation")

REPLY 3 1



Justadude · 5 DAYS AGO

America will be a totalitarian dystopia in 5 years

REPLY 2 REPLIES 5 1



YippeeKiYay · 5 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Justadude**

5 years is mighty generous

REPLY 7 1



valhh · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Justadude**

It isn't NOW?

REPLY 1 0



jcepri · 5 DAYS AGO

If you want to know what's happening to America, just look up "Boiling Frog."

REPLY 8 1



Kolo · 5 DAYS AGO

Blame Trump all you want but we only have ourselves to blame. We allowed this to happen.

REPLY 3 REPLIES 5 4

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES



IvliusMartinvs · 5 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Kolo**

Agreed, it's been a concerted effort by both sides to establish building blocks to authoritarianism for the past few decades.

REPLY 2 2



valhh · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Kolo**

I sure didn't vote him in!

REPLY 0 0



Kolo · 5 DAYS AGO

Anything to distract us from the Epstein files.

REPLY 2 REPLIES 7 1



jcepri · 5 DAYS AGO

Reply to **Kolo**

Who cares about the Epstein files? Nothing will ever come from it because the rich get away with everything.

REPLY 1 REPLY 6 1



valhh · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **jcepri**

They will never charge the rich, or the Repubs -- only Democrats. Any Repubs involved will be kept quiet via the "ongoing investigation" loophole.

REPLY 1 0

16

1634bwatt · 5 DAYS AGO

"And you thought you were free? Ha, ha, ha"

For anyone in trucking, this AP report isn't just about surveillance — it affects how your drivers and freight move every day. Border Patrol is scanning plates nationwide, using algorithms to flag "suspicious" travel and triggering hidden "whisper stops" through local police.

The problem: much of what gets flagged is normal trucking. Quick turns to border regions, night runs, leased equipment, repeat lanes — standard patterns for LTL, expedited, seasonal, or community freight. Through a surveillance lens, routine commerce looks like covert movement.

This creates real operational risk. Drivers lose hours to stops triggered by criteria no one can see. Reports cite minor violations instead of the true reason, making challenges impossible. Large fleets survive the disruption; small carriers may not. Repeated stops on certain corridors will push carriers out entirely, weakening supply chain resilience.

Meanwhile, federal priorities are misaligned. While Border Patrol expands plate-tracking, FMCSA oversight remains thin, most carriers are still "Not Rated," fraud and cyber-theft keep rising, and non-domiciled CDL enforcement is inconsistent. The real threats — ghost brokers, recycled MC numbers, identity-theft rings — don't show up in travel patterns.

A smarter approach requires transparency on how vehicles are flagged, integration with FMCSA safety data, and rapid release and reimbursement when stops yield nothing.

Carriers want secure borders. But treating routine freight as suspicious while ignoring structural risks leaves honest operators over-policed and under-protected. Real security comes from clean data, real audits, and targeted enforcement — not hidden cones and opaque algorithms.

REPLY 2 REPLIES 9 0

JN

jnmcnally · 5 DAYS AGO

Reply to **1634bwatt**

Border patrol asked my friend why he crosses the border so frequently. Meanwhile, they asked me (in a separate crossing) why I cross so INFrequently! They're not looking for contraband - they're looking for data (and chances are it gets sold to corporations)

REPLY 3 0

HO

howtheshellwouldino · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **1634bwatt**

When a specific cryptocurrency is quietly backed by those at the top, trucking companies learn fast that purchasing it is the key to avoiding roadside stops.

REPLY 0 0

JE

JeffHenderson · 5 DAYS AGO

If this sort of aggressive domestic spying is allowed, with no restraints, there will only be more abuses as time goes on. Americans loose rights when they do not pay attention to what those in power do to them.

This yet another step towards that "mark of the beast" territory. EDITED

REPLY 1 REPLY 7 0

JE

JeffHenderson · 4 DAYS AGO

Reply to **JeffHenderson**

Note: Texas police used 83,000 flock cameras across state lines to track a woman suspected of having an abortion. How is this not an abuse of power?

Texas seems to have a real problem with the institutional abuse of power.

REPLY 0 0

CI

CitizenC · 5 DAYS AGO

Oh well, when you abuse your freedoms and use them to harm the country that affords them to you - you deserve to scrutiny

EDITED

REPLY 1 REPLY 1 10

AR

Arc · 5 DAYS AGO

Reply to **CitizenC**

This article is literally showing how their intended use has lost the plot and gone beyond their intended use. I'm what world does it make sense for border patrol to track cars as far north as San Antonio.

REPLY 5 0



Friday • 5 DAYS AGO

Guard dogs are only tolerable as long as they're on a strong leash.

REPLY 5 1

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ACTIVE CONVERSATIONS



Pentagon says it's investigating Sen. Mark Kelly over video urging troops to...
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White House circulates a plan to extend Obamacare subsidies as Trump pledge...
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