US Executive Branch Update - August 13, 2021

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Saturday, August 14, 2021

This report provides a snapshot of the US Executive Branch priorities via daily schedules and the prior day’s press releases.

POTUS’ Schedule*

10:00 a.m. EDT – THE PRESIDENT receives the President’s daily brief | Biden Residence, Wilmington, DE

1:00 p.m. EDT – THE PRESIDENT departs Wilmington, Delaware, en route Camp David

Upcoming White House Visit:

- August 30: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

VPOTUS’ Schedule*
The White House had yet to release the Vice President’s schedule for Friday.

**Looking ahead:** The Vice President will travel to Singapore and Vietnam this month (dates yet-to-be-announced) to strengthen relationships and expand economic cooperation with two critical Indo-Pacific partners of the United States.

*The US President (POTUS) and Vice President’s (VPOTUS) daily schedules are subject to change.*

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### Recap of Thursday, August 12, 2021

*Note: Bold hyperlinks spotlight COVID-19 developments.*

#### The White House

- **Appointments**: President Biden Appoints Members to U.S. AbilityOne Commission | **August 13, 2021**

- **Fact Sheet**: Biden Administration Takes Steps to Address COVID-19 in Rural America and Build Rural Health Back Better | **August 13, 2021**

- **Remarks** by President Biden on How His Build Back Better Agenda Will Lower Prescription Drug Prices

- **Fact Sheet**: President Biden Calls on Congress to Lower Prescription Drug Prices

- **Remarks** by President Biden at Virtual Meeting with Elected Officials to Discuss the Importance of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- **Fact Sheet**: Build Back Better Investments in Care Will Boost Economic Growth and Help Businesses Thrive

- **Transcript**: Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials

- **Statement**: United States to Host Ninth Summit of the Americas in 2022 (Dec. 9-10)

- **Statement** of President Joe Biden on the Fourth Anniversary of the Events at Charlottesville, Virginia

#### Department of Defense (DOD)

- **Transcript**: Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby Holds a Press Briefing on Afghanistan

- **Readout** of Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III’s Call With President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani
• **Article**: DOD Deploys Forces to Protect Kabul Embassy Drawdown

• **Article**: China, Russia Pose Strategic Challenges for U.S., Allies, Admiral Says

• **Article**: Japan’s State Minister of Defense Visits U.S. Cyber Command

• **Article**: Vice Admiral Discusses Potential of AI in Missile Defense Testing, Operations

• **Advisory**: Guantanamo Periodic Review Board Media Invitation Announced August 24, 2021

• **Contracts** for August 12, 2021

**Department of State**

• **Daily Schedule** | Friday, August 13

  - August 12: **Readout** | Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin’s Call with Afghan President Ghani

  - August 12: **Readout** | Secretary Blinken’s Calls with Foreign Minister Garneau, Foreign Minister Maas, and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg

  - August 12: **Readout** | Secretary Blinken Meeting with Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Al-Thani

  - August 12: **Readout** | Deputy Secretary Sherman’s Meeting with People’s Republic of China Appointed Ambassador Qin Gang

  - August 12: **Statement** | U.S.-Australia-India-Japan Consultations (the “Quad”) Senior Officials Meeting

  - August 12: **Advisory** | U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Feltman will Travel to Djibouti, Ethiopia, UAE (Aug. 15-24)

  - August 12: **Statement** | U.S. Donation of 5.5 Million Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine to CARICOM Countries

  - August 12: **Transcript** | Department Press Briefing

**US Agency for International Development (USAID)**

• **Press Release**: Administrator Samantha Power at the USAID Global Leadership and Education Advancing Development (Global LEAD)

**US Mission to the United Nations (UN)**

• **Remarks** at a UN Security Council Briefing on Somalia

**Department of Justice**
• Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) | Daily Press Releases

• Press Release: Justice Department Announces Expansion of Firearms Technical Assistance Project to Strengthen Community Response to Domestic Violence Incidents Involving Firearms

• Press Release: San Fernando Valley Man Found Guilty in Terror Plot to Bomb a Rally in Long Beach

• Press Release: Former DEA Special Agent Sentenced to Over 13 Years in Prison for Corruption-Related Charges

• Press Release: Utah Man Convicted for Tax Fraud

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Customs and Border Protection (CBP)/US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS)

• Readout of Secretary Mayorkas’ Visit to South Texas

• Speech: Secretary Mayorkas Delivers Remarks in Brownsville, Texas

• Statement from Secretary Mayorkas on the Fourth Anniversary of the Events at Charlottesville, Virginia


• Press Release: Border Patrol Agents Arrest Two Convicted Sex Offenders (California)

• Press Release: USCIS Temporarily Extending Validity Period of Form I-693

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

• Press Release: FEMA Provides $2.6 Million to Montana for COVID-19 Response

• Press Release: Municipalities Have FEMA Support throughout their Recovery (Puerto Rico)

Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR)

• Readout of Ambassador Katherine Tai’s Virtual Meeting with South Korea’s Trade Minister Yeo Han-Koo

Department of Commerce


Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
Press Release: FTC Urges Federal Reserve Board to Require Debit Card Gatekeepers to Compete Fairly

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)


US Export-Import Bank (EXIM)


Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Press Release: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of Up To $500 Million in Emergency Rural Health Care Funds Under the American Rescue Plan

Department of Interior (DOI)


Department of Labor


Press Release: U.S. Department of Labor recovers more than $73K for 256 healthcare workers at Pennsylvania, Maryland facilities following investigation

Press Release: Department of Labor announces $5M funding opportunity to improve respect for workers’ rights in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras

Press Release: Amid recent trench collapses, U.S. Department of Labor reminds South Dakota employers, workers of excavation hazards

Press Release: U.S. Department of Labor obtains consent preliminary injunction restraining a Massachusetts tree service company from retaliating against employees

Press Release: United Behavioral Health, United Healthcare Insurance Co. plans to pay $15.6M, take corrective actions after federal, state investigations

Department of Education

Link to Education Department’s press releases approving state plans to use the American Rescue Plan funds to support K-12 schools and students (South Carolina, Indiana, Alabama, North Dakota, New Jersey, Kentucky)
Health & Human Services (HHS)

- **Press Release**: HHS Secretary Becerra to Require COVID-19 Vaccinations for HHS Health Care Workforce

Food & Drug Administration (FDA)

- **Press Release**: FDA Authorizes Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Dose for Certain Immunocompromised Individuals
- **Press Release**: FDA Grants First of its Kind Indication for Chronic Sleep Disorder Treatment

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