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**CPT USARMY HQDA OGC (US)**

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**Sent:** Saturday, February 13, 2016 7:19 PM  
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**Subject:** SPOTREP: Death of Justice Scalia & Congressional Impact  
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Mr. Secretary and Chief –

1. POLITICO is reporting: Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has died at the age of 79, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said in a statement on Saturday.

2. This is a significant development that could dominate much of the legislative session in the Senate. POTUS nominee will face intense GOP scrutiny as balance of the Court could tip to the Dems, the first real opportunity in decades.

3. More information:

\* The statement did not indicate the cause of death, but several news outlets reported that he died of natural causes in Texas this weekend.

\* Scalia was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to the Supreme Court in 1986.

\* Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the Senate should not confirm a replacement for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia until after the 2016 election. "The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new President," the GOP leader said in a statement.

\* The statement from the Kentucky senator came a mere hour after the news of the conservative justice's death was reported by major news outlets, belying his usual cautious nature and daring a bruising political fight with President Barack Obama alongside two leading GOP presidential contenders from the Senate, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

\* Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) immediately called for a replacement. "Failing to fill this vacancy would be a shameful abdication of one of the Senate's most essential Constitutional responsibilities," Reid said in a statement.

VR,

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