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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Bolton's notes raise questions on U.S. military plans amid Venezuela tensions

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - White House national security adviser John Bolton raised questions about the United States' intentions in Venezuela after he appeared at a briefing on Monday with a notepad containing the words "5,000 troops to Colombia," which neighbors Venezuela.

It was not immediately clear what Bolton's notes meant and whether President Donald Trump's administration was seriously considering sending U.S. troops to Colombia.

It was also not clear if disclosure of the notes was intentional, and there was no indication that such a military option would be used any time soon.

Asked about a photograph depicting the notes, a White House spokesman said on Monday: "As the President has said, all options are on the table."

Pentagon spokesman Colonel Rob Manning said the number of U.S. military personnel in Colombia remained unchanged as part of a pre-existing partnership.

A U.S. official, who asked not to be named, said they "have seen nothing to support" Bolton's annotation.

Colombia's Foreign Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo, in a statement late on Monday, said: "We are not aware of the significance or the reason" for Bolton's notes.

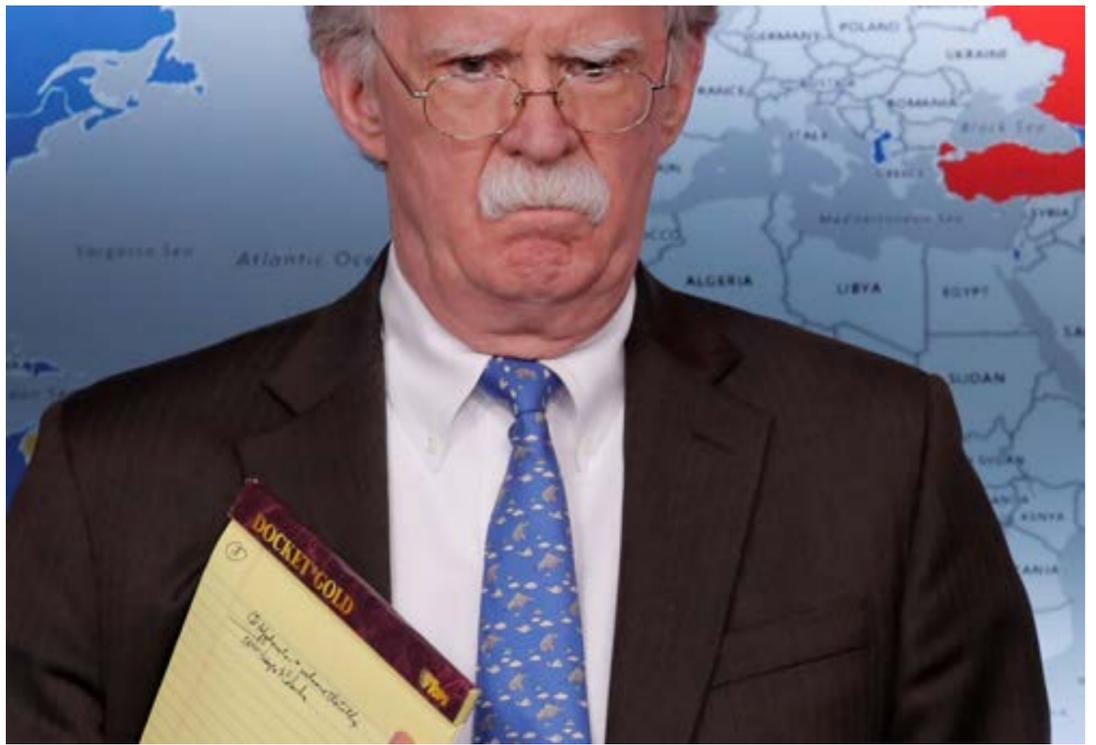
Colombia has coordinated its policy on Venezuela with the rest of the Lima Group of South and Central American nations and would keep doing so, he added.

Bolton held the notepad at a news briefing with reporters to unveil sweeping sanctions on Venezuelan state-owned oil firm PDVSA, Washington's latest step to pressure Caracas' socialist President Nicolas Maduro to leave office.

Sending U.S. military troops to Colombia would escalate tensions with Venezuela, even as its opposition leader Juan Guaido has said a peaceful transition reut.rs/2RXasMo of power is possible

Guaido, who proclaimed himself interim president of Venezuela last week with U.S. backing, told a German broadcaster on Tuesday that he was the country's only legitimate leader reut.rs/2GdLXUv.

Separately, he told CNN in an interview aired on Tuesday: "We must use great pressure for a dictator to leave, install a transitional government and have free elections," court, a process which requires consensus among member states. As a result, the court is running out of judges, and will be unable to issue binding rulings in disputes.



U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton holds a pad of note paper with a note reading "5,000 troops to Colombia" as he waits to address reporters as the Trump administration announces economic sanctions against Venezuela and the Venezuelan state owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA) during a press briefing at the White House in Washington, U.S., January 28, 2019. REUTERS/Jim Young TPX

While the United States was among the signatory countries of the e-commerce agreement, it did not participate in a separate informal WTO gathering chaired by Switzerland.

U.S., China 'miles and miles' from trade deal - Ross Azevedo said Washington's absence was "totally and solely driven by domestic considerations" and unrelated to the country's suspicions over the multilateral trading system.

But he voiced concern over the tide of protectionism that overshadowed discussions at Davos among the rich and powerful.

"These trading tensions are not only a threat to the system. They are threats to the whole, entire international community," he said. "The risks are very real. There will be economic impacts." "Maybe she's appealing to the left wing of her party, but she's risking her majority in doing that," the official said. Still, a Trump adviser said the president's view of Pelosi has not changed. "She's tough, she's stubborn," the adviser quoted the president as saying privately about the speaker.

## Apple sees U.S.-China tensions easing, services business growing

(Reuters) - Apple Inc said sales for its fiscal second quarter would most likely be lower than Wall Street expected, a signal that it continues to face weak demand for its iPhone, especially in China, the world's biggest smartphone market.

However, Chief Executive Tim Cook, who is in regular contact with U.S. President Donald Trump, told Reuters he sees some hope that trade tensions between the United States and China have eased. He also made upbeat comments about Apple's fast-growing services business and said the company is considering pricing its phones in local currency in China and other international markets, which may spur sales

Apple shares rose 2.5 percent to \$158.55 in after-hours trading.

The company said it expects revenue between \$55 billion and \$59 billion for the current quarter ending in March, largely below analysts' average estimate of \$58.83 billion, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

For the quarter ending in December, Apple's busiest due to the holiday shopping season, Apple reported revenue of \$84.3 billion, slightly above analysts'

average estimate of \$84 billion. Apple warned in early January that the quarter's sales would miss targets it gave in November.

Apple reported earnings per share of \$4.18 for the December quarter, compared with Wall Street's average estimate of \$4.17, according to Refinitiv data.

The company said revenue from services such as Apple Music, the App Store and others - which investors are counting on to fuel growth - reached \$10.8 billion, in line with Wall Street estimates. Services gross margin hit 63 percent.

The company said it now has 360 million subscribers to both its own and third party services, and set a goal to expand that to 500 million by the end of 2020. It said it now has 1.4 billion active devices, an increase of 100 million from last year, and that 900 million of those are iPhones.

Apple's iPhone revenue declined 15 percent year over year to \$51.9 billion. Cook said China's economic weakness hurt iPhone sales there.

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**Patty Yu**  
Business Development



# Editor's Choice



FILE PHOTO: Elisabetta Trenta, Italy's defence minister, attends the Rome Mediterranean summit MED 2018 in Rome, Italy November 22, 2018. REUTERS/Max Rossi/File Photo



REFILE - CORRECTING ID 25th Screen Actors Guild Awards - Arrivals - Los Angeles, California, U.S., January 27, 2019 - Cast of the movie Crazy Rich Asians, actors Michelle Yeoh, Henry Golding, and Gemma Chan. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni



Canada's Foreign Minister Freeland speaks in the interim House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during Question Period in the interim House of Commons in the West Block on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, January 28, 2019. REUTERS/Chris Wattie



U.S. Senators Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren action figures is displayed at the Brooklyn product design company FCTRY's offices in New York



FILE PHOTO: A Citgo gas station is pictured in Kearny, New Jersey September 24, 2014. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz/File Photo



A woman walks past placards with prices of different products and services in a street of Caracas



Customers buy products at a store in Caracas, Venezuela, January 28, 2019. Placard reads, "There is point-of-sale terminal". REUTERS/Andres Martinez Casares

2019 Is The Year Of The Pig On The Chinese Zodiac

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



The Pig is the twelfth of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party.

Personality and characteristics Pigs might not stand out in a crowd. But they are very realistic. Others may be all talk and no action.

Men born in the Pig year are optimistic and gentle. They are very focused. Once they decide on a goal, they'll put everything into it.

Women born in the Pig year are full of excitement. They attend social events whenever possible and treat everyone genuinely.

Health and lifestyle Pigs mostly have a great build and a resilient body. They are always spirited, as if they will never run out of energy.

Education The education forecast for Pigs, however, reveals some good fortune. For those seeking higher education, it seems the stars are aligned in your favor.

Health Health can be rated as a mediocre category for Pigs this year.

Compatibility Most compatible with Pig: Tiger, Rabbit, Goat

Least compatible with Pig: Snake, Monkey

Careers fit for Pigs Pigs are gentle and rarely lose their temper. Even when they do, it's never a dramatic commotion.

Relationships The love forecast for Pigs is also pretty unremarkable for 2019. It seems that while this is not the year for true romance,

will require hard work to avoid potential pitfalls. Pigs will most likely experience many emotional ups and downs, making them feel frustrated and sad at times.

This will not be a transitional year for Pigs, and it is best to try and "stick it out" in situations if at all possible. While that can be terribly frustrating, try to remember that a key element to utilizing your luck is timing.



Careers Pigs' 2019 horoscope reveals that changing careers may bring unforeseen consequences, and in most cases should be avoided.

Education The education forecast for Pigs, however, reveals some good fortune.

Health Health can be rated as a mediocre category for Pigs this year.

Fortunately for Pigs, the lack of relationship drama means they can focus on making new friends and connections.

Lifestyle Pigs are in for almost an unfair year it seems. This year is about favoring the characteristics of Pigs in order to succeed, but for Pigs, to whom this comes naturally, they will have a difficult year and must practice patience and discipline.

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The country would face an economic hellscape if the government shutdown lasts "months or even years," as the president has suggested it might, experts tell NBC News.

The doomsday scenario might be unlikely — the longest the federal government has ever shut down is 21 days, a record that will fall if the current closure lasts until Saturday — but it is chilling.

"We'll be in no man's land," Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, told NBC News.

If the worst were to happen, experts say the devastating impact would be widespread:

- 38 million low-income Americans lose food stamps
• 6 million face an uncertain timetable for collecting tax refunds
• 2 million without rental assistance and facing possible eviction
• 800,000 paycheck-less federal employees plunged into dire financial straits
• Shuttered parks and museums while overstressed airports cause tourism to tank
• Federal court system slows to a crawl
• Disaster relief money doesn't get to storm-ravaged areas
• Lapsed FDA and EPA inspections lead to dangerous outbreaks
• Private companies looking to go public are stuck in limbo
• Stock market plummets



The end isn't near — yet. But if the stand-off persists — talks blew up at the White House on Wednesday — and Congress and President Donald Trump can't reach a deal on raising the debt ceiling in a few months, "it's game over — you'll have a pretty severe recession," Zandi said, adding that given the trade war with China, and Brexit looming, "you could start seeing some pretty dark scenarios" worldwide.

WITHOUT FOOD, HOMES

By the end of February, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP,

Economists Warn That A Catastrophe Is In The Making If The Partial Government Closure Continues For Weeks Or Months

America's "Doomsday" Scenario: What Would Happen If The Government Shutdown Continues?

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



run by the Department of Agriculture, would be out of funding — meaning almost 40 million low-income Americans could find themselves struggling to pay for food, said Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist for the accounting firm RSM US.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, meanwhile, has already seen 1,150 contracts with private landlords housing low-income tenants lapse. Another 500 will expire by the end of this month, and another 550 by the end of February, the agency says.

Funding for rental assistance for millions of tenants could be at risk as soon as next month.

"The near-term impact is people getting evicted, having their heat turned off and not having enough food," Brusuelas said. Drawn out over time, that could amount to a sizable hit on the GDP. Loss of the SNAP benefits could mean \$60 billion less in direct spending in a year, and indirect spending of another \$48 billion, which could shave a full percentage point off the country's economic growth, he explained.

Others might find themselves with less money in their pockets.

The IRS has said it won't be able to pay tax refunds during the shutdown, although

the Office of Management and Budget said on Monday that it would. Less than 10,000 workers — about 12 percent of IRS staff — are working during the shutdown.

We Accept SNAP Benefits

By the end of February, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, run by the Department of Agriculture, would be out of funding, affecting 40 million low-income Americans.

The agency is coming up with a plan to call back more employees, but they'll face an avalanche of backed-up work — by Feb. 2 of last year, the agency had already received over 18 million returns and processed 6.1 million refunds.

"The people who are waiting on those refunds could face some real consequences," said Michael Pearce, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

Then there are the 800,000 government

employees who aren't getting paid during the shutdown — even though about half of them still have to work.

"Workers are going to start walking out and find better paying jobs," Brusuelas said. If they don't, some will be in danger of not being able to pay their rents or mortgages and losing their homes — creating a drag on the economy.

TOURISM DEVASTATED

No-shows by airport workers — including TSA agents and air traffic controllers — would mean delays and canceled flights, hurting business dealings and tourism.



A TSA agent checks identification at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on Jan. 7.

Tourism would also continue to fall at national parks, a third of which were closed when the shutdown went into effect. Others were kept open — but, without staffing, human waste has piled up in bathrooms and along popular trails.

Some parks are planning to stay open by tapping into collection fees that were meant to be used for future park projects. Raiding those funds is unsustainable and will hamper future development plans, said Emily Douce, director of budget and appropriations for the National Parks Conservation Association.

In the meantime, parks are losing the \$400,000 in daily fees they typically collect — and neighboring communities aren't benefiting from the average \$20 million a day that visitors spend there.



The entrance gate to a campground is locked at Joshua Tree National Park in

California.

PUBLIC IN DANGER

The Food and Drug Administration has already stopped most food inspections, raising the risk of salmonella, E. coli and listeria outbreaks.

"That puts our food supply at risk," said Sarah Sorscher, deputy director of regulatory affairs at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a consumer advocacy group.

The Environmental Protection Agency, where only 700 of 13,000 employees are working during the shutdown, has scaled back inspections, with senior officials focusing only on properties where "the threat to human life or property is imminent."

Areas that have already been affected by hurricanes and storms are facing additional problems because of the shutdown, with emergency recovery funds reportedly tied up in bureaucratic red tape.

It seems unimaginable, but if the impasse continues into October, more vital federal agencies would be forced to shut down, and new dangers would loom. Among the agencies that would turn their lights off is the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A more immediate worry: The federal court system will run out of money by Jan. 18, and will have to cut back operations.

STOCK SHOCK

The longer the shutdown goes on, the more likely it is to affect the stock market, experts said.

Analysts had been looking forward to a string of valuable multibillion companies that were expected to go public early this year. But now, as many as 40 initial public offerings are backlogged because the Securities and Exchange Commission doesn't have the staff to review them.

"The market was waiting for this huge avalanche of IPOs," said John Coffee Jr., director of the Center on Corporate Governance at Columbia Law School. "All of this stuff is on hold. The market is fluctuating wildly, and this is going to remove a stimulus."

Even with no end to the shutdown in sight, Brusuelas predicted that public outrage will lead to one soon enough.

"Workers are going to start walking out," he said. "People will take to the streets." (Courtesy nbcnews.com)

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