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U.S. top trade negotiator praises deal, China remains cautious



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# Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Publisher: Wea H. Lee  
President: Catherine Lee  
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
E-mail: [News@scdaily.com](mailto:News@scdaily.com)

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 | [www.today-america.com](http://www.today-america.com) | Southern News Group

## Boeing suppliers bracing for production freeze of grounded 737 MAX



FILE PHOTO: An aerial photo shows Boeing 737 MAX aircraft at Boeing facilities at the Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake, Washington, September 16, 2019. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson/File Photo

SEATTLE/PARIS (Reuters) - Boeing Co suppliers, customers and financiers braced on Monday for a possible freeze in Boeing 737 production for the first time in more than 20 years as the grounding of the best-selling MAX looks set to last well into 2020.

Two suppliers told Reuters that Boeing was likely to halt assembly of the jet, though some suppliers could be asked to keep producing to minimize disruption.

Boeing's board was due to meet for a second day in Chicago on Monday to assess output decisions, with an announcement expected later in the day.

Factbox: Aircraft suppliers at risk as Boeing could freeze 737 MAX production

A person briefed on the matter said on Sunday Boeing was considering whether to cut or halt production of its grounded 737 MAX after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said last week it would not approve the plane's return to service before 2020.

Boeing's best-selling plane has been grounded since March after two crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people, costing the plane manufacturer more than \$9 billion so far.

Until now Boeing has continued to produce 737 MAX jets at a rate of 42 per month and purchase parts from suppliers at a rate of up to 52 units per month, even though deliveries are frozen until regulators approve the aircraft to fly commercially again.

Halting production would ease a severe squeeze on cash tied up in roughly 375 undelivered planes, but only at the risk of causing industrial problems when Boeing tries to return to normal, industry sources said. Supply chains are already under strain due to record demand and abrupt changes in factory speed can cause snags.

Disruptions to production could also result in layoffs or furloughs of some of the 12,000 workers at Boeing's 737 factory south of Seattle.

Boeing's shares were down 4%, while Spirit AeroSystems Holdings Inc fell roughly 2%. Spirit is Boeing's biggest supplier and makes the MAX fuselage along with other parts such as pylons.

Spirit said on Monday it would work with Boeing to understand the impact of any decision to change its MAX production rate.

Analysts highlighted Safran SA and Senior Plc as other suppliers that could experience disruption impacts. The person briefed on the matter told Reuters a temporary shutdown was more likely than another cut.

Boeing said late on Sunday the company "will continue to assess production decisions based on the timing and conditions of return to service, which will be based on regulatory approvals and may vary by jurisdiction."

Last week, Reuters reported that Boeing was delaying by months its overall plan to speed up production as the U.S. planemaker struggles to win regulatory approval to return the jetliner to commercial service.

FILE PHOTO: An aerial photo shows Boeing 737 MAX aircraft at Boeing facilities at the Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake, Washington, September 16, 2019. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson/File Photo Without the 737 MAX, airlines that rushed to buy the plane have scaled back flying schedules and delayed growth plans. Some 387 aircraft were flying before the grounding.

Still, U.S. airlines shares were higher on Monday as investors bet that a prolonged 737 MAX delay would limit capacity growth, underpinning higher airfares.

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# U.S. top trade negotiator praises deal, China remains cautious

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump's top trade negotiator praised a "phase one" U.S.-China trade deal which is expected to nearly double U.S. exports to China over the next two years, while China remained cautious ahead of the signing of the agreement.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, speaking on CBS' "Face the Nation" program on Sunday, said there would be some routine "scrubs" to the text, but "this is totally done, absolutely."

The deal, announced on Friday after more than two and a half years of on-and-off negotiations between Washington and Beijing, will reduce some U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods in exchange for increased Chinese purchases of U.S. agricultural, manufactured and energy products by some \$200 billion over the next two years.

**RELATED COVERAGE**

Factbox: How China tariffs on U.S. commodities, energy stand after 'phase one' trade deal

China has also pledged in the agreement to better protect U.S. intellectual property, to curb the coerced transfer of American technology to Chinese firms, to open its financial services market to U.S. firms and to avoid manipulation of its currency.

Asian shares rose on Monday, with the MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan hitting a near eight-month high although investor caution over a lack of details capped gains.

A date for senior U.S. and Chinese officials to formally sign the agreement is being determined, Lighthizer said.

Chinese purchases of agricultural goods were expected to increase to \$40 billion to \$50 billion annually



FILE PHOTO: China's Vice Premier Liu He gestures to the media between U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer (L) and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin before the two countries' trade negotiations in Washington, U.S., October 10, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas/File Photo

over the next two years, Lighthizer said.

The United States exported about \$24 billion in farm products to China in 2017, the last full year before the world's two largest economies launched a tariff war on each others' goods in July 2018.

Soybeans were the biggest U.S. farm products shipped to China in 2017, with cargoes totaling

\$12 billion in value. China has said it would buy more grains from the United States as part of the deal.

While China's trade delegation has expressed optimism about the deal, some government officials are cautious.

"(The deal) is a phased achievement, and does not mean that the trade dispute is settled once and for all," said a source in Beijing with knowledge of the situation.

That source said signing and implement-

ing the pact remained the main priority for success.

Several Chinese officials told Reuters the wording of the agreement remained a delicate issue and care was needed to ensure expressions used in text did not re-escalate tensions and deepen differences.

China faces huge pressure to fulfil the phase one deal, said Shi Yinhong, a professor at Renmin University and an adviser to the cabinet.

Shi suggested imports of some U.S. agricultural goods like soybeans would be far above China's demand.



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# Sports Pictures of the Year



Southampton's Cedric Soares in action with Leicester City's Harvey Barnes during the Leicester v Southampton Premier League match at King Power Stadium in Leicester, Britain January 12, 2019.



Liverpool's team bus travels past fans during their victory parade for the Champions League in Liverpool, Britain June 2, 2019. REUTERS/Phil Noble SEARCH "POY SPORTS" FOR THIS STORY.



Britain's Hayley Carruthers falls at the end of the women's elite race during the London Marathon in London, Britain, April 28, 2019.



Megan Rapinoe of the U.S. celebrates scoring their first goal during the France v United States game during the Women's World Cup Quarter Final at Parc des Princes, Paris, France June 28, 2019. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier



A cat disrupts play in the second half between Tigres UANL and the Real Salt Lake during their Leagues Cup game at Rio Tinto Stadium Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S. July 24, 2019



Sweden's Armand Duplantis is seen in action in the Doha 2019 World Athletics Championships Mens Pole Vault Final in Doha, Qatar, October 1, 2019.



Andy Ruiz Jr in action with Anthony Joshua during the fight for the IBF, WBA, WBO & IBO World Heavyweight titles at Diriyah Arena, Diriyah, Saudi Arabia December 7, 2019.



Austria's Ricarda Haaser competes at the Women's Downhill training during the FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals in Grandvalira, Soldeu, Andorra March 11

How The State Prepares For The Worst Emergency Management In Texas



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

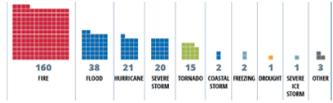
Some of Texas' greatest strengths spring from its sheer size and geographic diversity. But while these assets contribute to our thriving economy and create many opportunities, they sometimes increase our chances for natural disasters and other emergencies.

Texas ranks high among U.S. states in its number and variety of natural disasters, ranging from flooding to drought and from wildfires to ice storms. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Texans have experienced 263 federally declared disasters since 1953.

Local governments, particularly those in sparsely populated rural counties, sometimes require assistance with emergency situations due to a lack of the equipment and staffing needed to launch an effective response. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), a division of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), is charged with coordinating state and local responses to natural disasters and other emergencies in Texas. It's not an easy job.

"With more than 1,300 jurisdictions, 254 counties, an international border and a long coastline, Texas is constantly faced with unique problems you don't find anywhere else," says Kevin Lemon, a TDEM technical operations special-

ist. "Therefore, we have to have unique solutions."



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency management is the practice of formulating procedures with which communities and states can minimize the risk of hazards and disasters and cope with them more effectively.

Local governments, naturally, become the first lines of defense during a disaster. Mayors, county commissioners, municipal police and sheriffs' departments must alert citizens of imminent threats and take any actions within their means to ensure public order and safety.

For disasters exceeding their abilities and resources, however, a state may step in to provide logistical and financial assistance. In cases in which local and state resources prove inadequate, the state may request assistance from other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, or from the federal government.

In Texas, responsibility for emergency management lay solely with local jurisdictions until the Legislature enacted the Texas Civil Protection Act of 1951,

the first law creating a state emergency management organization and state-wide emergency management plan. The legislation established a Disaster Relief Council chaired by the governor and comprising various agency heads, each responsible for particular emergency management functions.

The 1951 act was replaced with the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, which further increased the state-local coordination of emergency responsibilities. By 2009, after several phases of reorganization, the Disaster Relief Council had become the Texas Division of Emergency Management within DPS.



The Texas Government Code requires the Texas Division of Emergency Management to prepare and keep current a comprehensive state emergency management plan.

TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Texas Emergency Management Council (EMC) includes 39 state agencies and nonprofit emergency assistance organizations (Exhibit 2). State law established the council to advise and assist the governor in all matters related to disaster mitigation, emergency preparedness, disaster response and recovery.

The State Emergency Management Plan assigns 22 emergency support functions to the EMC member organizations, which identify, mobilize and deploy resources to respond to emergencies and disasters (Exhibit 3). The type and extent of a hazard or disaster determines which EMC agencies will respond.



Hurricane Harvey as seen from satellite.

DISASTER DISTRICTS

Initial state emergency assistance for

local governments is provided through one of 24 Texas disaster districts, which manage state operations within their designated areas. Each district is led by a disaster district committee (DDC) and a committee chair. DDCs include local representatives of state agencies, boards, commissions and volunteer groups represented on the EMC. Each DDC provides guidance and administrative support for disaster response.

STATE OPERATIONS CENTER

In 1964, the SOC was established at DPS headquarters in Austin to serve as the state's disaster monitoring center. Its primary responsibilities include:

- continuously monitoring threats through communications with local entities, news outlets and social media;
•providing notifications and information on emergency incidents to government officials;
•coordinating assistance requests from local governments through the DPS Disaster Districts; and
•allocating and coordinating state personnel and resources to local governments that can no longer respond adequately to an emergency incident.

The SOC maintains four levels of emergency response, categories used to notify and gradually increase the readiness of state and local emergency responders based on the degree and progression of specific incidents. The SOC operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, regardless of its emergency response level.

"During a disaster, the SOC uses a wide range of resources from academia, private-sector companies and local entities," Lemon says.



IN THE BUNKER

As Hurricane Harvey bore down on the Texas coast in August 2017, Gov. Greg Abbott commanded the state's emergency response efforts from an underground post beneath the DPS building in north Austin. Located three stories below

ground level, the State Operations Center has been headquarters for state emergency response for nearly 60 years.



The State Operations Center underground post beneath the DPS building in north Austin during Hurricane Harvey.

(Photo/Texas Division of Emergency Management.)

While some vestiges of the SOC's mid-20th century origins can still be seen (a shower turned storage closet still has a "decontamination" sign over the door, for example), subsequent construction and renovations have turned the center into a modern facility with state-of-the-art technology, safety features and communications capabilities.

During major emergencies, the governor activates the members of the EMC, who assemble at the SOC where they join its daily operations staff and TDEM members to organize a coordinated response. The SOC monitors and manages about 3,000 to 4,000 emergency incidents per year.

It's no surprise that Texas frequently experiences emergencies of one kind or another, simply because of its size and variable climate. What's more noteworthy, however, is the state's ability to respond to a plethora of potentially life-threatening incidents. By integrating the efforts of dozens of organizations, both public and private, and managing the complex logistics from a centralized command post, Texas sets a national example for statewide emergency management. (Courtesy https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy)

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## Bipartisan Lawmakers Pass Legislation That Includes Pay Raises, Parental Leave And Trump's Space Force

### House Passes \$738 Billion Military Policy Bill With Pay Raises, Space Force Creation And Parental Leave



American troops are set to receive a 3 percent pay raise under the bill passed by the House last Wednesday. (Photo/The New York Times)

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

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday passed a \$738 billion military policy bill that would authorize the creation of the Space Force championed by President Trump as the sixth branch of the military and secure paid parental leave for more than two million federal workers.

The 377-to-48 vote reflected broad bipartisan support for the compromise package, one of the nation's most expensive military policy bills to date. It passed over the opposition of a bloc of progressive Democrats and libertarian-minded Republicans who objected to its steep price tag and its omission of provisions they had proposed to limit the president's power on an array of military matters.

Most House Republicans threw their support behind the measure, joining with Democrats to ensure its passage. It was part of a year-end burst of bipartisan legislating that has broken out this week, even as the Democratic-led House moves toward impeaching Mr. Trump. The approval of the package marked a resolution to months of partisan fighting over exactly what would be contained in the must-pass legislation. In July, the House passed its version of the bill,

which sought to rein in Mr. Trump's authority on policy after policy, over Republican opposition.



Determined to meet the year-end deadline for renewing the legislation and demonstrate their party could legislate on issues of national security even as they pursue the president's removal, Democratic negotiators conceded on a series of hot-button issues.

"This is exactly what the American people have been demanding of government, that we can actually move forward on legislating, on governing, to show that we are adults that are able to get things done on issues of national security," said Representative Andy Kim, a freshman Democrat who represents a New Jersey district that voted for Mr. Trump in 2016. "Even in a time of divided government." The Senate is expected to take up the compromise bill and send it to the presi-

dent's desk as early as next week. But the compromise left some liberal Democrats seething.

While it does not authorize any money to replenish military construction funds Mr. Trump diverted to pay for his wall on the southern border, it also does not contain a measure backed by Democrats to prevent him from raiding the fund in the future.

Stronger language that would have forced the cleanup of a dangerous class of chemicals, known as PFAS, was dropped. And the final version jettisoned several other provisions passed by House Democrats: to ban new detainees from being placed at the military detention facility at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba; to prohibit the sale of certain types of munitions to Saudi Arabia; and to require Mr. Trump to seek congressional approval before taking any military action against Iran.

Representative Ilhan Omar, Democrat of Minnesota, said in a statement that she would not support the bill even though it contained some amendments she sponsored. "This bill commits the U.S. to endless involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen, continues funding for endless war" under a 2001 military authorization and "does nothing to prevent the administration from launching a disastrous war with Iran," she said.



Congress has passed a 3 percent pay raise for troops and the end to a Defense Department policy known as the widow's tax, which prevents the surviving family members of military personnel from receiving their full benefits.

But Democratic leaders trumpeted the

bill for what it did contain: a White House-approved measure that would extend 12 weeks of paid parental leave to civilian federal employees, a 3 percent pay raise for troops and the end to a Defense Department policy known as the widow's tax, which prevents the surviving family members of military personnel from receiving their full benefits. Representative Adam Smith, Democrat of Washington and the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, issued a scathing defense of the bill on Wednesday, calling it "the most progressive defense bill we have passed in decades."

"Throughout the negotiations I failed in one way: I was unable to turn President Trump, Leader McConnell and Chairman Inhofe into Democrats and convince them to suddenly accept all of the provisions they despise," he said in the statement, referring to Senators Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the majority leader, and James M. Inhofe of Oklahoma, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Smith led the final stages of the negotiations off Capitol Hill and bargained directly with Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser, according to three officials familiar with the private talks who insisted on anonymity to describe them. Mr. Smith declined on Wednesday to comment on Mr. Kushner's role or the broader negotiations.



The legislation passed last Wednesday secured paid parental leave for more than two million federal workers.

Most of the provisions in the compromise bill had already been finalized by

the time discussions reached him. But it was Mr. Kushner who helped broker a deal to create the Space Force, a chief priority of the president's, in exchange for the paid parental leave, a measure championed by his wife, Ivanka Trump, also a senior adviser to the president.

"In the case of the White House, they wanted both," said Senator Kevin Cramer, a North Dakota Republican and key ally of Mr. Trump's who sits on the Armed Services Committee and has been a vocal backer of Space Force. "At the end of the day, the president gets two victories."

Mr. Trump appeared to regard the deal with a measure of amazement on Wednesday before the vote. "Wow! All of our priorities have made it into the final NDAA," he wrote on Twitter, using an acronym for the National Defense Authorization Act.

It was also Mr. Kushner who intervened on measures targeting Saudi Arabia that would have prohibited arms sales or military assistance to the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen. He said they were nonstarters for the White House, according to the officials.

Representative Ro Khanna of California, who led a series of amendments seeking to curtail the president's war powers on Iran and Saudi Arabia, called the omission of those measures from the final version "astonishing moral cowardice" in a joint statement with Senator Bernie Sanders, independent of Vermont.

"We can't allow the Republicans to continue a policy of expanding military budgets and foreign intervention with a tactic of throwing us a bone every year on a progressive policy," Mr. Khanna said in an interview. (Courtesy nytimes.com)



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