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Pompeo pushes back on U.S. House impeachment inquiry into Trump



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Scrambling to limit damage, Trump tells Turkey to stop its Syria invasion

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday demanded Turkey stop its military incursion in Syria and imposed new sanctions on the NATO ally as Trump scrambled to limit the damage from his much-criticized decision to clear U.S. troops from Turkey's path.

FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump addresses conservative activists at the Family Research Council's annual gala in Washington, U.S., October 12, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas
Vice President Mike Pence said Trump had told Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in a phone call on Monday to agree to an immediate ceasefire. He also said he would travel to the region soon to try to mediate the crisis.

Pence said Trump had been firm with Erdogan on the phone.

"The United States of America simply is not going to tolerate Turkey's invasion in Syria any further. We are calling on Turkey to stand down, end the violence and come to the negotiating table," Pence told reporters.

Turkey launched a cross-border operation into northern Syria on Wednesday just days after Erdogan told Trump in a phone call that he planned to move ahead with a long-planned move against America's Kurdish allies in the region.



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump addresses conservative activists at the Family Research Council's annual gala in Washington, U.S., October 12, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

U.S. Senator Graham says he strongly supports Trump on Turkey sanctions
Top U.S. Republican says Trump's sanctions on Turkey 'do not go far enough'
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Trump abruptly announced a redeployment of 50 American troops from the conflict zone to get them out of harm's way, dismissing criticism that this would leave the Kurds open to attack. This was widely seen as giving Erdogan a green light for his operation.

With lawmakers in the U.S. Congress moving to impose sanctions of their own, Trump issued an executive order authorizing sanctions against current and former officials of the Turkish government for contributing to Turkey's military operation in northern Syria.

In a statement, Trump said he had increased tariffs on imports of Turkish steel back up to 50 percent, six months after they were reduced, and would immediately stop negotiations on what he called a \$100 billion trade deal with Turkey.

"Unfortunately, Turkey does not appear to be mitigating the humanitarian effects of its invasion," said Trump.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the United States had imposed sanctions on Turkey's ministers of defense, interior and energy, as well as their departments.

The scenes of carnage from Turkey's assault have exposed Trump to harsh criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike for abandoning the Kurdish allies who were instrumental in the U.S. battle against Islamic State militants in Syria.

As Congress has vowed to act if he will not, Trump said Turkey's action is precipitating a humanitarian crisis and "setting conditions for possible war crimes" but he made clear he had no plans to reverse his decision to withdraw.

"As I have said, I am withdrawing the remaining United States service members from northeast Syria," said Trump.

U.S. troops coming out of Syria will stay in the region to monitor ISIS and a small footprint will remain at the Tanf base in southern Syria, he said.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican allied with Trump, expressed his displeasure with the president's decision in a statement.

"Abandoning this fight now and withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria would recreate the very conditions that we have worked hard to destroy and invite the resurgence of ISIS," he said.

A statement from Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and Democratic senators Robert Menendez and Jack

Reed said the only person who is able to "immediately stop this tragedy unfolding is the president himself."

"The first step when Congress returns to session this week is for Republicans to join with us in passing a resolution making clear that both parties are demanding the president's decision be reversed," they said.

Trump said his executive order would enable the United States to impose sanctions on those current or former Turkish officials who may be involved in human rights abuses. He said it will authorize sanctions such as blocking of property and barring entry into the United States.

Turkey's lira, which had weakened some 0.8% in the day, reacted minimally to Trump's announcement. It stood at 5.9300 at 2018 GMT, from 5.9260 beforehand.



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Trump ex-Russia adviser testifies in impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump's former Russia adviser testified on Monday behind closed doors as the latest witness summoned in the Democratic-led impeachment inquiry against Trump over his request that Ukraine investigate a domestic political rival. Fiona Hill, former senior director for European and Russian Affairs on Trump's National Security Council, was called to appear before the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee. She walked past journalists without saying anything as she arrived at the U.S. Capitol building, entering with sunglasses atop her head.

In another development, Trey Gowdy, a former Republican congressman who last Wednesday was announced as joining Trump's outside legal team for the impeachment fight, no longer will be doing so at least for now, according to Jay Sekulow, a lawyer for Trump. Sekulow last week had praised Gowdy as "a great asset" to the legal team.

Former top Pompeo aide expected to testify in closed U.S. House session
Trump says Ukraine whistleblower's identity should be revealed
The Trump administration's removal in May of Marie Yovanovitch as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine could figure in Hill's testimony.

On Friday, Yovanovitch testified that she had been ousted based on "unfounded and false claims" after coming under attack by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, who had been working to get Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, a top contender for the Democratic nomination to face Republican Trump in the November 2020 presidential election.

The inquiry focuses on a July 25 phone call

in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate former vice president Biden and Biden's businessman son Hunter Biden. Democrats have accused Trump of pressuring a vulnerable U.S. ally to dig up dirt on a domestic rival after withholding \$391 million in U.S. security aid intended to help combat Russian-backed separatists in the eastern part of Ukraine. Zelenskiy agreed to investigate. Trump eventually allowed the aid.

The British-born Hill, who left her White House job shortly before the July 25 call but remained on the payroll into August, had advocated a tough U.S. approach on Moscow even as Trump was more accommodating toward Russian President Vladimir Putin. U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election with a campaign of hacking and propaganda intended to boost Trump's candidacy.

Republican congressman Matt Gaetz, an outspoken defender of Trump, was asked to leave the closed session about an hour into Hill's testimony. Gaetz is not a member of any of the three House committees conducting the impeachment inquiry and Gaetz told reporters the House parliamentarian said he could not attend.

Giuliani faces a Tuesday deadline to produce documents related to the Ukraine matter subpoenaed by the House Intelligence Committee. He has not said whether he will comply.

U.S. President Donald Trump pauses as he addresses conservative activists at the Family Research Council's annual gala in Washington, U.S., October 12, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas
Lawmakers this week are returning from a two-



U.S. President Donald Trump pauses as he addresses conservative activists at the Family Research Council's annual gala in Washington, U.S., October 12, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

week recess, with testimony from current and former administration officials on the schedule. A key event could be testimony on Thursday from Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union.

Sondland, a Trump backer and not a career diplomat, participated in a text message exchange with Bill Taylor, the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine. Democrats say it reveals concern among aides that Trump's pressure on Ukraine to investigate Biden was improper.

Sondland is expected to be asked why he relayed from Trump to other diplomats that the president said no "quid pro quos" connecting the Biden investigation with the U.S. aid. Quid pro quo is a Latin term meaning a favor for a favor.

Trump has denied wrongdoing. The inquiry could prompt the House to approve articles of impeachment - formal charges - leading to a trial in the Senate on whether to remove Trump from office. The Senate is led by Trump's fellow Republicans,

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Editor's Choice



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Chanel Spring/Summer 2020 women's ready-to-wear collection show during Paris Fashion Week



Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes place their handprints and footprints in cement in Los Angeles



Primary school students use new textbooks during class at school that uses a new unified Somali curriculum, at Banadir zone school in Mogadishu, Somalia September 22, 2019. Picture taken September 22, 2019. REUTERS/Feisal Omar TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Chanel Spring/Summer 2020 women's ready-to-wear collection show during Paris Fashion Week



Rugby Union - Rugby World Cup - New Zealand Captain's Run - Beppu Jissoji Multipurpose Ground, Beppu, Japan, October 1, 2019 - New Zealand's TJ Perenara during training. REUTERS/Peter Cziborra TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A woman flashes a V-sign as she waves a Kurdish flag during a pro-Kurdish rally against Turkey's military action in northeastern Syria, in London, Britain, October 13, 2019. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

Astronaut Is Accused Of Accessing Her Wife's Bank Account From The International Space Station

NASA Investigates The First Possible Alleged Criminal Activity In Space



Overview

Bitter Divorce Battle on Earth Led to Claims of a Crime in Space

Astronaut Anne McClain was accused of accessing her estranged wife Summer Worden's bank account while she was in space.

Worden filed an identity theft complaint with the FTC against McClain.

Her parents also filed a complaint with NASA's Inspector General.

McClain said that she was just checking up on Worden's finances.

Worden's parents claim that McClain's actions were part of a custody battle over her son, who she gave birth to a year before the couple were married.

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

NASA is looking into claims that an astronaut accessed her estranged wife's bank account from space during a six-month stint on the International Space Station.

Decorated astronaut and US Army lieutenant colonel Anne McClain has been accused of improperly gaining access to Summer Worden's online bank account using NASA computers, the New York Times reported.

McClain allegedly accessed the bank account as part of a 'highly calculated and manipulated campaign' to obtain custody of Worden's son, who she had given birth to about a year before the couple got married.

Worden, a former Air Force intelligence officer, brought a complaint against McClain with the Federal Trade Commission, claiming that McClain had committed identity theft, even though none of Worden's funds had been tampered with.

She told the Times that she discovered McClain's actions after becoming curious about how McClain knew details about the way she'd been spending her money, even though they were separated and McClain was orbiting the earth.



Astronaut Anne McClain has been accused of improperly accessing her estranged spouse's financial information while on the International Space Station earlier this year

Worden's parents went a step further, filing a complaint against McClain with NASA's Office of Inspector General, al-

leging identity theft and improper access to Worden's private financial records. Last week, McClain, who is back on terra firma, sat down for an under-oath interview with the inspector general, during which she was said to have admitted that she did access Worden's banking information.

However, McClain apparently claimed that she was just doing something she had always done while she and Worden were still a couple - checking in on Worden's finances to make sure that there was enough money to support Worden's child, who they had been raising together.

McClain claimed that she was using the same password that she had always used during their relationship and that she had not been told to stop accessing Worden's bank account.



McClain's (left) estranged spouse, Summer Worden (right), filed an identity theft complaint with the FTC over the incident, while Worden's parents lobbed a complaint to NASA's Inspector General, claiming it's part of McClain's efforts to gain custody of Worden's child.

McClain and Worden married in 2014, with Worden filing for divorce in 2018 after McClain accused her of assault, a claim which Worden denies and said was part of McClain's efforts at gaining custody of her son. The assault case was eventually dismissed.

Worden had previously denied McClain's attempts to adopt the boy even after they'd gotten married.

In Worden's parents' complaint, they said that McClain's actions were part of a 'highly calculated and manipulative campaign' to obtain custody of Worden's

son, who she had given birth to about a year before the couple got married. McClain's lawyer told the Times that McClain 'she strenuously denies that she did anything improper' and cooperating with the investigation.

Worden told the New York Times that the FTC had not yet responded to her identity theft claims, but that investigators were accessing her family's complaint to NASA.

NASA officials declined to comment on its Office of the Inspector General's actions regarding the claims against McClain.

Ms. Worden put her intelligence background to work, asking her bank about the locations of computers that had recently accessed her bank account using her login credentials. The bank got back to her with an answer: One was a computer network registered to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



McClain claimed that she checked on Worden's bank account to make sure there were enough funds for the care of Worden's son, who they raised together while married.

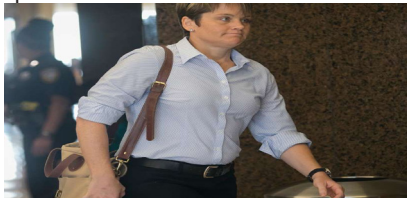
Ms. Worden's spouse, Anne McClain, was a decorated NASA astronaut on a six-month mission aboard the International Space Station. She was about to be part of NASA's first all-female spacewalk. But the couple's domestic troubles on Earth, it seemed, had extended into outer space.

Ms. McClain acknowledged that she had accessed the bank account from space, insisting through a lawyer that she was merely shepherding the couple's still-intertwined finances. Ms. Worden felt differently. She filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission and her family lodged one with NASA's Office of Inspector General, accusing Ms. McClain

of identity theft and improper access to Ms. Worden's private financial records. Investigators from the inspector general's office have since contacted Ms. Worden and Ms. McClain, trying to get to the bottom of what may be the first allegation of criminal wrongdoing in space.

"I was pretty appalled that she would go that far. I knew it was not O.K.," Ms. Worden said.

The five space agencies involved in the space station — from the United States, Russia, Japan, Europe and Canada — have long-established procedures to handle any jurisdictional questions that arise when astronauts of various nations are orbiting Earth together. But Mark Sundahl, director of the Global Space Law Center at Cleveland State University, said he was not aware of any previous allegation of a crime committed in space. NASA officials said they were also unaware of any crimes committed on the space station.



Astronaut Anne McClain back on earth.

Ms. McClain, now back on Earth, submitted to an under-oath interview with the inspector general last week. She contends that she was merely doing what she had always done, with Ms. Worden's permission, to make sure the family's finances were in order.

"She strenuously denies that she did anything improper," said her lawyer, Rusty Hardin, who added that the astronaut "is totally cooperating."

The domestic dispute in space may be the first such investigation, but it is unlikely that it will be the last.

"The more we go out there and spend time out there," A NASA spokesman said, "all the things we do here are going to happen in space." (Courtesy <https://www.msn.com> and <https://www.daily-mail.co.uk>)

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President Trump held a Rose Garden event to commemorate the establishment of the U.S. Space Command Thursday, August 29, 2019, as the president pushes for the creation of his sixth branch of the military, the Space Force.

Since the Space Force the president wants to create requires congressional authorization, the administration is establishing a U.S. Space Command that will draw from other parts of the armed forces. One “Space Command” already exists. The Air Force Space Command reports to STRATCOM, which reports to the Pentagon, just as the Pacific Command and the European Command do. Mr. Trump is visibly fascinated by furthering the United States’ role in space, emphasizing that doing so is key for national security. This move is an acknowledgment of the importance of space in military operations but is in essence a kind of rewiring of existing command arrangements.

The U.S. Space Command will be headed by Gen. John Raymond. The Trump administration submitted a proposal for the Space Force to Congress earlier this year.

With the United States Space Command being officially announced, President Trump added that before long, the U.S. will establish a sixth branch of the military, The U.S. Space Force, for space defense.



President Trump watches with Vice President Pence and Defense Secretary Mark Esper as the flag for U.S. Space Command is unfurled in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, DC, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019. (Photo/AP)

***U.S. Space Command Launches To
“Control The Next Warfighting Domain”***
**Trump Marks Establishment
Of U.S. Space Command**



President Donald Trump and U.S. General John W. Raymond mark the formal establishment of the U.S. Space Command on Aug. 29, 2019. (Photo/Chen Mengtong/China News Service/Getty)

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

“It’s a big deal,” Trump said in his speech at the unveiling of the new Space Command (also called SPACECOM) at the White House. “As the newest combatant command, SPACECOM will defend America’s vital interests in space — the next warfighting domain. And I think that’s pretty obvious to everybody. It’s all about space.”

Trump expressed concern that United States adversaries are “weaponizing Earth’s orbits with new technology targeting American satellites.” He added that the country needs to use its “freedom to operate in space” to seek and destroy missiles heading towards the United States.

Pending Senate confirmation, U.S. Space Command will be led by John “Jay” Raymond, an experienced hand in space operations. He is the Joint Force Space Component commander and used to be Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at

the U.S. Air Force headquarters.



Vice President Mike Pence speaks at the sixth meeting of the National Space Council at the National Air and Space Museum in Chantilly, Virginia, August 20, 2019.

The announcement was anticipated in the space community, since Vice President Mike Pence told the National Space

Council on Aug. 20 that U.S. Space Command would be ready by the end of the month. This is the Defense Department’s 11th unified combatant command; each command serves specific geographic regions or functions.

Trump’s idea for a “Space Force” is something he has been talking about for more than a year.

In February, he signed Space Policy Directive-4, directing the Pentagon to create a Space Force. The other military branches Space Force would join are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

VP Pence Rallies Support For U.S. Space Force

Vice President Mike Pence is rallying support for the Trump administration’s push to develop a the Space Force.

While speaking at the Pentagon Thursday, Pence argued it is the next and natural evolution of American military

strength.



U.S. Vice President Mike Pence
Tweet from Vice President Mike Pence
Vice President Mike Pence
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The next generation of Americans to confront the emerging threats in the boundless expanse of space will be wearing the uniform of the United States of America. 10:58 AM - Aug 9, 2018 4,454

12,171 people are talking about this Twitter Ads info and privacy: He also addressed key points in the Defense Department’s upcoming report on the matter, such as forming an elite group of fighters specialized to operate in the domain as well as a space command operation. Pence noted the administration is already working with Congress and the president will be requesting resources for the Space Force in February’s budget. He also addressed key points in the Defense Department’s upcoming report on the matter, such as forming an elite group of fighters specialized to operate in the domain as well as a space command operation.

Pence noted the administration is already working with Congress and the president will be requesting resources for the Space Force in February’s budget.

The vice president asserted the administration is seeking to add the new military branch by 2020. (Courtesy thehill.com)



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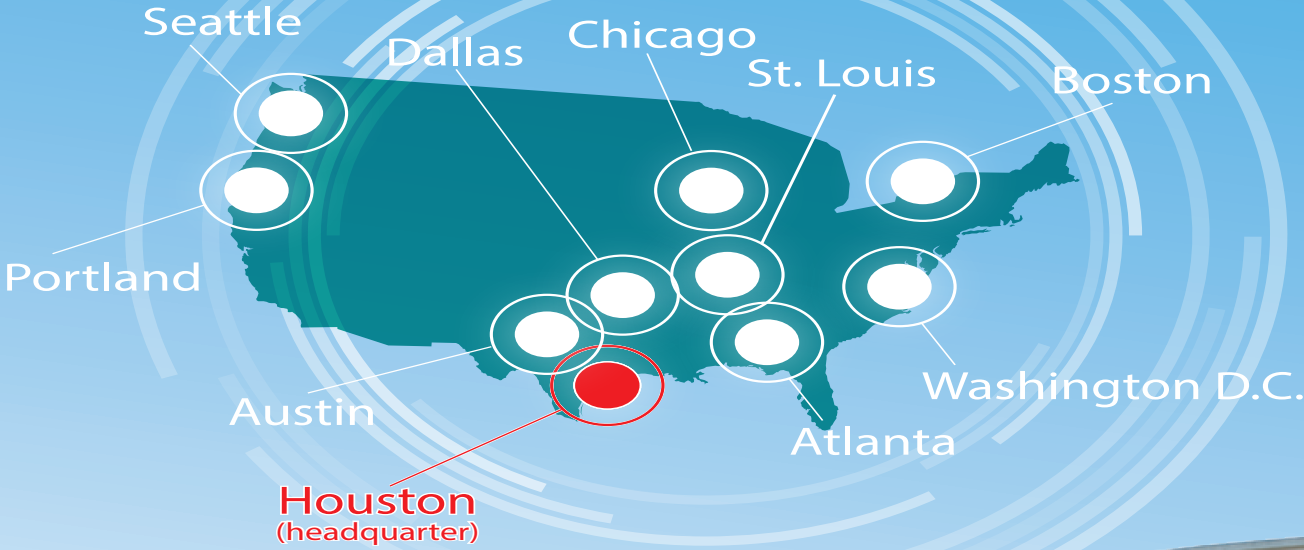
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