REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 2019-02-15  Agenda Item #: 2  □ In Favor  □ Opposed
Name to be called: Clive Richard  Representing: Self
Address (optional):  
Phone (optional):  Email (optional):  

Request to Speak: □ Yes  □ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:


Please Submit to the Clerk
REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 2-1-19 and 2-15-19

Agenda Item #: 2

Name: John G. Watzka

Representing: Self-Private Sector

Address: [Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

Request to Speak: ☑️ Yes ☐ No

If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below you want included in the public record:

1.0 Road, Rail, High-speed Rail, Bridges
2.0 Transportation Environmental Issues
3.0 Public and Military Issues
4.0 Water Issues
5.0 Transport Section Issues
6.0 Transportation Financial Issues
7.0 Traffic and Congestion Issues
8.0 Energy and Environmental Issues

Please Submit to the Clerk of the Board
2-15-19 Transportation Committee Meeting

1.0 Roads, Rail, High-speed Rail, Bridges, Busses, Bicycle, and Ride-share Issues

1.1 Roads

1.1.3 State, County, and City

Update on San Diego as a city based on the automobile or to spur housing, wiping out parking with its poor-quality transit system. Young professionals are looking to decrease car use and ownership.


- San Diego welcomed 35.8E6 visitors in 2018 and has a $19E6-advertising campaign that includes all new TV Commercials. It is the 8th-year of consecutive growth of 2.3% and spending of $11.3E9.-Air travel to San Diego was up 10% over 2017 in 2018. San Diego relies heavily on out-of-towners from Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Las Vegas. Also, the uptick in air travel shows they are coming in from more distant locations in the U.S. to vacation and do business. Flights from Mexico are up 20%, Japan-8%. Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles had visitations of: 57.6E6, 65.2E6, and 50E6 respectively, all with growths higher than San Diego.


- A 20-ft wide sinkhole on Rancho Peñasquitos Street on 2-5-19 was closed to traffic on Park village Road near Darkwood Road near a school. It may be related to a broken storm drain that runs parallel to the center median.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-6-19 pp. 82

1.2 Rail

The Association of American Railroads gave a presentation of new technology to the U.S. Congress.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 10-11

1.2.1 Interstate Freight Systems

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality was awarded a $574E3 federal RESTIRE grant to fund planning, surveying, and permitting for a 4,300-foot rail connector for the Port of Pascagoula in Jackson County, FL.

Ref: Railway Age, June 208 pp. 7

- Update on use of Big Data in railroad maintenance. Railinc. Houses 100-tera-bytes of data with 2,500-business customers and 65E3 users.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 43-47 & May 2018 pp. 34-37

1.2.2 Construction Materials

The Boards of GE and Wabtec on May 21, 2018 approved the merger of GE Transportation with Webtec in a $11.1E9 deal. The merger will be a major player in railroad equipment and services with operations in more than 50-countries. The company will have revenues of $8E9 with more than 23E3-locomotives in the global installed base.
• Update on grinding railroad track rail-heads.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 “Honing-in on Rail Profiles” pp. 38-41

1.2.3 Car Types

Update on railroad equipment leasing, railcar market continues a slight upward trajectory, led by increases in intermodal loading—due to capacity issues in the trucking market. Other issues are: 10-year treasury bond interest rates, infrastructure funding bill’s in Washington, issues of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement—USMCA—[former-NAFTA], heavy steel tariffs, changes in depreciation, corporate taxes, and the border wall with Mexico. There is an increased demand for retrofitting older tank rail cars to the DOT 117R spec. Looking back to 2014 gives a good history of crude by rail—CBR—needs and conflicts with placing pipelines, adds more pressure on movement to CBC. Moving refined fuels to Mexico is another issue for tank rail car needs, for the 1232-design and DOT 117-design. Growth in the chemical businesses is creating more market pressure for mid-sized general-purpose capacity tank rail cars of 23.5-Mg [Mg=1,000s of gallons] and 25.5-Mg-capacity. DOT 117s lease-outs are near capacity. Plastic pellet hoppers, grain covered hoppers, mill Gondola’s [used for loose materials], sand hoppers, and non-crude ethanol tank rail car demand is up for 23.5-Mg DOT 117 spec. tank rail cars, and 25.5-Mg tank rail cars. Crude and ethanol car lease demand is moving up and UP and BNSF only want to use the DOT 117 and 117R cars, moving away from the 1232 DOT 111As.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 27-34

1.2.4 Urban Light Rail Systems

Updates on passenger rail systems in: 1-CA’s CHSRA Bullet Train has a new Business Plan as of May 2018, that is required to be renewed every 2-years, with Brian Kelly the present chief executive now, for the San Francisco to Los Angeles Section by 2033 at a cost of $77E9 by borrowing against the cap-and-trade emissions program. HSR currently receives 25% of cap-and-trade revenues that expires in 2030. Kelly is asking the for an extension to 2050; 2-President Trump in March signed the $1.3E12 omnibus spending bill, with $1.9E9 for Amtrak that funds $650E6 for the Northeast Corridor grants and $1.9E9 for national intercity network with $541 for the Gateway project outside Manhattan and a new tunnel connecting New Jersey and New York under the Hudson River. Former Delta Air Lines chief Richard Anderson was brought in to run Amtrak; 3-VIA Rail Canada, will get new locomotives on the Quebec City-Windsor Corridor; 4-in Boston, MA, China Rail Rolling Stock has a new pilot trainset car for testing on the MBTA. They are designing 404-subway vehicles for the MBTA building a $95E6, 204E3-ft² railcar manufacturing facility, a test track, and staging/storing area in Springfield; 5-In RI, Amtrak and MBTA have a new Attleboro Line Agreement where Amtrak will provide maintenance-of-way, and dispatching, through 2021; 6-In CN an interstate commuter line connecting Hartford to New Haven and Springfield. The MA-high-speed line, began in 2004 to help congestion on I-91 and have 17-daily round trips; 7-In New York they will roll out “Fast Forward”, a $19E9 funding to NYCT for upgrades and facilitate Communications Based Train Control—CBTC—, buy 650-new subway cars, and upgrade 1,200-older cars; 8-In New Jersey they will fund $383E6 for new projects and a power station for its Port Authority Trans-Hudson rapid transit system; 9-In Philadelphia SEPTA began operations for an order of 13-Siemens ACS-64 electric locomotives to operate with 36-Bomardier coaches and 45-new coaches on order with CRRC, due by 2019; 10-Baltimore Washington, rebuilt LRVs for MTA from CAF USA-parent based-in Spain, are
arriving on the property. The Purple Line began construction in August with testing to begin in 2020. Maryland DOT awarded a joint venture of Hitachi Rail Italy and Ansaldo STS USA, Hitachi Ansaldo Baltimore Rail Partners, a contract for $400.5E6 for rail cars and a CBTC system for Baltimore Metro Subway Link. MD DOT-MTA awarded Amtrak a 5-year contract to continue operations of MARC commuter rail services; 11-In New Hampshire, Nashua contracted Aecom to bring commuter rail back to the city near MA; 12-In Norfolk/Virginia Beach there will be a delay in the Tide light rail on the west side over funding and water issues; 13-In Charlotte a light rail LYNX Blue Line Extension with double-track roadbed and 11-stations was added and other upgrades including 5,000-new apartments; 14-In Nashville the “Lets Move Nashville” proposal was rejected at $6.6E9 funding; 15-In Chattanooga plans for HSR between Chattanooga and Atlanta is on the table for a route along I-75 with a 10-year federal study from 2017 at a cost of $8.76E9; 16-In Atlanta they will add commercial development along MARTA owned properties; 17-In Orlando SunRail opened its Poincian, station and 3-other stations; 18-In Tampa Bay a $1.7E6 study will propose 2-routes for Tampa’s 2.7-mi TECO Line streetcar system; 19-In Fort Lauderdale the Wave streetcar came to a halt over costs; 20-In Miami, Brightline—a mid-higher-speed, private operator, All Aboard Florida—unit of Florida East Coast industries, at speeds of 79-mph with Siemens-built diesel trainsets between new stations in January 2018 and Miami station in May 2018; 21-In Buffalo, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority wants to add concession stands on its lines and upgraded stations; 22-In Cleveland with a bid for Amazon’s 2nd-headquarters proposed increasing commuter rail from 37-mi to 111-mi by 2029; 23-In Cincinnati a street car operation was launched but having issues with downtown traffic; 24-In Chicago bids are out for a new express line from the downtown Loop to O’Hare International Airport with Boing company led by Tesla with his Hyperloop technology; 25-In Detroit they are proposing a transit plan between Ann Arbor and Detroit, and other routes; 26-In Milwaukee Amtrak proposed to increase its Chicago-Milwaukee Hiawatha Line. A 2nd-street car was delivered from Brookville Equipment Corp; 27-In Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN the Southwest light-rail line could began in summer 2018 at a cost of $2.0E9; 28-In Kansas City a 1% sales tax proposed for a southern extension of the KC Streetcar; 29-In St. Louis a test of the Loop Trolley is ongoing; 30-In New Orleans new transit corridors are being studied and expansion of street cars is on-going; 31-In Baton Rouge is planning a new Orleans-Baton Rouge passenger line; 32-In Oklahoma City testing is being done on streetcar systems to open in December 2018 from Bricktown with Chesapeake Energy Arena, the new convection center, and Myriad Gardens. The downtown loop is slated for completion in October 2018. The fleet is powered by Brookville’s Liberty Modern Streetcar; 33-In Dallas/Fort Worth is planning for a $3.0E9 funding for new light rail lines in its mobility 2045-Plan for 20-years, including a corridors section of rail extensions and new lines. For $1.8E9, the McKinney Line would extend the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Red Line through the end of line at Plano through Allen and up to McKinney and Fairview. The Frisco Line would start at the South Transit Center and run north to 5-cities including Frisco, at a cost of $1.2E9. The study also recommends 4-other rail corridors radiating from the cities of Fort Worth, Midlothian and Dallas.; 34-In Houston Bechtel will work with Texas Central on the $10.0E9 HSR between North TX in Houston and the MTA will purchase 14-LRVs with a transfer of purchase rights order, and be routed through Minneapolis; 35-In Austin plans are on-going for Project Connect featuring 11-light rail commuter rail and bus rapid transit lines costing $10.5E9; 36-In Denver automated crossing protection technology is being proposed; 37-In Salt Lake City officials are planning a new TRAX light rail line called Point of the Mountain; 38-In Albuquerque the Rail Runner Commuter service between Balen and Santa Fe will get upgrades to its Bombardier Rail bilevel car interiors, and mid-life overhauls for 9-MotivePower Inc. MP36PH-3C diesel-electric locomotives at $300E3-each; 39-In Phoenix/Temple rails were delivered in January 2018 to support the 3-mi Valley Metro Tempe Streetcar Loop around the
University of AZ with 14-stations at $190E6 and be on line by 2021; 40-In Tucson Sun Tran raised transit fees for the 3.9-mi Sun Link streetcar, and its 2nd-phase of a 2-part fare change to add Frequent Transit Network and enhancements to bus stops and shelters. 41-Honolulu will need $8E9 to complete its elevated fixed-guideway rail system. HART and is looking for private investment—P3s for funding. Groundbreaking for the final 4.1-mi, 8-station segment is planned for 2019 and will be fully operational by December 2025. 42-In San Diego the CSTA funded $40.4E6 for projects in San Diego County to improve Pacific Surfliner and Coaster Rail service by investing in signal improvements for the mainline program and installing new fencing along the railroad right-of-way. Crews broke ground on the next phase of construction for the mid-Coast Trolley down the middle of Genesee Ave. in La Jolla, an 11-mi extension of the Blueline to University City. The 1.8E9 project is scheduled for operation by 2021; 43-In Los Angeles County, Metro received a $188.3E6 from the CA state Transportation Agency for new light rail and bus rapid transit extension and integrate with Metrolink and Amtrak. The LOSSAN rail Corridor received $188.3E6 including $147.9E6 to address current and future constraints on the northern section in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo with double track systems and other upgrades to Pacific Surfliner on-time performance; 44-In Santa Ana the Orange County Transportation Authority’s 8-Board of Directors in March 2018, approved the $51.5E6 purchase of 8-S70 vehicles from Siemens for the Orange County street-car linking Santa and Garden Grove, and start operations in 2019; 45-In San Bernardino passenger rail project was completed in December 2017, extending Metrolink’s San Bernardino and Inland Empire/Orange County lines 1-mi from the Santa Fe Depot to the newly finished San Bernardino Transit Center—SBTC—. The SBTC will host Arrow, the light rail service between San Bernardino and the Redlands to launch in 2021; 46-In the San Jose Bay Area Rapid Transit—BART—is turning to extreme construction methods to get its $4.8E9 Silicon Valley extension under the city with a bissel tunnel for 5-miles of east-and-westward tracks, platforms, and other items, within a single tunnel. It’s been employed successfully by the Barcelona subway but never in the U.S. It will cut 10-months off the 5-year project. BART continues to test 80-mph trains on the 10-mi route from Fremont to Berryessa due to open in 2019. In the East Bay, BART was scheduled to operate its 1st-diesel line to Antioch in May; 47-In the San Francisco/Bay Area, excavation was completed in April under China Town for the Central subway, the $1.6E9,1.7-mi extension of Muni’s T-Third Line, with operation expected in 2019 but could be too 2021, says Tutor Perini; 48-In Stockton the state approved a $750E3 planning grant for an Altamont Corridor Express (ACE)—BART connection. The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission awarded Siemens a $30E6 contract to build 4-Charger locomotives with option for 4-more that will service ACE with future extensions to Ceres, Modesto, and Sacramento with delivery in December 2019; 49-In Sacramento the regional transit new chief executive Henry Li received a 33% increase in compensation after he balanced the budget in one year, and restored reserves to $8.0E6 with staff cuts, and cleaned up trains and stations. A state of CA Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Improvements Program will fund 20-new low-floor light rail vehicles and a 2nd-grant of $20.3E6 underwrites a double-tracking on the Gold Line to Folsom; 50-In Portland TriMet’s 17-year-old Portland street car set a record in April with 16,650-weekly rides on its 2-lines even as the MAX light rail had a decline of 1.7% ridership, and 2-new cars built by Brookville Equipment Corp. will enter service in 2020; 51-In Seattle-Tacoma Sound transit’s Hilltop Tacoma Link—STHTL—light rail extension received $75E6 from the FTA through its small starts grant program. Service will start in 2022 to the Hilltop District of Tacoma’s downtown corridor. STHTL contracted with Brookville Equipment Corp. for a $26.5E6 for 5-Liberty LRVs and an option for 10-more; 52-In Vancouver, Microsoft pledged an additional $300E3 to a study of high-speed rail service between Seattle and Vancouver, Canada. WA state added $750E3 and British Columbia $300E3. The Cascadia Innovation Corridor service would connect the cities in less than
an hour. A Translink public survey, found increased SkyTrain Service and building the Broadway subway, among the 3-most important elements of the 10-year, $7.3E9 Metro Vancouver Regional Transportation Plan; s3-In Edmonton, Canada, Transed Partners is building the 1st-phase of Edmonton’s light-rail Valley Line Southeast and released images of the 1st-Bombardier Flexity Freedom LRV. Bombardier is building 20-LRVs for the 8.6-mi route in Kingston, Ontario; s4-In Calgary, Ottawa will invest C$1.53E9 in the Green line LRT. The 1st-stage includes 12.4-mi of track, 14-stations, 70-low-floor vehicles, maintenance facility, 8-bridges, 4-tunnels, and 3-parl-and-ride lots. The project starts in 2020 and will be completed by 2026; s5-Ontario and Metrolinx issued a Request for Qualifications for the Lakeshore West GO Transit corridor, part of GO Regional ExpressRail Program to transform the GO RER program. Mosaic Transit Group signed a DBFM contract worth C$2.5E9 for the Finch West Light Rail Transit project to open in 2023. In the heavy rail service, Ontario committed C$11E9 to make higher-speed rail service between Toronto and Windsor a reality in 2025; s6-In Montreal their futuristic, for profit passenger railway system, Réseau express métropolitain—REM—, moved from concept to concrete in February 2018 with the award of C$6.3E9 of construction contracts by Caisse de depot et placement and started construction in spring 2018.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 16-24, google.com: Bombardier Flexity Freedom, and etc.-video, and Google.com: valley line LRT animations

- Mitsui Rail Capital Europe—MRCE—awarded Siemens a contract to supply 25-additional Vectron locomotives to a Vectron fleet of 136-units, 10-6.4-MW multisystem locomotives be delivered by the end of 2018, 10-more for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor, and 5-5.2-MW 3-kV dc units for use in Italy to be delivered during 2019.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 7

- The Canadian federal government committed C$1.53E9 for Calgary’s Green Line Light Rail Project in Alberta, be 28.58-mi long with 28-stations, storage facilities, 8-bridges, 4-tunnels, 70-low-floor light-rail vehicles and 3-park-ride facilities. The project will start in 2020 and be completed by 2026 at C$4.65e9 from federal and provincial and municipal funding sources.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 7

- The California Transportation Commission—CTC—in May 2018 approved $703.6E6 in SB-1 funding for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority—LACMTA—as it’s funds allocations. The California Transportation Agency—CalSTA has a SB-1 award for funding transit and Intercity rail improvements with some $1.0E9 for LACMTA. Additionally, funding of $703.6E6 from CTC and award of $1.088E9 from CalSTA the state commitment is more than $1.088E9 for LACMTA. LACMTA will combine SB-1 gas tax funds with locally generated transportation sales tax contributions and delivering Measure M and R projects. Measure R approved in 2016 will get a 0.5% sales tax increase for funding for 30-years to 2039 and Measure M funds public transit and was passed with 70% approval.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 12

- 5-possible routes for moving the train tracks off the eroding Del Mar bluffs were outlined this week by regional transportation officials. 4-of the ideas involve twin sets of tracks, drilled or bored through the ground, as deep as 270-feet below the surface, and up to a mile or more inland. The 5th-calls for a deep trench that follows Camino Del Mar, known as Highway 101. Construction could take as long as decades and cost $2.5E9 to $3.5E9.

1.2.5 Amtrak

Amtrak is using its privileged position of Congressional intent to expand private-sector operation of passenger trains. It will squeeze monopoly rents from state and regional transit authorities, whose commuter trains share Amtrak-owned facilities. In Chicago, Amtrak has since 2015 been controlling physical and economic access to Amtrak-owned passenger stations, and forced higher rents on non-Amtrak commuter operations, choking off private sector competition for long-distance train operation.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 14

1.2.6 International Freight Systems

The Baja California RR has made little progress on rehabilitating the Desert Line since it was taken over on the 70-mi stretch from Tecate to Plaster City 2-years ago. The company said it would complete the $60E6 upgrade of rail tracks, tunnels, and bridges by 2020. Baja Rail pays MTS $1.0E6/yr for the rights to operate the agency’s line. The company needs U.S. C&BP guidance on the project-specifically if C&BP will require inspection facilities at each end of the line or a joint complex in Mexico.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-8-19 pp. B1 & B4

1.3 High-Speed Rail

1.3.2 Higher-Speed Rail

1.3.2.1 U.S. Systems in North America—151-230-mph

The California High Speed Rail Authority approved “Making Downtown Bakersfield” station Area Vision Plan and EIR.

Ref: Railway Age June 2018 pp. 7

• Gov. Newsom announced in his 1st-State of the State speech, he intends to scale back California’s $77E9 Bullet Train project saying it can be done on the 1st-leg in the Central Valley but extending it to Southern California and the Bay Area would “cost too much and respectfully, take too long” He supports HrSR between Bakersfield and Merced, said it would invigorate the economy in California’s midsection and reduce the region’s air pollution. Cost overruns, mismanagement, and delays will need to be reassessed.


1.4 Bridges

1.4.3 State, County, and City

The Massachusetts Bay Transport authority awarded $7E6 to design a replacement for the century-old Boston & Maine draw-bridge over the Saugus River.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 7

1.5 Buses

South Bay Rapid starts its Fall Service Route on 1-27-19 connecting the Otay Mesa Transit Center and downtown San Diego, in an hour during rush-hr traffic, from 1-27-19 to 2-2-19.
1.7 Ride-share, Delivery, and Transportation-networks

Over 1-year a Los Angeles emergency department says more people were injured on standing electric scooters than riding bicycles or walking on foot. There were some 249-patents from scooters.


- Los Angeles Wheels unloaded 500-more electric bikes in the Gaslamp by Brothers behind the dog-walking app. Wag that raised $400E6 and is used in 100-cities. They will use executives from Uber, Bird, and Lyft, and closed a $37E6 round to push Wheels in other cities. Bikes are free to unlock and cost 25c/min and Uber's costs $1 to unlock and 10c/min. A Wheels promotion until February 1, 2019 will allow users to get unlimited free rides on certain e-bikes downtown.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-24-19 pp. B1

- There were only 11-scooter related citations issued in San Diego from 2014 to 2017. In 2018 the numbers leaped to 1,560 over a recent 8-month period. Some 90% were to adults without helmets, violating a law that became effective in January 2019. No helmet is needed if riding under 35-mph. San Diego and CA are giving out the most tickets and the major injuries are brain damage conditions.

2.0 Port and Military Issues

2.1 Ports

2.1.3 LNG and CNG Terminals

Exxon Mobil and Qatar will go ahead with the joint-$10.0E9 Golden Pass LNG Export facility from an LNG export terminal on the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Ref: Market Watch 2-5-19

2.1.4 U.S.

Oliver McMillan walked away from a $361E6 hotel development on East Harbor Island site.


2.1.6 Maintenance Operations

A recent survey by the American Association of Port Authorities found a need for $20E9 during the next decade.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 6

2.2 Military

2.2.1 Ships and Planes

The Polar Star—one of the U.S. Cost Guard’s icebreakers on a supply mission to Antarctica faced a power outage that required the electrical system to be shut down and be rebooted. Divers also had to dive in the frigid waters to repair a leaking seal on the propeller shaft, and one of the two systems for drinking water failed. On a prior trip the ship experienced a leak in the engine room that needed to be
repaired. Healy is the other icebreaker that is a less powerful ship. The Polar Star is 12-years beyond its design-life.

Ref: NBC News 2-1-19

- The Navy’s Michael Monsoor DDG1000 ultra-powerful destroyer was commissioned in San Diego at the Naval Air Station, North Island in Coronado. It is the 2nd-of 3-high tech-and expensive-Zumwalt-class guided missile destroyers.

![Image](image-url)

*This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND*

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-26-19 pp. A3 and Google.com: inside the uss Zumwalt, the navy’s most advanced warship

- The Navy commissioned a stealthy $4.6E9 destroyer, the Michael Monsoor DDG 1000 that is q of 3-in the Navy arsenal. In a 2008 shift, the navy refocused the force on the Arleigh Burke and Zumwalt orders dwindled from 32 to 24, than 7, and finally 3. The next ship the Lyndon B Johnson is expected in 2022. The Zumwalt’s are designed to attack targets on shore. The ships gun’s ammunition for its 155-mm advanced Gun System jumped to $800,000/round, it was reoriented as a surface-to-surface combatant with conventional guns and missiles. The Monsoor was damaged during sea trials and one of its $20E6-engines was damaged. The Zumwalt has a missile launch system called Peripheral Vertical Launch System.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-26-19 pp. B1 & B4

2.2.2 International Issues

Mark Lowcock said the U.N. wants an aid convoy with 100-trucks accompanied by 50-UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent personal to leave for the Rukban Camp on the Syria-Jordan border by 2-5 where 42E3-people remain stranded since the last convoy reached the area—the 1st since January 2018. Tens of thousands of people were forced to leave the area.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-31-19 pp. A3

- President Nicolás Maduro cut diplomatic ties with the U.S. and gave American diplomats 72-hours to get out of the country, accusing President Trump of plotting to overthrow him. Secretary of State Pompeo said the U.S. would ignore the order. Opposition political leader Juan Gualdó declared himself interim president and he was encouraged by President Trump, who said he would use more sanctions. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, and the Organization of American States recognized him too.—President Nicolás Maduro is backed by the armed forces and Russia.—More on Venezuela as Maduro backs off in getting U.S. Embassy personal to leave the country.—President Maduro of Venezuela
warned the U.S. against intervening in his country that would lead to a Vietnam worse than they can imagine.—Venezuela’s opposition says they are preparing to deliver tens of millions of dollars in food and medicine to ease shortages and undermine the authoritarian rule of Nicolás Maduro. Some agency’s foreign aid will turn humanitarian aid into a political weapon. President Maduro has relied on food handouts to keep his political base loyal during the country’s long economic collapse. Getting aid to parts of Maduro’s security forces will be a challenge and test of the opposition’s ability to rally the nation and establish an interim government that is recognized by 30-nations and the U.S.—Venezuelan authorities set up barriers to block entry of donated food and medicine from Columbia amid an escalating political dispute over humanitarian aid. The self-proclaimed opposition government that controls no territory or border posts, called on troops and police to allow entry of aid from the U.S., Canada, and the E.U. The aid is in route from Bogota to Colombia. President Maduro—a socialist ruler says the aid will only prelude to a U.S.-led invasion of Venezuela and said there will be no war in Venezuela.—Trucks carrying U.S. humanitarian aid destined for Venezuela arrived on 2-5-19 at the Columbian border, where opposition leaders vowed to bring them into the country. President Maduro says there is no crises and they are not a country of beggars.


- Chinese President Xi Jinping sought to push Taiwanese closer to unification, with a new year spent mixed with carrots and sticks. His Independence leaning Taiwanese counter-part, Tsai Ing-wen has more support in her political party. The well-established democracy is inclined to resist China’s demands, despite political economic and military threats from Beijing.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-31-19 pp. A3

- President Trump challenges Intel Corp. officials and tells them to go back to school on issues with North Korea and Iran.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-31-19 pp. A4

- Legislation introduced by Senator Warren, and Rep. Smith, introduced the “No First Use Act” to codify in law that most Americans believe the U.S. should never initiate a nuclear war with use of nukes.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-31-19 pp. A4

- President Trump said he will announce the 2\(^{nd}\) meeting location between Marshal Kim Jong Un and himself in the State of the Union Address.—President Trump announced his 2\(^{nd}\)-Summit with Marshal Kim Jong Un in Vietnam on February 27—28. Low level talks have been bogged down in recent months.—Senior American negotiator Stephen Biegun arrived in North Korea on 2-7-19 to sort out crucial details for a nuclear summit met in Vietnam.—Washington and Seoul signed an agreement on how to share the cost of the U.S. military presence in South Korea before meeting with Kim Jong Un and is for 1-year. South Korea will contribute 1.04E12-won or $925E6 in 2019 for 28,500-U.S. troops in South Korea—a 8.2% increase from 2017 when South Korea paid 960E9-won—half the cost of hosting the troops. The deal is subject to parliamentary approval and was signed on 2-10-19 in Seoul by South Korean Chang Won-sam and American Timothy Betts. The U.S. is committed to defending South Korea and the U.S. withdrew its earlier demand that South Korea provide “operational support” helping pay the costs for U.S. soldiers, aircraft carriers, and war planes, with the South. The previous 5-year deal expired on December 31, 2018 but the new deal is only for 1-year and will need to agree on a new deal for 2020. The negotiations to
replace the old agreement went past the December 2018 deadline, as South Korea resisted Washington’s demand that raised its contribution by 50%.


- President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan sent a letter to President Trump offering to reduce costs for keeping troops in his country.—After 6-days of negotiations, Taliban insurgents and U.S. officials in Qatar are closer to a plan for the U.S. to leave Afghanistan after 17-years.—Local Afghan officials blame U.S. military for 2-air-strikes that killed 29-people this week—mostly women and children in fighting in Helmand province as U.S. diplomats negotiated possible peace terms with the Taliban.—The U.S. said they would leave Afghanistan if the Taliban pledged to not host terrorists like al-Qaeda after face-to-face talks between U.S. Zalmay Khalizas and Talban officials in Doha, Qatar where insurgents have an office.—The Taliban launched a pre-dawn attack on an Army base in Northern Afghanistan on 2-5-19 killing 26-members of the Security forces in North Kunduz province as representatives of the Taliban were told to hold meetings in Moscow with Afghan fighters including former President Hamld Karzai, opposition leaders, and Tribal elders but not Kabul government officials.—Taliban official Abdul Slm Hanafi said on 2-6-19 the U.S. promised to withdraw 50% of U.S. forces from Afghanistan by the end of April but the military, Army Col. Rob Manning, said they did not get orders to do so.


- A military base deep in Saudi Arabia appears to show its manufacturing ballistic missiles and a weapon program. Officials had criticized Iran for possessing. Saudi Arabia’s Prince Mohammed bin Salman said they will develop nuclear weapons if Iran does.


- The Rome, Pope Frances celebrated the 1st-papal mass in the Arabian Peninsula for 180E3-people, capping a visit to the UAE, that emphasized the minority Christians with a general understanding of Islam. The mass was at the Zayed Sports City Stadium named for the founding father of the UAE that drew Catholics from the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Uganda, and Lebanon, seeking Emirates jobs, safety, and tolerance. The Pope moved through the crowd chanting “Viva il Papa” and “We love you! Yellow and white Vatican flags decorated the stadium. Vatican Alessandro Gisotti said some 180E3-people attended with 4,000-Muslims. The population of the UAE is some 9E6-people. The Pope is with migrant workers that spend years working in foreign country’s to send money home to their families.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-6-19 pp. A3

- There is a populist “leprosy” rising in Europe over issues with Europe’s Nationalist forces by Italy’s Matteo Salvni who said France should get rid of its progressive President Emmanuel Macron. Italy’s Deputy Primer Minister Luigi Di Maio, leader of the populist Five Star Movement met in France with the leader of the Yellow Vest protesters, who besieged Macron’s government with violent protests.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-8-19 pp. A3

- NATO’s Secretary General Stoltenberg says Russia shows no signs of respecting a major cold war-era missile treaty, and the future of the pact is in danger as the U.S. readies to pull out of it this week.—Russia abandoned the INF Treaty on 2-2-19 but will only deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles if Washington does so, says President Putin.

• The heart of Berlin with memories of Gestapo and Stasi has bloomed an intelligence service headquarters with funding of $1.23E9 on 64-acres was inaugurated by Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-10-19 pp. A15

• The Trump Adm. announced the U.S. will pull out of a Nuclear Arms Control Treaty, with Russia, ending a cornerstone Cold War Agreement and fears of a new Nuclear Arms Race in Europe and Asia. President Trump says Russia is violating the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces—INF—Treaty, as the U.S. adjusts since the pact was signed 30-years ago. The INF eliminated 2,600-missiles in Europe, but China is not bound by the INF-treaty. The Trump Adm. emphasizes National Sovereignty over International Cooperation. In addition to the INF Treaty, Trump has left the Iran Nuclear Deal, Paris Climate Accord, and threatened to pull out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—NATO—, and World Trade Organization—WTO—. The New Start pact, is also at risk—that limits Russian and American deployed strategic nuclear war heads placement, that expires in 2-years, and is leading to a full Cold War-style Arms Race.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-2-19 pp. A1

• President Putin ramped up warnings his country is developing new hypersonic missiles that travel at 5-times the speed of sound. Ground missiles of with range of 300 to 3,400-mi were banned by President Regan in Soviet leader Gorbachev's-era in 1987.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-7-2019 pp. A9

• Russia’s President Putin and Turkish counter-part Recep Tayyip Erdogan, met on 1-23-19 to coordinate moves in Syria, as they bargained over 3-zones in the war-torn country. The YPG is the main component of the Syrian Democratic focus that rolled back wide parts of Syria, with help of the U.S.-led coalition.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-24-19 pp. A3

• The U.S. forces killed 24-al-Shabab extremists with an air-strike in Somalia, near Shebeeley.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-1-19 pp. A3

• 4-CV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor planes were spotted in Vietnam for the 1st-time at the Danang International Airport.
3.0 Water Issues

3.2 Rivers and Lakes

3.2.1 Dams

The dam that held back mining waste, collapsed on 1-25-19 inundating a nearby community in reddish-brown sludge, killing some 7-people and others are missing near Brumadinho, Brazil.—The Brazilian, State of Mines Gerais, paid homage to 110-victims that were killed or missing from the dam collapse and released a video of the powerful wave as it came down.


4.0 Pipelines and Tunnel Issues

5.0 Transportation Environmental Issues

5.1 Maritime Transportation Emissions

Residents near the Port of San Diego from Barrio Logan to National City for decades have breathed some of the most polluted air in CA. The low-income communities pleaded for relief, suffering severe risks for asthma and cancer. Arguments in a debate of whether its coming from port facilities or freeway pollution are ongoing Clarity is being sought, if it comes from diesel-powered cranes, cargo ships and freight trucks, or traffic on I-5. Millions of dollars of state monies have flowed from Sacramento to San Diego in a statewide effort to cleanup disadvantaged communities dubbed, the Community Air Protection Program. CARB targeted 10-communities in the state for air monitoring and cleanup from Richmond in the Bay Area, to East Los Angeles, to port neighborhoods in San Diego.


6.0 Transportation Financial Issues

6.5 State, County, and City

In Los Angeles the California Transportation Commission approved $703.6E6 in SB-1 tax revenues funding for LACMTA-Metro. The California Transportation Agency—CalSTA will also fund $1.0E9 for Metro.

Ref: Railway Age, June 2018 pp. 7
7.0 Airport and Global Space Issues

7.1.1 Planes

An early prototype of the Boeing self-driving air taxi that completed its 1st-flight at an airfield in Virginia on 1-22-19.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-24-19 pp. C3

7.1.3 Infrastructure

The U.S. Marines and Navy Seabees are rebuilding the mountain top runway on storied Santa Catalina Island. Funding of $5E6 was from a non-profit land trust. They had been spending $250E3/yr to keep it operating but it now needs a long-term repair plan. The airport is a private airport.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-27-19 pp. A18

- The San Diego Airport said they would make room for and find a transit station location, near Terminal 1's, $3.0E9 redevelopment plan.


- SANDAG issued a “request for information” - a preliminary effort to developers who have big-but-doable idea’s on where and how to build a Grand Central Station in San Diego to connect the SDIA, Busses, Light Rail and HSR Bullet Train in one place.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-9-19 pp. C1 and C4

7.1.5 Safety

The Transportation Security Adm. said 4,239-fire-arms were found in carry-on bags coming through airport check points in the U.S. in 2018—an increase of 7% over 2017 and 9 of 10 were loaded with 33% holding a round in the chamber.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-8-19 pp. A10

7.1.6 U.S.

California Pacific Airlines that took 8-years to take flight laid-off all its employees and informed the FAA on January 16, 2019 it had ceased operations in Carlsbad, over pilot shortages issues and routes in the West Coast, South Dakota, and Colorado have stopped.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-2-19 pp. C1 & C2

7.2 Energy Suppliers

7.2.4 Edison International

7.2.4.1 Mars

In January after the death of Paul Allen, Stratolaunch System Corp. said it would cease development of a rocket engine and 2-satellite-launching rockets, as well as a rocket-powered plane that could take a crew to space. It will focus on conducting a 1st-test flight of its massive satellite-launching aircraft. Elon Musk’s Space X and British Richard Branson’s Virgin Galactic announced layoffs, as Virgin Galactic reshapes its workers for commercial operations of its space tourism business, and Hawthorne-
based Space X pivots to development of its satellite Internet project and Mars rocket and spaceship program.

![Rocket Image](https://example.com/rocket.jpg)

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-1-19 pp. C1 & C4 and Google.com: space x rocket raptor engine that will go to mars

- On 2-13-19 NASA’s Opportunity—the rover built to operate just 3-months but kept going, was pronounced dead on 2-13-19. It was domed by a dust storm 8-months ago, it outlived its twin, the Spirit rover by several years, and both landed on opposite sides of Mars in 2004, for a 90-day mission. Opportunity traveled 28-miles.

Ref: MNS News 2-13-18

- NASA will join the Sea Education Association and take college students and faculty to an Island dubbed Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’spal [unofficial name] between 2-other islands. The island has been watched for years but not occupied, to study Mars conditions. The black rock is teeming with life.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-10-19 pp. A14

7.2.7 International

7.2.7.1 International Space Station—ISS—

On February 8, 1974 the 3rd-manned Sky-lab Mission came to an end after an 84-day mission splashed down in the Pacific Ocean southwest of San Diego and was hauled to shore by the San Diego based New Orleans. It was the U.S.’s 1st-space station.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-8-19 pp. B2

8.0 Border and Cultural Issues

8.1.1 Import-Export

E.U. leaders say no to Britain’s belated bid to negotiate changes to the Brexit divorce deal—telling British lawmakers to stop bickering and work out a cross-party approach. The exit will begin on March 29, 2019.—European Council President Donald Tusk took swipe on 2-6-19 at Brexit backers in Britain—looking to a place in hell!—Britain and the E.U. refused to budge toward any compromise over Brexit but are speaking to each other until March 29, 2019.
• Iran is being squeezed by U.S. sanctions the worst in 40-years, says President Hasssan Rouhani.

• Foxconn—Taiwan-based electronics firm in WI, will be changed to a research and development center staffed by scientists, says the CEO’s assistant Louis Woo, rather than a blue-collar factory plant. It will still create 13E3-jobs in the $10.0E3-project. Foxconn is a major supplier to Apple.—After talking with President Trump, Foxconn’s Terry Gou says it will proceed with the smaller manufacturing facility to produce Generation—Gen—6-technology. The amount of glass used, is dependent on a Gen 10 or Gen 6 facility.

• More on the arrest of Chinese tech executive, saying its straining China relations. Canada’s Ambassador to China John McCallum was fired by Trudeau.

• With a new leadership for Renault with Jean-Dominque Senard—the chief executive of French Michelin after Carlos Ghosen resigned. The move removes an obstacle to stronger ties between Renault and Nissan, after Ghosen was arrested in Tokyo in November over financial wrongdoing. The alliance includes Mitsubishi Motors of Japan that Ghosen led for over 10-years. Senard had a better relationship with Unions, while at Michelin.

• President Trump said on 2-1-19 he would meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in February in hopes to finalize a trade deal as a business group warned China had offered noting new to resolve major stumbling blocks during 2-days of talks this week. The two have 30-days to make a deal but may go beyond March 2019 and would be the biggest trade deal ever made. The Tariffs on $200E9 in imports from China increases at 12:01 a.m. on March 2, 2019. The U.S. Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer, said there is no decision on extending the deadline.

8.1.2 Ports of Entry

House Democrats unveiled a new Border Security Plan on 1-30-19 that contains no money for physical barriers along the U.S. Mexico divide—a bipartisan House-Senate deal to keep the government open beyond February 15, 2019.

• Present Trump says the White House is no closer to resolving the wall issue than in the beginning and believes they will not be able to find a solution, after House Speaker Pelosi ruled out money for the wall.

• A bipartisan committee of House and Senate lawmakers traded offers behind the scenes, Democrats say money for border barriers was on the table and Republicans say Trump won’t get his $5.7E9 for the wall. A deal is expected by 2-8-19 and pass the House and Senate by 2-15-19 when funding runs out for the federal government causing another shutdown if Congress and Trump don’t act first.—The Trump Adm.
said it would wave environmental reviews to replace up to 14-mi of border barrier in San Diego, shielding itself from potentially crippling delays. The DHS said it would issue the 6th-waiver of President Trump’s Presidency under a 2005 law that empowers the Secretary to wave reviews required under environmental laws if the nation’s security interests—the National Environmental Policy, the Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act.—A bipartisan deal that would rebuff Trump’s demands for more than $5.0E9 for a border wall could offer him more than $2.0E9 for barriers along the U.S.-Mexican border and be finalized by Monday to allow it to pass Congress and reach Trump’s desk before the 2-15 deadline.


- Border officials in the U.S. returned about a dozen people to Tijuana on 1-30-19 after the Trump Adm. policy that requires asylum seekers to remain in Mexico for immigration court proceedings was issued.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-31-19 pp. A6

- Public and private contractors running immigration jails violated federal detention standards some 14,003-times between October 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018 at 106-facilities nationwide resulting in fines of $3.9E6-0.13% of the $1.3E9 funding paid by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—IC&P—. A waver allowed use of CS-gas or tear-gas that is 10-times more toxic than pepper spray.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-2-19 pp. A11

- U.S. authorities arrested or stopped people for immigration violations 58,207-times in January, down 4% from 60,779 in December but up 62% from 35,905 in January 2018. Families and children traveling alone accounted for 33,861 and 6 of every 10 were from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Several years ago, most were single Mexican adults.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-9-19 pp. A10

8.2 Culture

The Trump Adm. launched a change to the U.S. asylum policy on 1-29-19, with a single Honduran man being returned to Tijuana to wait for his claim to process. The new policy, called “Migration Protection Protocols”, and is known as “Remain” in Mexico, as a pilot program by Mexican officials, sends asylum seekers from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador back to Mexico, to wait for immigration court dates in the U.S. Homeland Security, Kirstjen Nielsen visited San Ysidro in December to announce the program.


- Mexico said on 1-23-19 that 10,000-people requested visas to cross its southern border as it seeks to grant legal documents to members of a rapidly growing U.S. bound migrant caravan from Central America. Mexico’s Obrador called for reducing migration by investing in job creation in Central America and the government will work with the President Trump Adm on the issue.—Update on the new Caravan making its way up the U.S. border with migrants bathing in the river in Tapachula, Mexico.—5-weeks after a CA caravan arrived in Tijuana in November 2018 a majority of those stranded were male, young, Honduran, and still hoping to cross to the U.S. says a survey from the International Organization for Migration. 68% continue to enter the U.S., 22% prefer to seek employment in Mexico, and 4% seeking asylum in Mexico, or E.U., and 4% want to return home. The information was from 393-migrants at 2-stations—the Barretal shelter and a 2nd location near the U.S. border in Tijuana’s Zona Norte by the Benito Juarez Sports Complex.
• Mexican officials promised on 1-25-19 to provide protection to asylum seekers who are sent back across the border from the U.S. under a new U.S. plan, even though it could force migrants to wait months or years while their cases are considered by U.S. courts.

• The Trump Admin. will require asylum seekers to remain in Mexico while their cases are considered in the U.S. Border offices will start returning asylum applicants back across the border as soon as the implementation becomes operational on 1-25-19 at the San Ysidro Port of Entry, says the DHS.

• Gov. Newsom asked the legislature for $5E6 in immediate funding that they will vote on next week. He proposed a $25E6 state funding to address a growing humanitarian crisis, of migrant families seeking asylum in the U.S., and says the Trump Adm. manufactured the problem at the border in a meeting in San Diego on 1-31-19.

• Mexico’s President Obrador declared an end to his countries war on drug traffickers and a special plan for collaboration of military forces and civilian law agencies. It will require a constitutional amendment and congressional support.

• A plan to reduce Tijuana’s high homicide numbers geared up on 2-5-19 with new traffic check-points set up across the city along with military outposts, in the most violent neighborhoods. The federally led response was announced on 2-1-19 by President Obrador, as competition in the local methamphetamine market drove up homicides in Tijuana, up to 2,518 in 2018, and 218 in January 2019—the highest of any January. On Monday when it started, there were 7-homicides in the city of 1.8E6.

• An experimental U.S. policy to keep migrants in Mexico, while their asylum claims are processed, will expand to other cities—called the Migration Protection Protocols—MPP—, at El Paso, TX, says the DHS. Mexico will not cooperate at other city’s beyond San Ysidro or accept migrants under 18. Secretary of State Pompeo and DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen worked out an agreement with senior Mexican officials during secret talks at a Houston airport hotel in 2018. Trump could declare a national emergency at the southern border, to unlock defense department dollars for a wall, in the State of the Union Address on 2-4-19.

• A caravan of some 1,700-Central American migrants was camped on 2-5-19 in the Mexican border city of Piedras Negras, just west of Eagle Pass, TX, marked mainly by the Rio Grande and the area lacks barriers. The U.S. DHS said the lawless caravan will not be let in, and some 2,000 are seeking to cross into TX and will be stopped, says Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. Coahulla State Gov. Miguel Angel Riqueime said about 1,700-migrants arrived on 2-4-19 aboard 49-busses from Saltillo and Arteaga, heading to Nuevo Leon. An improvised shelter—an unused maquiladora factory was setup for the migrants.—A caravan of 1,600-Central American migrants was surrounded on 2-7-19 by Mexican Authorities in an old factory a short
distance from TX where they seek asylum and the U.S. also sent troops to the area. President Trump says the Mexican cities are busing migrants to the U.S. border near Piedras Negras, Mexico.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-6-18 pp. A2, and 2-7-18 pp. A2

- A record 2,518-people were killed in Tijuana, a city of 1.8E6 in 2018—7-times that of 2012 with 140/100.0E3 it’s the deadliest in the World. In San Diego there were 34-homicides some 2/100.0E3. In the past it was over routes into San Diego, now it’s over street corners. 90% of homicides are linked to local drug sales and are like that of Ciudad Juarez, Cancun, and others.


- The homeless count in East Village on 1-31-19 was 800-the highest since August 2018.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-6-19 pp. B1 & Bin pro-2

- The city of Los Angeles will use special Order 40 that bars Los Angeles police officers from initiating contact with someone solely to determine whether they are in the country legally and make the city a “city of sanctuary”. Meanwhile mayors in Boston, Chicago, and elsewhere reaffirmed their cities as sanctuaries and the legislation passed a controversial state law to protect immigrants.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-9-19 pp. A3

- Iran’s Supreme leader Ali Khamenei [Shiite Islam] called the U.S. the “embodiment of evil” and parsed the “Death to America!”, in pro-government rallies in Iran—meaning death to President Trump in Persian phrase an on the web: “Down with the USA”.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 2-9-19 pp. A3

- Several local programs that focus on housing received new funding from U.S. HUD amounting to $2.4E6 in addition to $19.4E6 allocated for existing local programs in January 2019. Most will go to rent subsidies that taper off as tenants become self-sufficient, is temporary and often lasts 6-months.


John G Wotzka
Update on New Military Equipment Being Developed and Built

From 12-2018 to

Introduction

SECTION I

1.0 In the United States

With its $93E9 in revenues in 2017 and 141E3-employees, Boeing Company was massive, but over the last year the aerospace company expanded in its commercial jets, big satellites, and fighter’s divisions, taking over parts and services providers. In October Boeing acquired KLX Inc. for $4.25E9. Since Boeing’s merger in 1997 with McDonnell Douglas Corp. they had proposed a joint venture with Brazilian Aerospace firm, Embraer, and bought Millennium Space Systems in EL Segundo. Harris Corp. said they will merge, creating the 6th largest U.S. Defense Company. Acquisitions will be the norm with increased demand for space systems.13

• The erratic and rapid shift of the Earth’s magnetic North Pole since 2014 is necessitating scientists to update a year earlier modal used in critical navigation systems and was requested by the U.S. military due to the mounting level of inaccuracies in guidance across the Arctic for ships, planes, and submarines. Scientists say it is due to changes in flow of iron in the Earth’s outer core. Some say they will reverse—which is long overdue.55

1.1 Navy

1.1.1 Destroyers

The Navy on 12-1-18 commissioned a new guided-missile destroyer in Boston—the USS Thomas Hudner, and will be home-ported at Naval Station Mayport, FL. It can engage in air, surface, and sub-surface with air and missile defense capability. The ship was built by Bath Iron Works, Bath, ME.1

• Port of Danang and new bridge designs.15
1.1.2 Submarines

Huntington Ingalls launches a Virginia Class Submarine-Delaware.

- 2-new nuclear-powered submarines were christened on 10-20-18 in CN and VA. The USS Vermont a $2.7E9 sub was christened at Electric Boats in the Groton, CT. The Virginia-Class sub is equipped with torpedoes and missiles, is 377-ft-long and 34-ft in dia. The shipyard has built vessels since 1848. The USS Delaware was also christened, at a VA shipyard. The Navy will also buy the 3rd and 4th Gerald R. Ford aircraft carriers, says Deputy Defense Secretary Pat Shanhan. They will be built by Huntington Ingalls Industries for $58E9 that was approved in the 2019 Defense Policy and Spending Bill. The U.S. Navy wants 12-aircraft carriers to get to the 355-vessels policy they requested and wants lower cost labor. They capped each carrier at $11.39E9. The Navy will build 66-new submarines at $2.4E9 each.¹⁰

1.1.2.1 Submarine Nuclear Warhead Missiles
The National Nuclear Security Administration with an annual budget of $13.9E9/yr, has started building low-yield submarine launched ballistic missile warheads ordered by the Trump Adm. in 2018. The Pantex plant initiated the assembly of “the W76-2 First Production Unit”. NNSA will deliver the missiles to the Navy by the end of FY-2019. The weapon is a modified version of the far more powerful W76-1 warhead. The NNSA in December 2018 finished a decades-long W76-1 modernization.—More planned nuclear weapons programs will roll into production phases in the decade ending in 2028 increasing costs to $10.0E9 to $50.0E9/yr.  

1.1.3 Planes

5-Marines were missing, 1-rescued, and another recovered, after 2-aircrafts collided off the coast of Japan. An F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet and KC-130 refueling-aircraft collided after leaving their base in Iwakuni, near Hiroshima. The Navy said the collisions were the result of missed warnings and basic errors that could have been avoided.—5-Marines were missing, 1-rescued, and another recovered, after 2-aircrafts collided off the coast of Japan. An F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet and KC-130 refueling-aircraft collided after leaving their base in Iwakuni, near Hiroshima. The Navy said the collisions were the result of missed warnings and basic errors that could have been avoided.—1 is dead and 5-missing from the F/A-18 Hornet jet and KC-130 Hercules incident.—5-missing crew members have been declared dead after a KC-130 Hercules refueling aircraft collided on 12-6-18 with a F/A-18 Hornet during training from Japan near Shikoku Island.  

The U.S. suspended operations of the F-35-fleet planes to check for a faulty fuel tubes issue in the engines after a crash in South Carolina. Other countries will do as well for 24 to 48-hrs for inspections.  

A Navy helicopter MH-60 Seahawk crashed on the deck of the Ronald Regan on 10-19-18 injuring 12-Navy personal off the Philippine coast.

- A Navy war plane crashed into the sea northeast of the Philippines on 11-12-18 from the Ronald Reagan. The AI-A-18 super Hornet had a mechanical problem during routine operations over the Philippine Sea says the 7th-Fleet. In October an MH-60 Seahawk helicopter also on the Ronald Reagan, crashed injuring a dozen solders.

1.1.4 Auxiliary Personal Light-Small-APL [S]

The U.S. Navy called on VT Halter Marine, Inc. to bring its Auxiliary Personal Light-Small—APL[S] to fruition. The Pascagoula, MS shipyard won the contract to provide detail design and construction of the lead and 2nd-craft in the APL [S] 67 class series. The contract includes options for 4-additional vessels and will bring the contract up to $244,065,420.00. APL’s will provide berthing and messing facilities for sailors while their ships are at ports.

1.1.5 Navy Shipyards

Huntington Ingalls Industries closed sale on its Avondale facility to Avondale Marine—joint venture with VA-based T. Parker Host and IL-based Hilco redevelopment—a liquidation company for outdated industrial industries, and partners Hilco Global with offices in the U.K., Canada, Australia, Mexico, South America, and Asia. The facility ceased Navy shipbuilding operations in December 2014, but it’s UNO Maritime Center of Excellence remained open to provide engineering and design work to support Ingalls ship building programs. Avondale Marine will move forward on the 254-acre site with stakeholders to redevelop the sites crane, dock, and terminal assets along 8,000-ft of Mississippi River frontage, while connecting global waterborne commerce with manufacturing, fabrication, and connections to 6-Class-1
rail carriers, in the New Orleans area. The new owners envision creating a World-scale logistics hub for intermodal commerce in a new era, in Jefferson Parish and LA.

- Seattle, WA-headquartered Navy architecture and marine engineering Glosten expanded to the east coast opening an office in New Bedford, MA. Glosten’s expertise incudes naval architecture, ocean engineering & analysis, marine engineering, electrical engineering, and detail/production design.

1.1.6 Aircraft Carriers

The Navy is set to award Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipping division a block by contract for 2-aircraft carriers CVN 80 and CVN 81. The Pentagon sent a certification letter to Congress on December 31, 2018. Conformation came from U.S. Senator Tom Kaine—member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Background on Ford Class carriers.

![Image of aircraft carriers]

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

1.1.7 Littoral Combat Ships

The U.S. Navy in September 2018 awarded modifications to the previously awarded Littoral Combat ship contracts for 1-FY 2018 LCS to the Lockheed Martin team and 2-FY 2018 LCS to Austal USA. The Lockheed Martin team of which Fincantieri Marinette Marine, Marinette, WI is the shipbuilder building the Independence Variant and the future LCS 29. The Austal USA, Mobile, AL yard is building LCS 32 and LCS 34-based on the Freedom variant. The Department of Defense said the Navy could order more LCS’s in 2019. In total the Navy procured 32-LCSs and accepted delivery of 16-with 10-currently under construction and another 6-on order, says Captain Mike Taylor.

![Image of LCS 29]

1.2 Air Force
1.3 Marines
1.3.1 Ships

Update on Mobile, AL, based Silver Ships, Inc.’s move to keep up with maritime technologies, along with Blount Boats, Warren, RI; Burger Boat company in WI; California’s Marine Group’s Boat Works; and Metal Shark in Jeanerette, LA that acquired Horizon Ship-Building; Bayou La Batre, AL. The Silver Ships team also recently completed 2 customized diver transport and training vessels for the USMC’s Combatant Dive Center and Horizon—a partner with Metal Shark in the NYC Ferry vessel project, where each builder built several vessels for the fleet at their yards, filed for bankruptcy in 2017.35

1.3.2 Military Land Equipment

4-Camp Pendleton Marines who were severely burned in an explosion in 2017 when their military vehicle hit a natural gas line on the base filed a federal lawsuit this week against companies that provide the gas and the pipeline—Southern California Gas Company—subsidiary of Sempra Energy and TX-based Kinder Morgan, an energy pipeline operator. The suit alleges negligence of installing the lines.52

1.4 Army

1.5 National Guard

The Pentagon announced troops will remain at the border through most of 2019.39

1.6 Space Force Initiative

The Trump Administration is considering ways to expand U.S. homeland and overseas defenses against a potential missile attack, possibly adding a layer of satellites in space to detect and track hostile targets. The Pentagon will release results of a missile defense review as early as 1-17-19. The attempt is to stopping missiles either before they are launched or in the 1st-few minutes of flight when booster engines are still burning. The effects include a new generation of nuclear weapons.—The Trump Adm. is seeking to expand the American defenses on a scale exceeding Reagans “Star Wars” Initiative—known as missile defense review.—more on Trump’s defense plan40

1.7 Coast Guard

Update on Metal Shark based in Jeanerette, LA in the Gulf of Mexico that supplies custom vessels for U.S. and foreign military entities, law enforcement organizations, fire departments, and commercial markets. The company now has 3-facilities in LA and AL, employing 500 including an in-house engineering team of 50-naval architects and marine engineers and has an annual production of over 200-units. The U.S. Coast Guard with the U.S. Coast Guard Response Boat—Small [RB-S] program ordered for units in 2012 has taken delivery of 317 of the 343-vessels ordered. The 28.8-ft RB-S reaches maximum speeds of 40+ knots and is used for search and rescue, vessel boarding team deployment, and law enforcement missions, port security, drug and migrant interdiction, and environmental response operations. Metal Shark is building the Force Protected Boat—Medium [FPB] and over 50 have been delivered. They are also building the 51 PB [X] patrol boats for the Navy—11 ordered in September 2017 and 40 in the summer of 2018. The PB [X] units are 40-ft patrol boats that will replace the Navy’s Coastal Riverine Forces patrol boats and the 1st-units will be delivered by the end of 2018. Metal Shark is building up to 13 Near Shore Patrol vessels—NCPVs—for U.S. DOD Foreign Military Sales partners, with Damen and NCPV’s that will be based on Damen 2606 stan Patrol design. In this summer 2018 Metal Shark introduced its Sharktech Autonomous Vessel technology in Baltimore with ASV Global introducing Sharktech to the marine
industry, that is now available on Metal Sharks entire lineup from 16-ft to 300-ft vessels made of aluminum, steel and composite materials. Zodiac Milpro launched 2-new vessels in 2018—the Zodiac Hurricane 1300 MACH II on a world tour equipped with 4-Mercury Verado 350-hp outboard engines designed with an aluminum hull and deck and fitted with a dual console—pilot and navigator in the forward position and communication and team commander in aft. Zodiac Milpro says the ZH-1300 OB has a maximum speed of 55-knots and fuel capacity of 1,910-L. The Hurricane has a range of 350-nautical mi at 35-knots, and technology features such as current Scientific Corporation’s Night Navigator 6065. Vallejo, CA-based Moose Boats won contacts to build fireboats for the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department in Chesapeake Beach, MD and the city of Memphis Fire and Police Departments. In North Beach Moose Boats will deliver an MI-46 Fire Rescue Catamaran with paramedic command, life rafts and dive teams. The MI will be equipped with 2-Cummins QSC8.3 600-hp turbo diesel propulsion engines, twin disc 5075SC transmissions and Hamilton HJ322 waterjets, and include a Hale fire pump, Task Force Tips fire monitors and valves and fire-fighting foam storage and electronics and be delivered in 2019. In 2018 they delivered a MK patrol boat—44-46-ft inboard diesel, water-jet powered catamarans to the NYC Police Department’s Counterterrorism Division. Moose Boats delivered a fireboat to Newport, RI, and joint patrol and fire vessel to the City of Memphis, TN. Moose Boats is currently building a 75-ft passenger and freight vessel for services in San Francisco, CA with twin helms and Volvo D13 diesels turning IPS3 pod drives will provide 25-knot working speeds for 2019 delivery.45

• The $9.8E9 U.S. Coast Guard-U.S. Navy plan to build 3-new heavy ice-breakers is being questioned following a GAO report in September 2018. GAO says: its lacking key technologies in the ships, the cost estimate may be flawed, and the risk areas are: design, technology, cost, and the schedule. Commissioned in 1976 the USCG’s Polar Star [WAGB-10] is America’s only operational heavy ice-breaker and is operating on borrowed time with life-service to FY 202-2030. The Navy could award the contract in the 3rd-Q.FY-2019, to be delivered in FY-2024. An extension of the Polar Star’s design life would cost $75E6 and is unrealistic.48

2.0 International

Russia has emerged as the World’s 2nd-largest arms producer, after the U.S., and surpassed Britain which held the sport since 2002 as the No.1 arms maker. The report does not include China. China is No.5 after the U.S., Russia, Germany, and France.5

• 5-international charities urged the U.S. to halt all military support for a Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen’s Shiite rebels, saying it would save millions of lives.—The Senate voted 63 to 37 to limiting presidential war powers in Yemen.—A delegation of Houthi rebels flew from Yemen to Sweden on 12-5-18 for a step in a peace process in the civil war that has been on since 2016. Talks will be between the rebels and Saudi-led coalition backing President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.—Yemeni rebel delegates at talks under way in Sweden to try to end the 4-yr civil war and open the airport in the capital Sanaa and exchange prisoners.—The Republican controlled Senate took the rare step on 12-13-18 invoking its War Powers Authority for the 1st-time to demand a halt to U. S. participation in the Saudi-led war in Yemen. Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed in Saudi airstrikes and is considered the planets worst humanitarian crises. U.S. support includes providing targeting intelligence and refueling Saudi aircraft.12

• U.S. Diplomats held talks with Taliban delegates on Monday in the United Arab Emirates to discuss ways to end the war in Afghanistan, says Taliban spokesman and Afghan government officials.—Militants stormed Afghan government offices in Kabul after setting off a car bomb killing 43-people over 5-
Some 25 members of security forces were killed by Taliban fighters in coordinated attacks on 1-18. Most of the attacks were in the Sar-i-Pul Province.16

• U.S. American airstrikes against Islamic extremists in Somalia is the latest uptick in U.S. attacks in the Horn of Africa nation, since President Trump took office. The strikes killed 62 people and targeted al-Shabab militants that want Shariah law in Somalia. The U.S. conducted 17-air strikes in Somalia between 2007 and 2015.17

• U.S. Diplomats held talks with Taliban delegates on Monday in the United Arab Emirates to discuss ways to end the war in Afghanistan, says Taliban spokesman and Afghan government officials.18

2.1 Japan

Japan took a step on 12-11-18 to expand its military capabilities by advancing plans for aircraft carriers that can launch fighter jets and arm Japan with its 1st-aircraft carrier since WW II. There may be issues with the pacifist constitution. A large Japanese naval vessel is now equipped with helicopters and could be upgraded for jet fighters and be capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings, equipped with stealth-technology to avoid detection.9

• Japan adopted new defense guidelines on 12-18-18, that plans for its first aircraft carrier, increases in spending, and weapons capability in coming years, over threats from North Korea and China. Other guidelines approved at a Cabinet meeting call for refitting an existing helicopter carrier into a ship that can deploy 42-expansive F-35B stealth fighters capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings—part of Japan’s purchase of 147-F35s over the next decade, and replace Japan’s current defense plan halfway through to underscore Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s push to expand Japan’s military role to make Japan “a normal country.” It will amend the Japanese-U.S. drafted constitution that renounces war and broadens the concept of self-defense, while the U.S. fulfilled Japan’s security needs since WW II. Defense officials say Japan needs higher deterrence, increased missile-defense, and fighter capacity to cope with North Korea and China and with other changes in the region.19

• President Putin dashed Japanese hopes of a settlement to a territorial dispute that has festered since 1945, after a visiting Prime Minister Abe said there is a lot of “hard work” ahead. Japan want’s Russia to relinquish Japanese islands seized by the Soviet Union at the end of WW II—now called the “Northern Territories” by Japan, and Russians call the Southern, a chain of islands off Japan’s Northern prefecture of Hokkaido. Russia wants to hold on to its war gains—a victory by Russian Nationalists, that also includes their Westward expansion into former German territory of East Prussia called Kaliningrad and East into Japan.
King Přemysl Otakar II of Bohemia - Alfons Mucha - Ottokar II of Bohemia - Wikipedia

Alphonse Mucha


King Přemysl Otakar II of Bohemia (1253–1278)

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2.2 China

President Trump will talk to President XI and President Putin, of China and Russia, about reducing costs of defense spending that is $716E9 in the U.S. with $10.0E9 for missile defense and nuclear weapons programs by the U.S.³

- China has beaten the U.S. and the rest of the world developing an electromagnetic railgun to fire at hypersonic speeds of Mach 5. U.S. intelligence says china’s weapon could strike up to 200-km away with a velocity of 2.5-km/s or 9,000-kmh [5593-mph]. The U.S. is behind and is having problems with the systems power generation, size, stability of the electronics, and resilience of its rails.³¹

2.3 Russia

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the Trump Adm. would make formal plans to scrap the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty within 60-days, unless Russia returns to compliance with the treaty’s terms. The process could take 6-months. The Europeans see it as pushing them into a further arms race with Russia without improving their security.⁴

- President Putin warned on 12-5-18, if the U.S. decides to develop new intermediate range missiles, Russia will respond in kind. The Chief of Russia’s military, Gen Valery Gerasimov said any E.U. country that hosts a missile would be targeted. Many national leaders from the Middle East have visited Moscow over the last few years.⁶

- Russian President Vladimir Putin says—of a rising threat of a nuclear war, putting the blame on the U.S., he accused of irresponsibility pulling out of arms control treaties. President Putin warned it could lead to destruction of civilization and maybe the Earth—over the U.S. leaving the 1987 INF and reluctance to negotiate the extension of the 2010 New START agreements that expires in 2021 unless the U.S. and Russia agree to extend it. The INF bans all nuclear and convetual ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles of intermediate range. Washington says Russia violated the treaty which Moscow denies. In December 2018 NATO, on the U.S.’s request declared Russia to be in violation of the INF and demanded it halt all activities that beaches it—putting the alliance behind the U.S. which gave Russia until February to come into compliance or trigger Washington’s withdrawal from the treaty. The New START treaty was signed by Former President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in a thaw in Russian and U.S. ties over missiles that can strike each other’s territories. The ties are the lowest over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria, and meddling by Russia in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election.¹³

- Russia on 12-26-18 conducted a final test of a nuclear-capable glider that flies at 20-times the speed of sound [in dry air at 20°C [68°F] is 343.2-m/s [767.8-mph] or 1-km in 2.914-sec] and could be added to its arsenal in 2019. The test flight the glider named Avangard 3,500-mi coming to earth at hypersonic speeds [Mach5 [aprox.3,000-mph]], that present missile defense systems cannot hit. The U.S. has worked on a hypersonic missile but are far behind Russia.
• The Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle flies 27-times faster than the speed of sound making it impossible to intercept, says Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov. The 12-26-18 test launched from the Dombarovsky missile base in the southern Ural went to a target on the Kura shooting range 3,700-mi away.28

• President Trump ordered the withdrawal of 2,000-U.S. troops from Syria—the end of a military campaign that vanquished the Islamic State but is ceding a strategically vital country, to Russia and Iran.20

• Ukraine plans to again send its warships into the Sea of Azov, says a top Ukrainian official Olesandr Turchynov, the Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council.21

• The Trump Adm. will lift sanctions on company’s linked to billionaire Russian Oligarch Oleg Deripaska, despite Democratic opinions it would help ally him with President Putin. The EN+, Rusal, and JSC EuroSibEnergo sanctions will be lifted.38

• Russia’s Coast Guard opened fire on and seized 3-Ukraines vessels on 11-25-18 and Russia’s warplanes attacked rebel-held areas in Northern Syria on 11-25-18.43

• The Russian government imposed economic sanctions against a broad cross section of Ukraine’s political and business elite. Russian Prime Minister, Dmitry Medvedev issued a decree freezing the assets of 68-businesses and 322-individuals on a list reading like a who’s who of the Ukrainian government—one’s unfriendly activities toward Russian citizens and entities, like Kiev’s sanctions on Russians.44

2.4 Korea

2.4.1 South Korea

Dozens of South Korean soldiers visited the former frontline—North Korean guard post in the DMZ, a 155-mi x 2.5-mi area, on 12-12-18 to verify their recent removal of restrictions, as a warming diplomacy by North Korea. denuclearization remains stalled over sanction issues.10

• South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on 11-1-18 that Chairman Kim Jong-Un will visit Seoul for a diplomatic effort to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons.44

• President Trump demands South Korea take on more costs for hosting U.S. troops as he plans into North Korea’s hands ahead of the 2nd-summit with Kim Jong Un. There are some 28,500-U.S. troops and South Korea paid $855E6 in 2018, but the pact expired at the end of 2018.58

2.4.2 North Korea
President Trump plans to hold a 2\textsuperscript{nd}-meeting with Kim Jong Un, says John Bolton, National Security Adviser. President Trump believes there is hope of succeeding in North Korea, despite slow progress in de-nuclearization.—Kim Jong Un said he’s willing to have a 2\textsuperscript{nd} Summit with President Trump but paired the offer with a threat, that if international sanctions against the country were not lifted, the North would “have no choice” but to return to nuclear confrontation.—The White House announced on 1-18-19 that President Trump would have a 2\textsuperscript{nd}-summit with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un in late February to jump start nuclear talks since the 1\textsuperscript{st}-summit in 2018 after President Trump met Kim Young Chol—a former spy chief and Pyongyang lead negotiator, in the Oval office for 90-min. Danang, Vietnam is a top pick but not conformed yet.\textsuperscript{4}

- North Korea is expanding a missile base that would be the most likely sites for deploying intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the U.S., says 2-experts on the North’s missile programs on 12-6-18. The Yeon-dong missile base, near the North Korea border with China, and expansion of a new suspected missile facility 7-mi away, are indicating North Korea continues to improve its missile capabilities, says the Middlebury Institute of studies at Monterey.—North Korea obscures Kim’s visits to missile sites as U.S. Secretary of State prepares to meet North Korea’s Kim Young Chol for steps to denuclearization to lay groundwork for a meeting with President Trump and Kim Jong Un.\textsuperscript{7}

- North Korea says they will never give up its nuclear weapons unless the U.S. first removes what Pyongyang called a nuclear threat and the issue could rattle the fragile trilateral diplomacy to defuse a nuclear crisis that had many fearing War. South Korea and the U.S. are struggling over sequencing of the denuclearization timeline, that Washington wants, and removal of sanctions desired by Pyongyang and South Korea’s credibility problems for the liberal South Korean government as it tries to sustain a positive atmosphere. For decades North Korea has pushed a concept of denuclearization that bears no resemblance to the American definition—where Pyongyang vows to pursue nuclear development until the U.S. removes all its troops and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan, that the North will stick to.\textsuperscript{22}

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is in China for his 4\textsuperscript{th}-Summit with Xi Jinping as Kim and President Trump are negotiating over the location for the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Summit meeting. Trump received a “great letter” from Kim. South Korea’s newspaper Munhwa Ilbo reported on 1-7-19 that the State Department officially recently met multiple times with North Korean counterparts in Hanoi, Vietnam to plan for the summit.—North Korea’s Kim Jong Un told its only ally, China, he wants to “achieve results” on the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula in a 2\textsuperscript{nd}-summit with President Trump. Kim is returning to North Korea on his special armored train headed for Pyongyang, after the 2-day visit-his 4\textsuperscript{th} in 10-months. They also want the International Community to be welcomed and China supported the U.S.-North Korean summit.\textsuperscript{34}

- A White House think tank report identified a secret North Korea ballistic missile base 160-mi northwest of Seoul that is the headquarters of the country’s strategic missile force, says the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and is one of 20-undeclared missile operating bases, for missile programs in the country.\textsuperscript{57}

2.5 The E.U.

The German submarine U-576 was found in 700-ft of water 35-mi off North Carolina that sunk in 1942 with a full crew. Investigations show there was no damage to the vessel.\textsuperscript{29}
• 69-heads of state attended ceremonies in Paris of the 100th-year of the armistice of WW I German entering the area at 5:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918, 6-hours before the armistice took effect. French President Macron praised Marshal Phillippe Pétain at a ceremony at the Napoleon tomb on Nov. 11, armistice of Nov. 11. He became a top collaborator in WW II, Vichy Gov. with the Nazi France 1940-1944.51

2.6 NATO

President Trump wanted out of NATO because it is an agreement that includes the U.S., Europe, and Canada, that has deterred Soviet and Russian aggression for 70-years, over allied military spending lagging U.S. funding that is a drain on the U.S.41

• U.S. Troops-mostly Marines participated in the Trident Juncture exercise in Trondheim, Norway with NATO troops numbering some 50E3. President Putin says he has a distaste for the Atlantic alliances encroachment into territory he considers part of his sphere of influence—particularly the Baltics and Balkans.53

2.7 The U.N.

2.8 Indonesia

Indonesia opened a military base with more than 1,000-personal on Natuna Besar Island located in the Middle of the Natuna Islands between Borneo and Malay Peninsula—a thousand kilometers from Jakarta. The outpost will work as a deterrent against any potential security threats, particularly at border areas say military spokesman Col. Sus Taibur Rahman.14

2.9 Syria

As U.S. troops leave Syria, Turkish troops prepare for an offensive in Eastern Syria, as President Trump talked with Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdosan. The Kurdish-led Manbij Military Council Sharfan Darwish said Turkish troops are in the Syrian Kurdish Militia to drive out the Islamic State.—President Trump announced he was removing James Mattis 2-months before his planned departure and installing Patrick Shanahan as U.S. troops are removed from Syria and Afghanistan.25

• The military has begun removing some equipment from Syria but not troops.33

• For the 2nd-time in a week a suicide bomber targeted U.S.-forces in Syria, as a car moved into a U.S.-Kurdish convoy and exploded 11-yards from a check point in the northeast. There were no American causalities, said the U.S. coalition. The Turkish Army and Syrian rebels associated with it, as well as Russian-backed Syrian government troops and Islamic State, all appear poised to take advantage of a U.S. drawdown. Amaq, with Islamic State says a “martyrdom-seeker” targeted the joint U.S. Kurdish convoy.59

2.10 Iran

Secretary of state Pompeo urged the UN Security Council to ban Iranian ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons and to maintain an arms embargo that will be lifted in 2020 under the landmark 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal. Pompeo also urged the council to prevent Iran from circumventing arms restrictions with inspections of ships in ports and stopping them at sea. President Trump dropped out a deal that is supported by Russia, China, Britain, France, and Germany.11
• The U.S. aircraft carrier John C. Stennis passed through the Strait of Hormuz where 33% of all oil traded by sea passes. The carrier was shadowed by Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessels that launched rockets away from the carrier and flew a drome nearby.

2.10 Mexico

The U.S. and Mexico on 12-19-18 announced a bilateral assistance program to curb migration from Central America, signaling an early note of confidence from the Trump Adm. in the foreign policy of the new Mexican President Obrador. The U.S. will contribute $10.6E9 for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation—OPIC—. The U.N. General Assembly endorsed a sweeping accord to ensure safe and orderly migration Wednesday over opposition from 5-countries, including the U.S. and Hungary. The Global Compact for Migration—the 1st International document dealing with the issue is not legally binding.—Thousands of Central Americans who traveled north to the U.S. border are settling into an uneasy existence in Tijuana, facing resistance from both the U.S. and Mexico. Coordinators who directed the migrants through Mexico have vanished.—Migrants are now at 2-months from leaving home, many will work in Mexico while others wait for seeking asylum at the San Ysidro border to get into the U.S. and are feeling homesick.—It is clear the politics of migration in the U.S. have been and will likely continue to be weaponized and will likely continue to be weaponized. In Mexico they were welcomed but when they got to Tijuana anti-migrant sentiment appeared in protests and social media campaigns. President Obrador “AMLO” called for “Marshall Plan” for the region that would inject 10’s of billions of into infrastructure and economic growth. President Trump wants cooperation with AMLO. The recent $5.89 in funding for Central Americans refers to Congressional funding approved during the Obama Adm.’s Overseas Private Investment Corp., the U.S. governments development finance institution that supports the U.S., is willing to support and encourage private sector investment in the region. Mexico will issue new work visas for Central Americans. Opposition in AMLO’s party will resist Trump and show solidarity with Central Americans and its citizens and be less collaborative with the U.S. when the next caravan emerges AMLO will find himself between a rock and a hard place.27

2.11 Yemen

A bomb-laden drone launched by Yemen’s Shite rebels exploded on 1-10-19 over a military parade for the Saudi-led coalition, killing some 6-people at the al-Anad Air Base.36

• The U.S. Military said on 1-19-19 it carried out the deadliest airstrike in Somalia, killing 52-al-Shabab extremists after an attack on Somalia forces near Juba in the Middle Juba region, with no American losses. They are al-Qaeda [Wahhabism, Salafist jihadism, Quthism, Sharia law-Quran and Hadith]-linked
extremists. The location was the Bar Sanjuni area, near the Port City of Kismayo. Ethiopia contributed troops to a multinational African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Somalia, independently under Ethiopian Army command. Al-Shabab carries out high-profile suicide bombings and attacks on the Capital Mogadishu. Islamic extremist group's attacked luxury hotels in Kenya on 1-15-19, in retaliation for Kenya sending troops to Somalia to fight al-Shabab. The U.S. stepped up attacks against al-Shabab in Somalia since President Trump took office, caring out 47-such strikes. Al Shabab leaders fund extremists groups with an extreme network of “taxation” and extortion. The al-Shabab controlled Harardere in the Mudug Province.

2.12 Iran

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani said they will soon send 2-new satellites into orbit using Iran-made rockets, despite U.S. concerns it could help further develop its ballistic missiles. The 1979 Islamic Revolution’s 40th-anniversary of the revolution, which saw the Persian Monarchy of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi replaced by the Islamic Republic, overseen by a Shiite cleric. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Iran’s plans using satellites into orbit, defies a U.N. Security Council Resolution, calling for Iran to undertake no space orbiting vessels related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.37

2.13 Saudi Arabia

Secretary of State Pompeo pressed Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince on 1-14-19 over charges of war, murder, diplomatic riffs, and human rights abuses.42

References:
1 The San Diego U-T 12-2-18 pp. A10
3 The San Diego U-T 12-4-18 pp. A5
6 The San Diego U-T 12-6-18 pp. A3 & A7
8 The San Diego U-T 12-10-18 pp. A3 and Google.Com: 10 countries that export the most weapons.
9 The San Diego U-T 12-12-18 pp. A7
10 The San Diego U-T 12-12-18 pp. A11
John G Wotzka
2-1-19 Transportation Committee Meeting

1.0 Roads, Rail, High-Speed Rail, Bridges, Busses, Bicycle, and Ride Share Issues

1.1 Roads

Workers with the city of Malibu are working to control mud and flash flooding as storms move into the coastal shores.
Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-17-19 pp. A1 & B4 and A2

1.1.2 Interstate

A large sinkhole developed on the Kearny Villa Road off ramp on northbound I-805 in San Diego, likely from heavy run-off and a failing drainage pipe. The hole was 20-ft long by 10-ft wide and 20-ft deep.—The I-805 is open after fixing the sinkhole near Serra Mesa.

1.1.4 Parking

Encinitas will allow legalized parking in dirt areas near railroad tracks in Leucadia, that for decades was unlawful between the City and North County Transit District. The city lowered the speed limit on coast highway 101 in Leucadia to 30-mph over safety issues.

1.1.6 Fatalities

Pedestrian fatalities from cars were 34 in 2018 in San Diego, and 17 in 2017 despite Mayor Faulconer’s efforts on safety with his Vision Zero Program.

1.2 Rail

History of the American Industrial Revolution in the New England area, over the last Century.
Ref: Trains, November 2018 pp. 44-53

• The GE Transportation and Wabtec merger will accentuate services and less visible products to RRs such as positive train control and monitoring software with a combined 250-years of experience in railroading.
Ref: Trains, August 2018 pp. 7

• Update on engineer lawsuits for train crews over involuntary manslaughter charges for derailments.
Ref: Trains, January 2019 pp. 8

1.2.1 Interstate Freight Systems

Union Pacific is responding to disruptive technology-including an onslaught of platooned and driverless trucks with technological advances that aims to make the railroad more competitive.
Ref: Trains, August 2018 pp. 8

• Update on Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads from 1862 to present.
CSX Transportation’s Jim Foote says the RR’s traffic volume growth will accompany increasing service reliability. They are having the same amount of tonnage using 1,000-fewer locomotives than a year ago. CNX’s key operating metrics—average velocity and terminal dwell are at all-time records but they need to boost on-time performance by planning each carload and intermodal container it moves and makes CSX like UPS.

Article on how CEO E. Hunter Harrison turned around 3-class 1 railroads: Canadian Pacific, Dakota, and Minnesota & Eastern.

Cambridge Research & Development applied for a patent for a porotype autonomous battery pad flatcar for package delivery drones. The idea will use railroad capacity that goes unused on commuter and freight lines in the overnight and other off-peak hours.

Update on Watco’s Kanawha River Line from Maben Elmore, W VA to Columbus, OH.

Update on trains through Dubuque, IA and East Dubuque, IL.

Update on hot spots in CA’s railroad routes in Caliente, Cajon Pass, Fullerton, Donner Pass, Los Angeles River, San Timoteo Canyon, Needles Subdivision, Dunsuir in the Shasta cascade area, the Central Coast Line, and Glendora.

Good place to watch trains, at Klamath Falls, OR.

Update on the Minneapolis & St. Louis Line in southern MN.

Update on trains and hurricanes, and the 1935 hurricane that devastated the Florida Keys, and the Henry M. Flagler’s Florida East Coast Railroad that supplied commerce between Miami and Havana. There were 17-foot waves and the results initiated the start of the U.S. Highway 1 to Key West.

Update on track maintenance of CSX, using track-mobile grinders.

BNSF and CSX launched a Los Angeles, CA to OH service for intermodal services from Southern California to North Baltimore, OH. China Railway Rolling Stock Corp.—CRSC—has a new rail equipment manufacturing facility in IL, MA and has contracts for rail-cars from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation
Authority and the Chicago Transit Authority. Congress want’s to control federal dollars to CRRSC. The FRA wants to cut the number of suicides on RR property 50% by 2026.

Ref: Trains, December 2018 pp. 9

1.2.1.1 Locomotives

Gensets are constructed from a new underframe or reconditioned locomotive core and uses a multi-engine concept featuring several small diesel engines previously designed for use in non-rail applications. An onboard computer rotates the use of the engines for even wear and starts and stops them as the demand is needed for a given assignment. Their use with the computer control gensets allows gensets to be more fuel efficient and produce significantly less emissions than traditional locomotives. RRs can get the gensets from cities and government agencies across the U.S. by propose swapping older, high-emission locomotives with gensets in exchange for subsidies to purchase them, and they will be required to stay in the region they are subsidized in, for a specified amount of time. BNSF and UP use the concept but most RR’s abandoned the concept.

Ref: Trains, August 2018 pp. 18

• How to change a locomotives “tire” and fixing skid flats.

Ref: Trains, October 2018 pp. 20 & 22

• Update on locomotives that are becoming standardized with models from Progress Rail and General Electric introduced in 2015, which pull as much tonnage with least amount of fuel at high level of reliability, and cost effectiveness. Tier-2 and Tier-4 engines came to market, and, other changes of the new models.

Ref: Trains, November 2018 pp. 14

• Update on GE and Caterpillars Progress, new and rebuilt locomotives.

Ref: Trains, December 2018 pp. 18-19

1.2.2 Construction Materials

Austria-based RR-rail milling service supplier LINMAG and Austria-and-Switzerland-based Rhomberg Sersa will bring RR-rail milling technology to the U.S.

Ref: Trains, August 2018 pp. 20

• Updating on welding railroad rail.

Ref: Trains, December 2018 pp. 20-21

• Update on air brakes 101 that have been used since the late 1800s when brakeman had to run atop cars and turn wheels on each car.

Ref: Trains, September 2019 pp. 20-21

1.2.4 Urban Light Rail

A Coaster passenger train struck and killed a pedestrian in Del mar on 1-18-19 in the area of 8th Street and Stratford Court.

• Update of VIA Rail, Canada’s Canadian issues with congestion on Canadian National’s tracks on its triweekly Vancouver-to-Toronto services that is expecting delays of 2-days to 12-hours in its service, and its statutory preference on freight line rail.

Ref: Trains, September 2018 pp. 13


Ref: Trains, November 2018 pp. 23-33

• Update on Canadian Pacific Railways Holiday Train’s 20th-year celebration.

Ref: Trains, December 2018 pp. 24-33

• Scotland franchise operator Serco will replace tired 1970s era rolling stock with 75-innovatively designed sleeping cars, coaches, and lounges on 5-overnight Caledonian Sleeper routes between London and Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness, Aberdeen, and Fort Williams, with a $100E6 in government capital, and be built in Spain by Constructions y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles, S.A.—parent company of a U.S. CAF affiliate struggling to finish Amtrak’s 130-car- Viewliner order that replaces Shopware cars with narrow beds and no electrical outlets, Wi-Fi, showers, or private bathrooms.

Trains, December 2018 pp. 23

• Update on Branson Scenic Railway from Kansas City MO to Diaz, AR.

Ref: Trains, September 2019 pp. 32-37

• Update location to watch trains at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshal Airport Station. A look at Jordon Narrows in UT.

Ref: Trains, November 2018 pp. 66 & 67

• Update on North Carolina’s Piedmont to Charlotte route, at the $111.4E6 Raleigh Union Station in July 2018.

Ref: Trains, November 2018 pp. 16-17

• In 1918 diesel-electric entered as a prime-mover for American railroads. The next move could be from hydrogen fuel-cell technology. CAS is considering battery tenders. Hydrogen is being used in urban public transportation in Europe and Asia, including busses, and light rail. Germany has Alstom Cordina iLint lightweight passenger trains using hydrogen fuel cell trains. The iLint is a hydrogen fuel cell-powered-storage battery variation of Cordia self-propelled diesel light weight train, a modern equalivalent to gas-electric cars of a century ago to carry 300-passengers at 87-mph with a range of 375-mi between refueling.

Ref: Trains, December 2018 pp. 36-43

• Update on New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad in South New England that has ties to the New Haven RR of 1872, and in 1961 it filed for bankruptcy. The Interstate Commerce Commission ordered the newly merged Penn Central to include the New Haven in its system in 1969.

Ref: Trains, January 2019 pp. 24-27

1.2.4.2 Autonomous [driverless]
London’s newly modernized Thameslink will soon be on trains operated by onboard computers rather than the engineer. The route that crosses London from the north to south has been operating since the early 1990s, will be able to handle 24-trains each way/hr in 2019.

Ref: Trains, August 2019 pp. 20

- The world’s 1st-light rail train with autonomous technology was launched on September 18, 2018 in Potsdam, near Berlin, engineered by Siemens with operator Verkehrsbetrieb Potsdam to equip a light rail unit with digital cameras, radar sensors, light detection, and ranging laser-based measurement, a GPS system, plus powerful computer systems that can operate without human drivers and detects people, cyclist, and vehicles. It can be trained for each route. It operates at 32-mp, detects obstructions at 330-ft, and can stop in less than 265-ft even at full speed.

Ref: Trains, January 2019 pp. 8

1.2.5 Amtrak

Amtrak’s Southwest Chief is in danger of collapse with BNSF Railway across KA, CO, and NM. Amtrak promised $3.0E6 as part of $9.2E6 in non-federal matching funds for a total of $25E6 for the repair backlog. Positive train control will be needed but Amtrak can’t afford to pay for it.

Ref: Trains, August 2018 pp. 22

- Update on Southwest Chief Amtrak changes between flagstaff, AZ and Dodge City, KA.

Ref: Trains, September 2018 pp. 8-9

- Update on the Great Northern Railway and Canadian immigrant James J. Hill and today’s Amtrak’s Empire Builder’s route. Update on service from Tidewater Virginia’s port city of Newport to Boston.

Ref: Trains, August 2018 pp. 50-57

- Update on the Great Northern Railway and James J. Hill from St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN to WA state and Northern California.

Ref: Trains, January 2019 pp. 36-43

- Update on Amtrak from Flagstaff, AZ to Dodge City, KA.

Ref: Trains, October 2018 pp. 54-60

- Update on the $750E6 renovation of the New Haven Railroads 17-weekday round trips by Amtrak and CT’s control operator, Herzog Subsidiary TransitAmerica Service Inc. Alternate Concepts Inc.

Ref: Train’s, September 2019 pp. 23

- Update on ratings of Amtrak’s lesser known routes in NY, VT, OH, W VA, ND, OK, MS, LA, MT, CA, and NM.

Ref: Trains, September 2018 pp. 40-43

- Update on Amtrak’s Crescent Line between New Orleans and New York that is facing congestion issues from freight traffic.

Ref: Trains, October 2018 pp. 24
• Update on Amtrak’s growth in 2018. At the end of FY 2018 in September, Amtrak ended with a ticket sales gain of $30E6 on revenues of $2.27E9. Update includes capacity, pricing, state support services, and frequent interference. Update of the new Viewliner II diner cars.

Trains, January 2019 pp. 22-23

1.2.6 International Freight Systems

Canada’s PM Justin Trudeau says the federal government will cover 60% of the costs to build a new rail bypass around Lac-Mégantic, Quebec that was ravaged by an oil-train derailment and fire in 2013, as people stay away now.

Ref: Trains, August 2018 pp. 9

• CN will double track it’s main-line between Edmonton, Alberta and Winnipeg, Manitoba with the pace of the capacity additions matching traffic growth. Less than 100-l of the 800-mi corridor is currently double tracked and 5-sections are being added in 2018. The route is CN’s spine carrying grain, potash, petrochemicals, energy related commodities—frac-sand and steel pipe, and intermodal. It will program with volume until completed.

Ref: Trains, October 2018 pp. 16

• Update on the NAFTA Railway from St. Paul, MN to Veracruz and Lázaro Cárdenas with Kansas City Southern Lines and Kansas City Southern Mexico.

Ref: Trains, October 2018 pp. 26-37

1.3 High-Speed Rail—HSR—

1.3.1 Highspeed

1.3.1.1 U.S. System-in North America—125 to-150-mph

Florida Brightline is developing rail service for Los Angeles to Las Vegas to cut congestion on I-15. DesertXpress won rights in 2015 from the NV High-Speed Rail Authority for a dedicated route from Las Vegas to Victorville, CA in the northeast edge of the Los Angeles Basin. They rejected a Chinese deal with HSR on the route adjacent to I-15. Fortress will try to bring in Brightline from Las Vegas to Los Angeles.

Ref: Trains, December 2018 pp. 22

1.4 Bridges

1.4.3 State, County, and City

Caltrans will install small spikes on the San Diego Coronado Bridge to deter suicidal people from jumping off, as a temporary measure while the agency peruses permanent barriers for the bridge, where some 400-have plummeted to their deaths since it’s opening in 1969.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-16-19 pp. A1 & A8

1.4.5 Railroad
BNSF is closer to building a 2nd-bridge over Lake Pend Oreille near Sandpoint, ID, a bottleneck for freight and passenger trains in the Pacific Northwest.

Ref: Trains, September 2018 pp. 15

1.6 Bicycle

1.6.2 Bicycle Share Program

Lime and Bird raised millions of dollars inn 2018 is now raising 100s of millions more but the company’s value is lower than claimed, by the San Francisco-based company at $2.0E9, from the $3.0E9 a few months ago. They were funded in 2017 as they moved to warmer areas.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-18-19 pp. C1

• Scooter companies are having more problems with San Diego’s residents and private property owners. Some residents resolved to vandalism—tossing scooters into dumpsters and lakes. Pacific Beach businesses men are offering to pick them up for free and charge scooter company’s, Bird, Jump, and Lyft to get their property back. Dan Borelli and John Heinkel launched Scooter Removal LLC in January, responding to complaints of their neighbors that service electric scooters and e-bikes.


2.0 Port and Military Issues

2.1 Ports

2.1.4 U.S.

Mayor Faulconer who wanted a special election in 2019, will wait until 2020 for a vote on a hotel tax to finance an expanded San Diego Convention Center. Billions of dollars generated over 4-decades will pay for the expansion, finance homeless services, and road repairs. A 2/3’s-majority is needed for special tax increases.


• The Port of San Diego is under pressure to build budget hotels near the water, by the Coastal Commission’s State Coastal Act that mandates low-cost accommodations—$78/d, hotels near the waters.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-29-19 pp. C1 & C4

2.1.4.1 Inland Waterways

Update on Southern Pacific Line’s—SPL—from Longview, TX to the Mississippi River Gateways services for 2-rail routes to Kingsport, TN. The Missouri Pacific offered single line service to Memphis, TN and East St. Louis, IL. They used the Santa Fe from Longview to Tenaha, TX, 51-miles south, to reach SPLs rails that run between Houston and Shreveport—on to Memphis and St. Louis, via subsidiary St Louis-Southwestern, known as the Cotton Belt. Traffic moving to export facilities along the Houston Ship Channel did generally move via Tenaha and SPL. TX Eastman was the 2nd-largest chemical facility in TX on 6,000-acres on the Piney Woods of East TX, had 2,000-tank-cars and covered hoppers to move polyethylene, polypropylene and liquid chemical loads nationwide and via Huston, to terminals in the E.U and Asia.
• Update on today’s 47-mi Ann Arbor Railroad that bypassed Chicago, IL’s congestion that is now Michigan Interstate Railway.

Ref: Trains, August 2018 pp. 36-39

2.2 Military

2.2.1 Ships and Planes

The Navy is set to award Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipping division a block by contract for 2-aircraft carriers CVN 80 and CVN 81. The Pentagon sent a certification letter to Congress on December 31, 2018. Confirmation came from U.S. Senator Tom Kaine—member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Background on Ford Class carriers.

Ref: Marine Log, January 3, 2019 and Google.com: gerald r. ford-class aircraft carrier

• The National Nuclear Security Administration with an annual budget of $13.9E9/yr, has started building low-yield submarine launched ballistic missile warheads ordered by the Trump Adm. in 2018. The Pantex plant initiated the assembly of “the W76-2 First Production Unit”. NNSA will deliver the missiles to the Navy by the end of FY-2019. The weapon is a modified version of the far more powerful W76-1 warhead. The NNSA in December 2018 finished a decades-long W76-1 modernization.—More planned nuclear weapons programs will roll into production phases in the decade ending in 2028 increasing costs to $10.0E9 to $50.0E9/yr.

Ref: Exchange Monitor, 1-30-19

2.2.2 International Issues
The Trump Administration is considering ways to expand U.S. homeland and overseas defenses against a potential missile attack, possibly adding a layer of satellites in space to detect and track hostile targets. The Pentagon will release results of a missile defense review as early as 1-17-L9. The attempt is to stopping missiles either before they are launched or in the 1st-few minuets of flight when booster engines are still burning. The effects include a new generation of nuclear weapons.—The Trump Adm. is seeking to expand the American defenses on a scale exceeding Reagans “Star Wars” Initiative—known as missile defense review.—More on the Trump Adm. defense plan.


- President Trump wanted out of NATO because it is an agreement that includes the U.S., Europe, and Canada, that has deterred Soviet and Russian aggression for 70-years, over allied military spending lagging U.S. funding that is a drain on the U.S.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-15-19 pp. A4

- Secretary of State Pompeo pressed Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince on 1-14-19 over charges of war, murder, diplomatic riffs, and human rights abuses.


- The U.S. Military said on 1-19-19 it carried out the deadliest airstrike in Somalia, killing 52-al-Shabab extremists after an attack on Somalia forces near Juba in the Middle Juba region, with no American losses. They are al-Qaeda [Wahhabism, Salafist jihadism, Quthism, Sharia law-Quran and Hadith]-linked extremists. The location was the Bar Sanjuni area, near the Port City of Kismayo. Ethiopia contributed troops to a multinational African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Somalia, independently under Ethiopian Army command. Al-Shabab carries out high-profile suicide bombings and attacks on the Capital Mogadishu. Islamic extremist group’s attacked luxury hotels in Kenya on 1-15-19, in retaliation for Kenya sending troops to Somalia to fight al-Shabab. The U.S. stepped up attacks against al-Shabab in Somalia since President Trump took office, caring out 47-such strikes. Al Shabab leaders fund extremists groups with an extreme network of “taxation” and extortion. The al-Shabab controlled Harardere in the Mudug Province.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-20-19 pp. A13
• President Trump denied House Speaker Pelosi use of an aircraft for a trip to Afghanistan and Brussels as he returned from a war zone in Iraq.


• The Taliban infiltrated an Afghan intelligence base on Monday killing dozens who worked for the agency—the deadliest in 17-years.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-22-19 pp. A3

• The U.S. and Taliban officials agreed in principle to the framework of a deal where insurgents would guarantee the Afghan territory is never used by terrorists—leading to a U.S. troop pull-out, says Zalmay Khalilzad. The Taliban must agree to a cease fire and talk directly with the Afghan government.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-29-19 pp. A3

• North Korea obscures Kim’s visits to missile sites as U.S. Secretary of State prepares to meet North Korea’s Kim Young Chol for steps to denuclearization to lay groundwork for a meeting with President Trump and Kim Jong Un.


• A White House think tank report identified a secret North Korea ballistic missile base 160-mi northwest of Seoul that is the headquarters of the country’s strategic missile force, says the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and is one of 20-undeclared missile operating bases, for missile programs in the country.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-22-19 pp. A4

• The White House announced on 1-18-19 that president Trump would have a 2nd-summit with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un in late February to jump start nuclear talks since the 1st-summit in 2018 after President Trump met Kim Young Chol—a former spy chief and Pyongyang lead negotiator, in the Oval office for 90-min. Danang, Vietnam is a top pick but not conformed yet.


• President Trump demands South Korea take on more costs for hosting U.S. troops as he plans into North Korea’s hands ahead of the 2nd-summit with Kim Jong Un. There are some 28,500-U.S. troops and South Korea paid $855E6 in 2018, but the pact expired at the end of 2018.


• For the 2nd-time in a week a suicide bomber targeted U.S.-forces in Syria, as a car moved into a U.S.-Kurdish convoy and exploded 11-yards from a check point in the northeast. There were no American causalities, said the U.S. coalition. The Turkish Army and Syrian rebels associated with it, as well as Russian-backed Syrian government troops and Islamic State, all appear poised to take advantage of a U.S. drawdown. Amaq, with Islamic State says a “martyrdom-seeker” targeted the joint U.S. Kurdish convoy.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-22-19 pp. A3

• Syrian Kurdish allies say there is no sign of U.S. troops leaving Syria, more than a month after President Trump announced the departure.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-30-19 pp. A13
Stephen Biegun

Stephen E. Biegun (born 1963) is an American businessman and diplomat serving as the United States Special Representative for North Korea. He previously served as Vice President of International Governmental Affairs for the Ford Motor Company and in government roles as a staffer on the National Security Council as well as national security adviser to Senator Bill Frist.

Biegun received his B.A. in Russian and Political Science from the University of Michigan in 1984. He was the in-country Director for the International Republican Institute in Moscow, Russia from 1992-1994. He is a member of the board of the U.S. Russia Foundation, the Moscow School of Political Studies, the U.S. -Russia Business Council, and Ford Sollers, Ford’s joint venture operating in Russia.

Career

Biegun has served in a number of roles within the federal government, including as executive secretary of the National Security Council, reporting to national security adviser Condoleezza Rice under President George W. Bush. He served as a foreign policy adviser to Sarah Palin during John McCain’s 2008 presidential campaign. On March 1, 2018, it was reported that Biegun was a top candidate to replace Donald Trump’s national security adviser H. R. McMaster. On March 22, it was announced that McMaster would instead be succeeded by John R. Bolton.

On August 23, 2018, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo appointed Biegun to serve as the U.S. Special Representative for North Korea, directing U.S. policy in regard to North Korea on behalf of the Trump administration.

References


**External links**

Media related to Stephen E. Biegun at Wikimedia Commons

- Appearances (https://www.c-span.org/person/?stephenbiegun) on C-SPAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diplomatic posts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Preceded by</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Yun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Korea Policy</td>
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<td>United States Special Representative for North Korea 2018-present</td>
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<td>Incumbent</td>
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Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.
President Putin dashed Japanese hopes of a settlement to a territorial dispute that has festered since 1945, after a visiting Prime Minister Abe said there is a lot of “hard work” ahead. Japan wants Russia to relinquish Japanese islands seized by the Soviet Union at the end of WW II—now called the “Northern Territories” by Japan, and Russians call the Southern, a chain of islands off Japan’s Northern prefecture of Hokkaido. Russia wants to hold on to its war gains—a victory by Russian Nationalists, that also includes their Westward expansion into former German territory of East Prussia called Kaliningrad and East into Japan.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-23-19 pp. A3, Google.com: Kuril Islands dispute-wikipedia, google.com: Kaliningrad-wikipedia [[Sambian Twangste, Teutonic Knights, King Ottoka ll]]

Brazil firefighters and Israeli rescue workers searching for bodies reported deaths are now 65 and 279-missing in Minas Gerais. Israeli rescue workers are routinely sent to help in humanitarian efforts now.—Brazilian authorities arrested 5-people on 1-30-19 in connection with a dam collapse that killed 65 and left 300-missing. The dam held back iron-ore waste owned by Vale SA in Brumadinho, Brazil.


3.0 Water Issues

3.5 Ground Water

3.5.2 Desalination

Escondido will move the $15E6 recycled, reverse osmosis-desal-plant to a new location to produce water for avocado farmers and could cause replacement of an outfall pipe to the ocean at an additional cost of $1.0E9.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-18-19 pp. 85

4.0 Pipelines and Tunnel Issues

4.1 Pipelines

A fuel theft tunnel was found beneath an industrial building in Mexico City that was used to tap 4-gasoline and diesel pipelines, and hoses to a parking lot.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-30-19 pp. A3

4.1.2 Sewer Lines
The City of San Diego will back California Attorney General Xavier Becerra’s lawsuit that seeks to hold the Trump Administration accountable for sewage and the toxic flows that spill over the border from Tijuana.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-30-19 pp. A6

4.2 Tunnels

4.2.1 Transportation

Update and history of Pennsylvania railroad and its Hudson River tunnel bores from New Jersey to Manhattan Island and future site of the new, New York Penn Station’s $30E9 project. President Trump says he will support it.

Ref: Trains, September 2018 pp. 6 & 7

5.0 Transportation Environmental Issues

6.0 Transportation Financial Issues

Update on financial performance of Amtrak.

Ref: Trains, 2019 pp. 50-55

7.0 Airport and Global Space Issues

7.1 Airport

7.1.1 Planes

Boing Company executives are closing in on one of their aircraft, nick named 797-its 1st-new design since the 787 Dreamliner in 2004 to shore its company line against Airbus SE advances. Airbus’s new CEO Guillaume Faury says he’s waiting for Boing to tip its hand before revealing counter moves—for a showdown at the Paris Airshow in June 2019. The 797 will fly from Chicago-Berlin and NY to Los Angeles, CA.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-30-19 pp. C1 & C2 and Google.com: Boeing 797

7.1.5 Safety

A small plane crashed into a hillside a quarter-mile south of the Oceanside municipal Airport on 1-29-19 killing the pilot and severely injuring his passenger who was tapped for 10-hours before rescuers arrived. The FAA says the Piper Warrior was manufactured around 1974 and is registered to a Vista man.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-30-19 pp. B1

7.1.6 U.S.

Alaska Airlines is expanding flights in San Diego and will consolidate its operations in the Airport’s Terminal 2, by January 29, 2019. They currently use 7-gates at the older terminal 1 and are flying in and out of 7-gates in terminal 2 of SDIA. Spirit Airlines, Allegiant Airlines, and Sun Country Airlines will move from Terminal 2 to Terminal 1.

7.2 Global and Space

The erratic and rapid shift of the Earth’s magnetic North Pole since 2014 is necessitating scientists to update a year earlier modal used in critical navigation systems and was requested by the U.S. military due to the mounting level of inaccuracies in guidance across the Arctic for ships, planes, and submarines. Scientists say it is due to changes in flow of iron in the Earth’s outer core. Some say they will reverse—which is long overdue.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-21-19 pp B2—Earth Watch and Google.com: north magnetic pole-wikipedia

7.2.3 Moon

Picture of full Moon as it slipped into Earth’s shadow on Sunday.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-21-19 pp. A1

8.0 Border and Cultural Issues

8.1 Border

The fate of President Trump’s $5.7E9 demand for a border wall is in the hands of a 17-member bipartisan panel that includes senior members of Congress but lacks most vocal immigration hard-liners on Capitol Hill—The Conference Committee has until February 15 to come up with a border security package.


8.1.1 Import-Export

British lawmakers rejected Prime Minister May’s divorce deal with the E.U. plunging the Brexit process into chaos and a no-confidence vote that could topple her government. The vote was: House of Common’s-432 against the Government and 202 in support—the biggest defeat for a government in the House of Commons in modern history. A vote of no-confidence will be taken on 1-16-19 and it allows 14-days to overturn the result or face a national election. Northern Ireland’s Democratic Unionist Party said it would support PM May.—Prime Minister May survived a no-confidence motion in the House of Commons in a vote of 325 to 302 but lost the Brexit by 432 to 202.—The E.U. is spending thousands of millions preparing for a possible exit by the U.K. from the E.U. bloc on March 29 without a plan.—PM May’s Brexit Plan B was released but is much like Plan A and it was presented to Parliament for approval after securing changes from the E.U. to a contentious Irish border measure. —British PM May is trying to rework the Brexit deal with Parliament’s OK and an Irish borderer guarantee—a provision in the withdrawal deal.


• The Trump Adm. is moving toward a serious tightening of the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba—the most in 2-decades. The 1996-law Helms-Burton Act can sue companies profiting from properties confiscated by Cub’s government after the 1959-Socialist Revolution.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-18-19 pp. A3

• Representatives from the Pacific Rim trade bloc geared up to roll out and expand the market-opening initiative as they met on Saturday in Tokyo, reaffirming their commitment to open free trade and inviting
new membership. The Pacific Rim Free Trade Agreement, rejected by President Trump after entering office in 2017, took effect at the end of 2018, after Australia became the 6th-nation to ratify it. 7 of the 11-member countries have done so and others expect to do so soon. The Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership aims to streamline trade and slash tariffs to facilitate more business among member nations, with a population of 500E6 and GDP of $13.5E12, says Japan’s Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Chair of the gathering. The 11-remaining after the U.S.-withdrawal allows it to take effect without Washington’s participation. Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, and Singapore also ratified it. Peru, Chile, Brunei, and Malaysia have not done so yet, and were encouraged to do so. Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe praised the 11-ministers for achieving the trade bloc for a globalized economy amid rapid change in the globalized economy with the TTP. The U.S. and Taiwan are interested in joining the trade deal as a pan-Pacific free-trade zone. For the U.S.’s 2-dozen stipulations sought by the U.S. in the original deal, they have been shelved after Washington withdrew. Efforts are underway for a free trade arrangement within Asia called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership that encompasses 10-members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India, and China, but not the U.S.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-20-19 pp. A12

- Port officials in CA said the cost of UP’s latest shipments of extra-long rail-sections increased by $4E6 based on recently imposed 23% tax [tariffs] on imported steel—480-ft-rail sections from Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal’s, Yawata steel plant in Japan, that has been delivered for some 4-years aboard the Pacific Spike ship, that sails with up to 20E3 mt of rail, 6-times/yr through San Francisco Bay, and up the San Joaquin River to Stockton CA.

Ref: Trains, October 2018 pp. 10

- Update on UP and BNSF on 60-trains of lumber, grain, trash, and more/d on the Columbia River Gorge routes.

Ref: Trains, November 2018 pp. 34-43

- In Metropolis of Chongqing, western China, Ford Motor assembly plants slowed. In eastern province of Jiangsu hundreds of chemical factories closed. In Guangdong, in southeast factories idled workers in droves. Chinese officials say their economy grew at its slowest pace since the global financial crisis. The U.S. economy moved ahead with strong growth and low unemployment is showing some signs of a slowdown and facing higher short-term interest rates that could break it. The E.U. is showing its age too, even Germany. In the past China helped the global financial crisis but this time it is showing weakness. In China, car sales, smartphones and interest rates are up to roll over debts. Trade fluctuations toward foreign interests make it worst. China’s economy grew 6.6% in the 1Q-3-months of 2018 compared to 6.6%, the same as 2017.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-21-19 pp. A5

- The U.S. Treasury Department lifted sanctions on 3-Russian companies tied to President Putin’s aluminum company, Rusal, and 2-other companies Oleg Deripaska who owns, but not by himself, over global malison activities, to subvert Western Democracy.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-28-19 pp. A7
• The Justice Department unsealed criminal charges on 1-28-19 against Chinese tech giant Huawei, 2-of its subsidiaries, and a top executive accused of misleading banks about the company’s business and violating U.S. sanctions. They are also accused of stealing trade secrets from T-Mobile.—Chinese tech company Huawei is accused of stealing a robot’s arm in its bid to get its hands-on T-Mobile’s trade secrets says the U.S. government in the case over Tappy, T-Mobile’s phone-testing robot—going to intellectual property.


• The Trump Adm. imposed sanctions against Venezuela’s state-owned oil monopoly to force President Maduro to relinquish power.—The Trump Adm. threatened consequents against President Maduro of Venezuela after the U.S. State Department said it gave opposition leader Juan Guaidó the right to control the assets and property in the U.S. Bank accounts of the government of Venezuela, says the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. President Maduro will create “popular defense units”, armed civilian squads comprising 50E3-fighters to expand the Army’s reach by putting down anti-government resistance in the country.


8.1.2 Ports of Entry

The Pentagon announced troops will remain at the border through most of 2019.—The Pentagon will send 2,000-more troops to the border, Defense Department officials said on 1-29-19. Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan announced the move, that now will have 5,900-troops on the border.


• After 6-months of zero-tolerance immigration prosecution policy in San Diego, there were 6,461-cases of unlawful entry cases—with a charge that carries a 6-month max sustenance in federal lockup. In 2017 there were 22-cases, that is an yr-over-yr increase of 29,298%. Total felony cases were 5,491 and are directly a result of President Trump’s policy to prosecution of illegal crossings.


• President Trump is considering invoking emergency powers to build his proposed border wall on the U.S.-Mexico border without congressional approval.


• 2-years after signing orders to have 15E3-border agents, the Adm. has spent tens of millions in the effort—but has thousands more vacancies than when it began. The CB&P allocated $80.7E6 to Accenture Federal Services, a management consulting firm, as part of a $297E6 contract to recruit, vet, and hire 7,500-border officers, over 5-years but only produced 33-new hires.


8.2 Culture

Mayor Faulconer set goals of reducing homelessness, making the city a leader in environmental issues, respect diversity, and upgrading 300-dangerous intersections. The boldest proposals were eliminating building height limits, parking reequipments, and making low-income housing more profitable.

• More than 1,000-Hondurans in the latest migrant caravan began heading by foot and in vehicles on Tuesday toward Guatemala hoping to reach the far-off U.S. Mexico border. The caravan could reach over 2,000-people. —More than 1,000 migrants from Honduras are passing through Guatemala heading for the U.S. —Many Central Americans migrants in Tapachula, Mexico converged near a checkpoint for rides on mini-buses or beds of pickups, to keep moving north. As many as 1,300-Central American migrants from the last caravan have went home. —With a new caravan on the way, Tijuana government officials are not worried, even with the chaos that arrived in November with 6,000-Central American migrants. Leonardo Neri a federal volunteer and coordinator for temporary migrant shelter on the eastern outskirts of Tijuana. Operators at the El Barretal are winding down as most migrants found work and alternate living arrangements in Tijuana. In other shelters across Tijuana, resources are strained, and conditions are crowded. The current caravan from Honduras crossed into Chiapas on 1-18-19.


• The immigrants [migrants from the last caravan], are waiting in line at the San Ysidro POE to get a number and waiting daily for their turn in a line that takes a dozen or so/day, for consideration of asylum. The Coast Guard is also intercepting migrants trying to cross into the U.S. off the Coast.


• Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to use state funds to help migrant families arriving at the CA border, with funding going to San Diego non-profits and community organization known as the Rapid Response Network. His proposed budget allocated $20E6 over 3-years beginning in July to fund a “rapid response network” for services during immigration and human trafficking emergency situations. He’s also asking the Legislature to oppose $56E6 in funding to be used before the FY ends in June. Newsom visited San Diego’s shelter before being sworn in as Gov.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-21-19 pp. A1

• President Bolsonaro on 1-15-19 signed a decree to make it easier for Brazilians to own guns in the nation that leads the world in total homicides. The guns will help people defend themselves in his far-right government, with requirements. In 2018 64E3-people were killed—the majority by firearms.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-16-19 pp. A9

• Hundreds of Central American migrants traveled peacefully from Tecun Uman, Guatemala in the small town of Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico. This id the 3rd-large caravan in less than a year, Mexico is offering humanitarian visas that allow them to live and work anywhere in Mexico for up to 1-year, and travel freely without fear of deportation, threats from smugglers, or shakedowns by corrupt authorities. They can also apply for refugee status in Mexico, the papers will take 5-days, and they can wait on either side of the border with ID-bracelets.—Hundreds of Central American migrants broke their way into a federal port of entry on Mexico’s southern border on 1-18-19 bucking efforts by Mexican immigration officers to register their arrival in an orderly manner. They broke a lock at the federal port of entry in Ciudad Hidalgo about 4:00 a.m. says Mexico’s immigration official Tonatiuh Guillén from Tecún Umán, Guatemala. The group was miles from the border by 8:00 a.m. on a 4-lain highway heading to Tapachula, made up of young men, women, and children, some in strollers. A Catholic group offered water as they shouted “Furera [out] JOH” the President of Honduras Juan Orlando Hernández. President Obrador of Mexico said he would give human treatment to migrants.

• College students are looking for unmarked grave-sites of migrants along the TX-Mexico border says TX state University. In 2018 there were 281-deaths along the border, compared to 451 in 2013, and 385 in 2008. There were 32 since the October 2019 FY start.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-18-19 pp. A7

• Baja California’s medical examiner’s office in Tijuana is dealing with more than 20-bodies daily or 600-bodies/month at its SEMEFO facility and cadavers are rotting in the area, from the bodies of lower-level drug dealers, fighting over street corners. In 2018 the agency received more than 2,700-bodies.


• A group of 376-Central Americans were arrested in Southwestern AZ that dug holes under a barrier to cross the border 10-mi east of San Luis, AZ’s border crossing and included 176-children. Most were from Guatemala and were taken to Yuma. The area has been a favorite crossing since the mid 2000’s. On 1-9-19 the border patrol arrested 247-people mostly from Central America who turned themselves into agents. Others are surrendering themselves in Antelope, NM. The Yuma sector made 7,857-arrests in October and November, twice that of 2017, and 396,579-arrests on the Mexican border in FY 2018, up 30% from a 46-year low in 2017 and well below 1.6E6 in 2000.—The Trump Adm. launched a change to the U.S. asylum policy on 1-29-19 with a single Honduran man being returned to Tijuana to wait for his claim to process. The new policy called “Migration Protection Protocols” and is known as “Remain in Mexico”, as a pilot program, by Mexican officials that sends asylum seekers from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador back to Mexico to wait for immigration court dates in the U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen visited San Ysidro in December to announce the program.

REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 01/15/19

Name to be called: Lim Hjaladzion

Address (optional):

Phone (optional):

Email (optional):

Request to Speak: ☐ Yes  ☐ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

Please Submit to the Clerk
REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 2/15/2019  
Agenda Item #: 10  ☑ In Favor  ☐ Opposed

Name to be called: David Stone  
Representing: Self

Address (optional): ________________________________

Phone (optional): ________________________________ Email (optional): ________________________________

Request to Speak: ☑ Yes  ☐ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please Submit to the Clerk

REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 2/15/19  
Agenda Item #: 10  ☑ In Favor  ☐ Opposed

Name to be called: Ken Jones  
Representing: ________________________________

Address (optional): ________________________________

Phone (optional): ________________________________ Email (optional): ________________________________

Request to Speak: ☑ Yes  ☐ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please Submit to the Clerk
REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 2019-02-15
Name to be called: Clive Richard
Representing: Self

Agenda Item #: 10
Request to Speak: Yes

If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

SANDAG

Please Submit to the Clerk

REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 2/15/19
Name to be called: Casey Lynch
Representing: Roman CPG

Agenda Item #: 10
Request to Speak: Yes

If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

SANDAG

Please Submit to the Clerk
REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 21/15/19 Agenda Item #: 10 □ In Favor □ Opposed
Name to be called: DAN SUMMERS Representing: RCPG
Address (optional): 
Phone (optional): Email (optional): 

Request to Speak: □ Yes □ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

POWER POINT + 10 MINUTE PRESENTATION

Please Submit to the Clerk
REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 2-15-2015  Agenda Item #: 10  □ In Favor  □ Opposed
Name to be called: Tony  Representing: County
Address (optional):  
Phone (optional):  Email (optional):  

Request to Speak:  □ Yes   □ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 02-15-19  Agenda Item #: 10  □ In Favor  □ Opposed
Name to be called: LIEUTENANT CLYDE LARKIN  Representing: CHP-ELCAIRON
Address (optional):  
Phone (optional):  Email (optional):  

Request to Speak:  □ Yes   □ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

SPEAK AFTER RAMONA PLANNING GROUP PRESENTATION