Military faces limitations in how it can respond to coronavirus

**Called into combat**

By Robert Burns and Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is already helping combat the coronavirus outbreak in the United States and is considering ways to do more.

But the military faces limits. Its health care system is geared more toward handling combat casualties than infectious diseases. And there are logistical and legal concerns about expanding the military’s role in civilian affairs, such as tasking it with enforcing quarantines. Defense officials also want to be careful not to do anything to weaken its ability to defend the nation.

A look at the military’s role in the crisis:

- **What the military is doing.** At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Pentagon has made housing available at four military bases for some passengers taken from the Grand Princess cruise ship, which was hit with a cluster of coronavirus cases. It also has made available housing at other bases for people entering the U.S. at certain civilian airports and needing monitoring.

At those bases, the people being given housing are cared for by civilian agencies, not the military.

Also, Army scientists are researching and testing vaccines for the coronavirus, in coordination with civilian agencies.

The most extensive role for the military thus far is by the National Guard, which is **SEE RESPOND ON PAGE 5**

---

**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

- **White House seeking $850B stimulus**

**Hundreds of troops in Iraq to reposition**

By Louisa Loveluck
The Washington Post

LONDON — The U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIS said Monday it will move hundreds of troops out of bases in Iraq, with most redeployed to other locations in the country, as threats from the militants wane and risks to foreign troops elsewhere in Iraq increase.

The coalition said troops would be leaving the al-Qaim base in western Iraq within days and that they would soon move out of the northern K1 and Key West bases too, with most heading to larger bases in Iraq and others to Syria or Kuwait.

The move, officials said, has been planned for months and is not the result of a wave of attacks by Iran-backed militia groups, which have killed and wounded almost two dozen coalition troops in recent weeks.

“As a result of the success of Iraqi Security Forces in their fight against ISIS, the Coalition is repositioning troops from a few smaller bases,” Col. Myles Caggins, a spokesman for the anti-ISIS mission. “These bases remain under Iraqi control and we will continue our advising partnership for the permanent defeat of Daesh from other Iraqi military bases,” he said, using an Arabic nickname for the militants.

Another U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation, said that planning for the move began in the fall, after military officials judged that the threat from Islamic State forces had diminished across swathes of Iraq.

But as danger from the militants had waned, tensions with Iran had escalated, and the more than 5,000 U.S. troops serving in Iraq as part of the anti-Islamic
Amazon seeks to hire 100K for surge in orders

By Joseph Pisani
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Amazon said Monday that it needs to hire 100,000 people across the U.S. to keep up with a crush of orders as the coronavirus spreads and keeps more people at home, shopping online.

The online retailer said that it will also temporarily raise pay by $2 an hour through the end of April for hourly employees. That includes workers at its warehouses, delivery centers and Whole Foods grocery stores, all of whom make at least $15 an hour. Employees in the United Kingdom and other European countries will get a similar raise.

“We are seeing a significant increase in demand, which means our labor needs are unprecedented for this time of year,” said Dave Clark, who oversees Amazon’s warehouse and delivery network.

Amazon said this weekend that a surge of orders is putting pressure on its operations under pressure. It warned shoppers that it could take longer than the usual two days to get packages. It also said that it was sold out of many household cleaning supplies and is working to get more in stock.

The Seattle-based company said that the new job openings are for a mix of full-time and part-time positions and include delivery drivers and warehouse workers, who pack and ship orders to shoppers.

Amazon said that the new job openings are for a mix of full-time and part-time positions and include delivery drivers and warehouse workers, who pack and ship orders to shoppers.

Amazon said that it needs to hire 100,000 people across the U.S. to keep up with a crush of orders as the coronavirus spreads and keeps more people at home, shopping online.

The online retailer said that it will also temporarily raise pay by $2 an hour through the end of April for hourly employees. That includes workers at its warehouses, delivery centers and Whole Foods grocery stores, all of whom make at least $15 an hour. Employees in the United Kingdom and other European countries will get a similar raise.

“We are seeing a significant increase in demand, which means our labor needs are unprecedented for this time of year,” said Dave Clark, who oversees Amazon’s warehouse and delivery network.

Amazon said this weekend that a surge of orders is putting pressure on its operations under pressure. It warned shoppers that it could take longer than the usual two days to get packages. It also said that it was sold out of many household cleaning supplies and is working to get more in stock.

The Seattle-based company said that the new job openings are for a mix of full-time and part-time positions and include delivery drivers and warehouse workers, who pack and ship orders to shoppers.

Amazon seeks to hire 100K for surge in orders

By Joseph Pisani
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Amazon said Monday that it needs to hire 100,000 people across the U.S. to keep up with a crush of orders as the coronavirus spreads and keeps more people at home, shopping online.

The online retailer said that it will also temporarily raise pay by $2 an hour through the end of April for hourly employees. That includes workers at its warehouses, delivery centers and Whole Foods grocery stores, all of whom make at least $15 an hour. Employees in the United Kingdom and other European countries will get a similar raise.

“We are seeing a significant increase in demand, which means our labor needs are unprecedented for this time of year,” said Dave Clark, who oversees Amazon’s warehouse and delivery network.

Amazon said this weekend that a surge of orders is putting pressure on its operations under pressure. It warned shoppers that it could take longer than the usual two days to get packages. It also said that it was sold out of many household cleaning supplies and is working to get more in stock.

The Seattle-based company said that the new job openings are for a mix of full-time and part-time positions and include delivery drivers and warehouse workers, who pack and ship orders to shoppers.
Afghan officials’ standoff threatens peace deal

BY PAMELA CONSTABLE
The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — The most dangerous place in the Afghan capital today isn’t under threat from Taliban or Islamic State insurgents. A single block near the presidential palace, bristling with guns, has become ground zero in a surreal war of nerves between two civilian politicians both claiming to be the country’s legitimate leader.

Just a short walk from the compound of President Ashraf Ghani, the incumbent whose re-election was announced last month, gunmen in armored vehicles guard the smaller palace of his archrival Abdullah Abdullah, who insists he was cheated out of victory and is forming a parallel government. He has reoccupied the compound he once used as a vice president under Ghani.

No shots have been fired, giving the confrontation an eerie, stage-managed feel. But as the standoff drags into its second week, many Afghans fear the slightest incident could ignite a violent conflagration between rival camps, plunging the country into chaos and doom.

Aides to Ghani said there are still hopes for rapprochement between the warring factions, but so far Abdullah and Dostum, his most powerful backer, have refused offers to switch sides.

Ghani has said little about the standoff since March 9, when he and Abdullah held competing inauguration ceremonies at the presidential palace. Abdullah has postponed naming a Cabinet and refrained from using force to clear the contested city block. Abdullah has pressed on, naming his own governors in several provinces, but Ghani’s team is continuing to meet privately with intermediaries in hopes that he will eventually accept a compromise.

“This is a very unfortunate situation, given the peace process that is very fragile and could get destroyed,” said an adviser to Ghani, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive topic. “The Taliban is next door, and the public is angry and fearful. But we think there is still room to bargain. Abdullah and his people know that if things get out of control, nobody can put them back. It will be a disaster for Afghanistan for many years to come.”

Others say Abdullah, diplomatic by nature, is now stuck out on a limb, having enlisted hard-line ethnic minority bosses to bolster him in his grudge match against Ghani, who defeated him in a stack-marred elections in 2014 and 2019. Last time, the two rivals were forced into an intense power-sharing arrangement under U.S. mediation; this time, despite the hasty patching-up efforts underway, the idea is anathema to both politicians.

For most Afghans, there are far more urgent matters at stake. Many Kabul residents lived through both the government collapse and civil war of the early 1990s, which destroyed much of the capital, and the years of Taliban religious repression that followed. Many now fear a similar scenario is developing, involving some of the same individuals, the same ethnic and regional tensions, and the same potential for the Taliban to fill the breach and seize power.

Other factors are adding to the sense of anxiety. One is the looming withdrawal of U.S. troops as part of a recently signed U.S. deal with the Taliban, deepening the declining international interest in their country’s fate. The other is the coronavirus, which has spread widely and is taking its toll on health facilities.

“Everyone is worried,” said Abid Sherezai, 45, who runs a grocery while his wife teaches school. “We have corona, and the Taliban, and the same problems of people taking sides who once fired rockets at our houses.

“We want peace and calm to bring progress. We want one president, not two,” he said. “We want good educated leaders, not a bad government. We want to move forward, not back. But with the Americans leaving, who will help us?”

Most people interviewed said they preferred Ghani over Abdullah. Several said the difference hardly mattered now, compared to the far more important risk that the current power struggle between two rival camps could plunge Afghanistan into a civil war between Afghan and Taliban leaders. Those talks were scheduled to take place last week, but Ghani’s team has already sidetracked the possibility by proposing a new election.

Iraq: Strikes on bases hosting coalition troops have become regular event

FROM FRONT PAGE

State of war is now in the crosshairs of Iraqi militia groups backed by Tehran. Militia rocket strikes on bases hosting coalition troops have become a regular occurrence and already brought the U.S. and Iran to the brink of war this once.

Last week in Iraq, the U.S. launched its second wave of air strikes targeting the Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah group in the space of three months, after two American and one British service members were killed in suspected missile rocket attacks on Camp Taji, an Iraqi military base north of Baghdad.

The U.S. Defense Department said that airstrikes had targeted five weapons storage facilities linked to the Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah group, to “degrade” its ability to launch future strikes. But a day later, Camp Taji was hit by another salvo of rockets, wounding two Iraqi and three U.S. servicemen.

A newly-announced group calling itself Usbat al-Thairen, or the League of Revolutionaries, on Sunday claimed responsibility for the strike. “We rejoice in the fear that we have struck in the chests of the occupying enemy as a result of our quality operations,” the group said in a video statement circulated on Telegram. “This operation is only the beginning and the end is soon to come.”

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo discussed the attacks with Iraq’s Prime Minister, Adel Abdul-Mahdi during a phone call Sunday, according to a statement. “Secretary Pompeo underscored that the groups responsible for these attacks must be held accountable,” Wash, adding that the U.S. would “not tolerate attacks and threats to American lives.”

The U.S.-led coalition mission in Iraq launched an operation targeting what of- ficials described as an Islamic State mountain hideout.

A Spanish contingent of the coalition and NATO trainers are present at the Basmaya site. There was no immediate confirmation of the attack.

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two rockets struck a training base south of Baghdad where U.S.-led coalition troops and NATO trainers are present, Iraq’s military said Tuesday, the third such attack in the span of a week.

The rockets hit the Basmaya base near the Iraqi capital Monday evening, the army statement said. The projectiles landed in an area that includes agricultural land and a factory, according to the statement. No more details were provided.

A Spanish contingent of the coalition and NATO trainers are present at the Basmaya site. There was no immediate confirmation of the attack from the coalition and no militant group claimed responsibility for the assault.

Last Wednesday, a barrage of over two dozen rockets struck Camp Taji, north of Baghdad, killing three coalition servicemen, including two Americans. A British serviceman was also killed. It was the deadliest to target U.S. troops in Iraq since a late December rocket attack on an Iraqi base, which killed a U.S. contractor and set in motion a series of attacks that brought Iraq to the brink of war.

Wednesday’s barrage was followed by another attack, on Saturday at the same site, which wounded five soldiers — three coalition members and two Iraqi soldiers.
Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment


rifles went missing from the unit, nearly three months after two Lejeune, N.C., have been fired of a Marine battalion at Camp

mander and the sergeant major of a Marine battalion at Camp

as a combat

Aviles enlisted as a combat engineer in the Marine Corps in 1997 and has deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, according to his official biography. Lt. Col. Ryan Gordinier has taken command of the battalion, but nobody has been chosen to fill the sergeant major position, according to the division statement. The 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine

were relieved Thursday by Maj. Gen. David Furness, the commander of the 2nd Marine Division, “due to a loss of trust and confidence,” according to a division statement.

In December, two rifles from the battalion went missing during a training exercise, according to news reports. The rifles are still missing and the investigation is ongoing, Naval Criminal Investigative Service spokesman Jeff Houston said Tuesday.

Firing the battalion’s headquarters is “taken seriously and with the intent of ensuring a given unit’s continued success in future operations,” according to the division statement.

Kappel took command of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment on Sept. 20. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1996 and commissioned in 2001. He had previously deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan, according to his official biography.

Aviles enlisted as a combat engineer in the Marine Corps in 1997 and has deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, according to his official biography.

Lt. Col. Ryan Gordinier has taken command of the battalion, but nobody has been chosen to fill the sergeant major position, according to the division statement. The 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine

Regiment is an infantry unit with about 900 Marines and sailors, said Lt. Dan Linfante, a spokesman for the 2nd Marine Division.

Camp Lejeune is the largest amphibious base on the East Coast. It is home to 37,000 active-duty Marines and sailors, the largest concentration of Marines in the country, according to Camp Lejeune spokesman Nat Faly.

---

A gamer plays at DreamHack Anaheim on Feb. 22. The Navy has announced plans to create an eSports team in a bid to reach Gen Z

Naval officer, NCO fired three months after rifles went missing

Navy looking to build eSports team in bid to reach Gen Z

A New Navy recruiting effort is getting underway just in time to reach prospective recruits at an appropriate social distance through online streaming video games and competitions.

The Navy is following the Army’s lead in launching a video gaming team. As of Sunday, any petty officer looking to add a Navy eSports jersey to their sea bag can apply.

Members of the team, dubbed Goats&Glory, will practice, stream and compete from a facility in Tennessee “specifically designed” for their mission, the Navy said in an administrative message last month.

“Centennials are moving into digital spaces for most of their content consumption and social interactions, and the eSports domain is one of the most popular and vibrant online arenas to date,” the message said. It also said that the Navy’s official gamers will “develop a routine streaming cadence, encouraging followers and viewers to interact with the members and recruiting content.”

The effort will help the service “improve relatability” with potential recruits and “better share sea stories about Navy life,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew Crosswhite who plays video games during DreamHack Anaheim.

Navy Recruiting Command boss Rear Adm. Brendan McLane in a statement earlier this month.

The Army has credited its combination of live-fire exercises and virtual reality training as an example for other services to follow.

Aspiring Navy team members will be screened for “team fit” as well as for meeting weight and body composition standards and passing the last three years of regularly scheduled physical fitness tests, the Navy said this month.

The team will initially focus on the game “Counter-Strike: Global Offensive,” but sailors with talents in other titles are welcome to apply.

The application process and more detailed requirements are outlined at www.cnrc.navy.mil/ESPORTS/index-esports.htm.

---

**Special operations gunship joins Navy drill in Persian Gulf**

By Chad Garland

A special operations gunship directly supported maritime operations in 2019 for the first time during a joint exercise with Navy ships and a patrol aircraft last week, the U.S. military said.

The live-fire exercise came days before coalition deaths in Iraq renewed concerns about Iranian threats in the region.

The AC-130 Stinger II from Special Operations Command Central operated with Cyclone-class coastal patrol ships and P-8A Poseidon aircraft from the Navy’s 5th Fleet in a bid to improve U.S. capabilities to respond to surface threats.

Incorporating the gunship “significantly enhances our ability to detect, track, engage and defeat surface threats in order to control water space in the Arabian Gulf,” said Capt. Peter Mirisola, commander of Destroyer Squadron 50 and Combined Task Force 55 based out of Manama, Bahrain. The AC-130 is outfitted with 30 mm, 105 mm and precision-guided munitions to provide close air support to troops on the ground and carry out air interdiction missions.

While the exercise on March 8 and 9 marked the first time that particular airframe has been integrated into maritime operations in the Persian Gulf, Navy officials cited joint operations during the “Tanker War” of the late 1980s as a precursor.

Special operations MH-6 Little Bird helicopters were similarly incorporated into Operation Earnest Will from 1987 to 1988, when U.S. Navy ships escorted Kuwaiti tankers to protect them from Iranian attacks during the Iran-Iraq War, the statement said.

A series of attacks on tankers in the Persian Gulf last summer raised concerns of a renewed tanker war, as the Trump administration warned Iran. U.S. forces in the region have been sent from Iran after withdrawing from the nuclear deal negotiated under the Obama administration and Iran threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz.

The waterway, a thoroughfare for much of the world’s oil, is one of the region’s choke points in the 5th Fleet’s 2.5-million-square-mile area of operations, which also includes the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean.

Since last summer, the U.S. and its allies have stepped up maritime patrols and the Pentagon has deployed more troops, aircraft and air defense capabilities to the region. The U.S. has also accused Tehran or its proxies of attacking Saudi Arabian oil facilities, smuggling weapons to Houthis rebels in Yemen and striking Iraqi installations housing U.S. and coalition forces.

The latest fatal rocket strike in Iraq last week killed two American troops and a British soldier at Camp Taji, north of Baghdad, leading the U.S. to respond with airstrikes on the Iran-backed Kataeb Hezbollah militia.

The exchange of fire was similar to a series of attacks in January that culminated with an Iranian ballistic missile strike on a U.S.-occupied base in western Iraq.

Following last week’s fatal rocket attack and U.S. response, Defense Secretary Mark Esper authorized U.S. Central Command’s request to keep some aircraft carrier strike groups in the region’s waters to bolster security and deter Iranian aggression, Pentagon spokesman Capt. Monitor’s Office of Operations said.

“U.S. Central Command is well-postured to defend our forces around the region and respond to any further aggression against our forces,” he said. “We have the flexibility, the capability and the will to respond to any threat.”

The following day, a second rocket strike at Camp Taji wounded three coalition troops and two Iraqi security forces members.

---

**Stars and Stripes**

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

PAGE 4

**STARS AND STRIPES**
VIRUS OUTBREAK

DOD rejects calls to stop training recruits

BY DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon, which is responsible for defending the U.S. homeland, said in a memorandum Monday that defense officials are trying to identify reporters who would be called on to cover the coronavirus crisis "would be secondary to our primary mission to stem the spread of any disease." The memorandum was made public as the United States continues to battle the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

In severe cases, COVID-19 can lead to pneumonia and death.

The next eight weeks...
VIRUS OUTBREAK

S. Korea sees slowdown in spread of coronavirus

Camp Humphreys commander warns against complacency amid decline

By Kim Gamel
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Pedestrian gates on the largest U.S. military base in South Korea will be closed for entry overnight to prevent people from violating a ban on outside social activities, the garrison command- er said Tuesday, warning against complacency after a decline in the daily number of new cases of coronavirus nationwide.

The Army garrison, which has a population of more than 37,000, and is home to the main mili- tary headquarters on the divided peninsula, already has sharply restricted access and ordered service- members to avoid unnecessary off-post activities to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

South Korea logged 84 new cases Monday for a total of 8,320, with 81 deaths, health authori- ties said Tuesday. It was the third consecutive day that the number of new cases fell below 100 after reaching a high of 909 on Feb. 29, although health authorities con- tinued to express concern about cluster infections.

U.S. Forces Korea has reported nine cases — a soldier and his wife, three other military de- pendents and four South Korean employees.

“We are cautiously optimistic that we can proceed forward,” Humphreys garrison commander Col. Michael Tremblay said Tuesday, warning that the trend has not yet held up. “The community is getting restless after nearly a month of confinement. “What we are fearful of is complacency setting in, and there’s no time for that now.”

Tremblay said pedestrian gates would be closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. starting Thursday, with ex- ceptions made for shift workers who get a signed memorandum saying they are available to re- turn. Those who are confirmed to exit the gates, although Tremblay stressed that would only be so for “very essential business” and “in anticipation of the change.”

“We just think if you’re not out doing social things and at the bar, at the club or whatever, we’re not sure why you’re out there wanting to come back in” during that time period, he said.

Military officials already have suspended access for South Ko- reans who are members of a so-called “good neighbor program” aimed at fostering goodwill with the local community and restricted local contract worker move- ment to and from work sites on U.S. installations across the di- vided peninsula.

Service members also have been deployed to access gates with questionnaires asking about potential exposure to the virus and thermometers for tempera- ture checks in case of fevers.

Tremblay also said physical fitness classes would be limited to a maximum of 20 people to avoid spreading the virus in cramped spaces.

“We don’t want anything to get inside of our bubble,” he said dur- ing a Facebook live community address. ‘We’re really trying to ratchet down because we want to really put a stake through the heart of this thing.”

He did have some good news, however. While on-post schools remain closed, officials are “on the verge” of fully reopening child development centers, which had been limited to mission essential personnel and teachers during the crisis.

By Caitlin Doornbos
Stars and Stripes

BY CAITLIN  DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

VIRUS OUTBREAK

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea, on Monday. Monday was the third consecutive day that new coronavirus cases fell below 100 in South Korea.

US bases in Japan curtail additional services

By Caitlin Doornbos
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Fitness classes are postponed, some religious services will move online and bingo games are canceled as U.S. military bases across Japan adapt to everyday life in the time of coronavirus.

Guards at the gates to U.S. bases started a hands-off policy for checking ID cards. At Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, the Samurai Fitness Center on Tues- day canceled some group exercise classes and intramural sports and put the steam and sauna rooms off limits. At Yokosuka Naval Base, the Morale, Welfare and Recre- ation office canceled bingo.

Officials with U.S. Forces Japan, headquartered at Yokota, at a press conference Monday told told visitors to stay flexible, ex- pect changes and stay in touch with unit commanders for more information.

“The situation is evolving, and policy is changing,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Richard Winageardner Jr., the USFJ top enlisted leader. “Keep talking to your commanders and medical providers.”

A staff member at Yokota’s child development center was to be tested for possible exposure to the virus, according to an official Facebook post Tuesday. The center announced on Monday evening that a family member of a service member had tested positive for the virus, and an appoint- ment was scheduled until Monday pending the result.

No one connected to the U.S. military in Japan, service members, Defense Department civilian employees or their families — has tested positive for the virus, said Maj. Allen Fisher, the Yokota public health emergency officer, during the town hall.

“We have testing being done and negative results are coming in on a daily basis,” he said.

At Yokosuka, chapel services were canceled for the foreseeable future, according to a Monday announcement on the chapel’s official Facebook page. Chaplains are developing alternatives such as pre-recorded worship services for congregation members to ac- cess online.

Tuesday, Yokosuka moved the base orientation class for newly arrived service members and their families, usually held over three days in person, to an online session. Health and Human Services briefings were recorded ahead of time in anticipation of the change.

Hepatitis A vaccine doses,” “orthodontic procedures” were suspended Tuesday, according to a Navy Hospital Yokosuka public health notice issued Monday. At Yokota, the 374th Medical Group has been postponing elective surger- ies as well.

Installations across Japan also began conducting “no-touch” ID checks at all gates, according to Navy and Air Force statements. Instead of handing over ID cards to security personnel, cardholders are asked to hold up their IDs for inspection, then flip them around to allow the guard to scan the bar code.

“This change in procedures is precautionary to protect the health and safety of all visitors and Navy personnel,” Navy Forc- es Japan spokesman Lt. Cmdr. David Levy said in an email Mon- day to Stars and Stripes.

The Friendship Day 2020 cel- ebration at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, which annually hosts 200,000 Japanese residents, was canceled Monday by base officials.

Cancelling the 44th annual air- show, scheduled for May 5, was a joint decision between the U.S. military and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force’s Fleet Wing 31, all based at Iwakuni, accord- ing to a press release Monday.

Misawa Air Base created a “sup- port cell” to help service members and their families navigate the Defense Department restrictions on travel, the air base’s official Facebook page said Sunday.

DOD on Friday imposed a “stop movement” order that froze tem- porary duty assignments and permanent changes of station for 60 days. A similar ban on U.S. do- mestic travel was implemented Monday.

At Naval Air Facility Atsugi, the personal property processing office stopped taking in-person appointments on Tuesday. In- stead, customers should seek help scheduling shipments using the move.mil website, according to a post on the official base Facebook page Tuesday.

At Yokota, in addition to the gym restrictions, the base discon- tinued all self-serve food options such as buffets and catered events at the enlisted and officer clubs and other base facilities, accord- ing to a post Saturday on the official base Facebook page. All dining facilities on base have also in- creased the space between tables to encourage social distancing.

Guam closes base schools

By Dave Ornaur
Stars and Stripes

Authorities with Defense De- partment schools on Guam re- versed course after one day and decided Tuesday to suspend class- es until further notice to stem the spread of coronavirus, according to Joint Region Marianas.

Concerns expressed by mili- tary families and updated recommenda- tions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention prompted the Department of De- fense Education Activity to close Guam schools starting Wednes- day, according to the statement from Joint Region Marianas. Students will have access to on- line instruction starting Monday through April 3, the end of the school year’s third quarter.

“Families will receive more information regarding online learning assignments and expecta- tions from their child’s school,” the release stated.

The move came a day after DODEA and Joint Region Mari- anas announced the schools would remain open, even though the Naval Base Guam com- mander had declared a health emergency.
VIRUS OUTBREAK

Kaiserslautern tightens rules on businesses

Hours, numbers limited, while others are ordered to close

BY MARCUS KLOECKER and JENNIFER SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The home to the largest U.S. military community overseas has announced widespread restrictions and closures, similar to measures taken across Germany to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

In Kaiserslautern, the largest city in an area where about 50,000 Defense Department personnel and their families live, city officials late Monday ordered numerous businesses to close and banned gatherings of more than 75 people until July 10.

While a long list of shops can remain open — grocery stores, beverage markets, pharmacies, drugstores, banks, post offices, gas stations, hairdressers, launderettes — the improvement and construction supplies stores and wholesale suppliers — other places where people come into close contact must close.

They include gyms, playgrounds, bars, pubs, discos, theaters, opera houses and concert halls, museums, swimming pools, amusement parks, ballparks and outlets such as clothing stores.

Restaurants in Kaiserslautern can stay open, but only between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. for in-house dining. Tables in eateries must be at least 6½ feet apart from each other, with no more than four people seated at one table at the same time. Outside of the allowed opening hours, eateries may offer takeout and delivery services, the rules say.

“This situation is not to be underestimated,” Kaiserslautern Mayor Klaus Weichelt said.

The city measures came after the government in Berlin on Monday restricted restaurant hours, banned long queues at grocery stores and ordered “nonessential” businesses to close across the country.

The national restrictions were announced as the number of confirmed coronavirus infections in Germany rose to 6,012 on Monday — an increase of more than 1,100 cases from the previous day, said the Robert Koch Institute, the country’s public health agency. There have been 13 deaths in Germany, the agency said.

Schools have closed their doors, and most travelers can’t get into the country because of border closures. Holiday travel and overnight stays in Germany for leisure are also banned.

The coronavirus’ economic impact is being felt throughout the country and particularly in smaller communities like Kaiserslautern, a city of about 100,000 in Germany’s southwest.

At Cafe Susann in the city’s pedestrian area, business has fallen off sharply, said owner Maike Susann Gemba and Dylan Page.

Even if it’s allowed to remain open under efforts to promote in-house dining, the cafe, which opened in September 2016, might have to close, they said.

“We won’t be able opening if no one comes,” said Page, an American. “But we would like to support the employees as long as we can. The longer we can stay open and have that little bit of support for the employees, we’ll do that.”

The two women have already taken a number of steps to meet the new rules and try to allay customers’ fears about being exposed to the virus.

“We’ve removed some tables. People can call in an order, we can pick it up, and they can come in and pick it up,” said Gemba. “We’re setting up an online store. We have a little stand selling cakes out front for people who are worried about coming inside. We’re thinking about doing deliveries, but it takes time to set up. We maintain strict hygiene standards and practice social distancing.”

“We’ve obeyed all the rules. We’re trying everything. We’ve become inventive to survive. We just need people to come to the cafe,” she said.

Even large businesses, like IKEA, are feeling the pain of the restrictions. The Swedish furniture store closed all 53 of its shops in Germany, starting Tuesday.

Sports club practices and group worship are also off-limits. The German government did not say whether those floating restrictions would face any punishment.

The Army has already put restrictions on off-base hangouts such as hookah lounges, bars and indoor, sit-down restaurants for some of its soldiers in Europe.

The new German rules have a small silver lining, though. In a break with German custom, businesses that are allowed to stay open can also do business on Sunday. But they must keep their facilities clean and keep customers from forming long lines or grouping closely, the federal rules say.

---

Pentagon’s top 2 civilians separated amid outbreak

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Monday said at least 37 members of the Defense Department community worldwide have tested positive for coronavirus as of Monday morning, including foreign officials on the move, U.S. military dependents and Federal personnel and their families live, city officials late Monday ordered numerous businesses to close and banned gatherings of more than 75 people until July 10.

As of Monday, no person who works in the Pentagon has tested positive for the virus, he said. But officials determined they needed to take serious measures to protect personnel and others considered essential to national security.

“The Pentagon has halted most visitors from entering the building, including foreign officials on business. Officials also stressed that people who can work from home are encouraged to do so,” Hoffman said.

Members of the community who tested positive for coronavirus as of Monday morning included 18 service members, 13 military dependents, three Defense Department civilians and three defense contractors, Hoffman said. U.S. military cases have been reported in South Korea, Germany, Italy and in several U.S. states, including Washington, California, Georgia and Virginia.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is developing plans for responding if states or other federal departments request help in the crisis.

More than 1,500 National Guard members in at least 15 states were sent to the Pentagon on Monday at the request of local police and other federal departments in response to the novel virus. The guard was already being used in states including Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Kallis contributed to this story.
Government issues historic restrictions amid outbreak

By Christopher Ruhman and Tim Sullivan

Associated Press

The United States implemented dramatic new restrictions on Americans on Sunday, going out in public and seven million people in the San Francisco area were put on a near-total lockdown to control the coronavirus emergency that has walloped the global economy.

Not everyone was adhering to the clampdown, however.

On the same day that the Trump administration called on Americans to not gather in groups of more than 10 people and urged older people to stay home, Arizona, Florida and Illinois went ahead with plans to hold presidential primaries Tuesday. Ohio called off its primary just hours before polls were to open.

At the iconic “Welcome to Las Vegas” sign, there was still a line of 20 or 30 people Monday afternoon waiting to pose for a picture. And beaches on Florida’s Gulf coast near Tampa stayed open, including one that was flooded with spring breakers. Gov. Ron DeSantis said that he would leave beaches on Florida’s Gulf coast near Tampa open, including one that was flooded with spring breakers.

Meanwhile, millions of Americans were holed up at home, with many troubleshooting their need for work while still being able to work that out amid the outburst. Unlike other governors of heavily populated states, Abbott has not made explicit calls for limiting mass gatherings.

“For this is not a time to panic,” he said. “It’s not as if we have never been through this before. We’ve been through this many, many times.”

The comments came on the same day that the number of infections in the U.S. climbed to nearly 4,500, with at least 81 deaths, two-thirds of them in hard-hit Washington state. Worldwide, more than 7,100 have died.

With the U.S. economy shuttering and a near-halt, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted nearly 3,000 points, or 13%, its biggest one-day percentage drop since the Black Monday crash of 1987.

The rapid work stoppage had Americans fretting about their jobs and their savings, threatened to overwhelm unemployment benefit programs and heightened fears that the country could plunge into a recession.

Elections officials in Arizona, Florida and Illinois said that they were taking precautions to make sure voters could safely cast their ballots, despite widening calls for people to avoid going in public. A handful of other states already postponed their elections.

Growing public unease over the virus spread was causing disruptions to polling places in some states before they even opened.

In Pasco County, Fla., the number of poll workers dropping out surged from 20 last week to more than 150 by Monday after a case was confirmed in the county.

“It’s really cr cr a lot of locations,” said Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections Paul Lux. “We are at the honest end of the rope in terms of who I can grab and who I can get trained and get deployed.”

In Illinois, counties were moving polling places out of nursing homes, offering ballot drop-off options for jittery voters and scrambling to find replacements for poll workers canceling at the last minute.

And the city elections commission was begging healthy people to volunteer to work at the polls amid a “tsunami” of cancellations.

“Please, please heed our call and volunteer,” said Marisol Hernandez, the commission’s chair. “Help us.”

Meanwhile, millions of Americans were holed up at home, with many troubleshooting their need for work while still being able to work that out amid the outburst.

As the global markets fluctuated amid fears of a recession, the president conferred with tourism representatives and state leaders, retailers and suppliers. His administration is expected to propose a reportedly $850 billion emergency economic stimulus to address the free-fall while considering checks to American workers trying to make their way in an economy deeply unsettled by the outbreak.

Businesses large and small are reeling from shutdowns, cancellations and public fear about the virus as the number of cases climbs nationwide. Lockdowns moved higher on Wall Street on Tuesday, a day after plunging to their worst loss in more than three decades.

And the president again urged Americans to follow sweeping guidelines that for the next 14 days will temporarily rewrite the norms of society, including for older residents to stay home while all people should avoid gatherings of more than 10 at their local restaurants and bars.

“By making shared sacrifices, we can protect the health of our people and our economy and I think our economy will come back well,” Trump said. “If we do this right our country and the world frankly, but our country can be rolling again very quickly. We can protect the health of our people and we can protect our economy.”

Trump, maintaining his newly somber tone about the crisis enveloping the globe, urged Americans to work from home and urged the nation’s cities and states to issue restrictions to promote distancing in line with new federal guidelines.

He promised a dramatic increase in access to coronavirus tests, ventilators, hospital beds and access to telehealth services.

His administration said it would coordinate responses with the states, would push for construction workers to give masks to health care workers and, if needed, use the Army Corps of Engineers to build more hospital space.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, the administration’s top negotiator with Congress, said tax filings could be delayed and vowed that the stock market would remain open but that hours could be shortened. Officials said assistance could be offered to the airlines, cruise ships and airplane manufacturers. The president vowed to maintain the safety of elections while voters in three states went to the polls Tuesday even as Ohio postponed its primary.

The president’s declaration of resolve came a day after, for the first time, he acknowledged that the pandemic may send the economy into a recession and suggested that the nation may be dealing with the virus until “July or August.”

The president and his team on Tuesday cautioned Americans to prepare for a lengthy change to their daily lives, saying, “Enjoy your homes, enjoy your living room.”

Dr. Deborah Birx, who is coordinating the federal response to the virus, on Tuesday called for the “army of millennials” to lead the charge in fighting back against the coronavirus. Birx told ABC’s “Good Morning America” that the nation needs millennials doing everything they can, including staying home from bars, to protect themselves from getting infected but also safeguarding their parents and grandparents.

Trump’s tone Tuesday was far less optimistic than his earlier weeks, but he insisted it could be over in weeks.

His admission that the outbreak may send the economy into a recession was startling for Trump, who for weeks had stuck to the narrative that the pandemic had been “not under control” in the United States or globally.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.
VIRUS OUTBREAK

World hunkers down as travelers scramble

By Chris Blake and Frank Jordans
Associated Press

BERLIN — Tens of millions of people hunkered down in govern-ment-ordered lockdowns Tuesday as borders slammed shut, schools and businesses closed and increasingly drastic restrictions on movement took effect. Others were scrambling to get home, caught up in widespread travel restrictions that aimed to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

From Southeast Asia to Europe to the Americas, people found their lives upended by lockdowns and social distancing.

Shoppers in Malaysia stood in long lines to stock up at picked-over supermarkets. Commuters in the Philippines waited in huge traffic jams at checkpoints set up to take their temperatures before entering the capital of Manila. Seven counties around San Francisco issued a sweeping shelter-in-place mandate, ordering millions to stay at home and go outside only for food, medicine and essential outings.

Spain, now the fourth-most infected country, saw infections rise Tuesday by more than 2,000 in one day to 11,175, and virus-related deaths jump by almost 200 to 491. Only China, Italy and Iran have more infections.

With the number of cases worldwide topping 183,000, a surge of patients in Madrid's hos- ptals has fueled worries across Europe of what lies ahead. Pleas went out to send masks and ventilators to places like Italy and Spain that are struggling with soaring caseloads.

“None is no easy or quick way out of this extremely difficult situation,” Mark Rutte, the Dutch prime minister, said in the first televised speech by a Dutch leader since 1973.

Airlines across the world have slashed flights due to a plunge in demand but also because many countries have been barring for- eign arrivals.

A Hungarian plan to evacuate 3,614 citizens stranded in nine European countries after flights were suspended, Foreign Min- ister Moots Cavusoglu said Tuesday.

Germany launched a 50 million-euro ($56 million) effort to bring home thousands of tour-ists stranded in popular winter vacation spots across the globe, including up to 5,000 in Morocco alone.

“Even if we do everything humanly possible, we cannot in every case provide a solution within 24 hours,” Foreign Minis- ter Heiko Maas warned.

In Lithuania, trucks seeking to enter Poland backed up in a line 37 miles long after Poland closed its border to foreigners due to the new coronavirus. Ger- man police organized a convoy to help stranded citizens from Bal- tic states get home back by ferry after the Poland closure.

Italy reported another jump in infections, up to 27,980, with 2,158 deaths, Italy now accounts for well over a quarter of the glob- al death toll.

The cascade of event cancel-ations continued, with Thailand suspending flights to and from China and the United States. Greece, in the run-up to the Easter Holy Week, announced restrictions on all travelers from Italy. It found that a strat- egy of "mitigation" in slowing but not stopping the spread of the virus while protecting vulnerable groups like the elderly — would still lead to a huge number of cases that would overwhelm the health care system.

Iran warns virus could kill ‘millions’ in country

By Nasser Karimi and Jon Gambrell
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran issued its most dire warning Tuesday about the outbreak of the new coronavirus ravaging the country, suggesting “millions” could die in the Islamic Republic if the public keeps traveling and ignor- ing health guidance.

A state television journalist who was also a medical doctor gave the warning only hours after hard-line Shiite faithful the previous night pushed their way into the courtyards of two major shrines that had just been closed over fears of the virus. Meanwhile, Iran’s supreme leader issued a religious ruling prohibiting “un- necessary” travel in the country.

Roughly nine out of 10 of the over 19,000 cases of the new virus confirmed across the Middle East come from Iran, where authori- ties denied for days the risk the outbreak posed. Officials have now implemented new checks for people trying to leave major cit- ies ahead of Nowruz, the Persian New Year, on Friday, but have hesitated to quarantine the areas.

That’s even as the death toll in Iran saw another 13% increase Tuesday. Health Ministry spokes- man Kianoush Jahanpour said the virus had killed 135 more people, raising the total to 988 amid over 16,000 cases. Jordan meanwhile prepared for a shutdown of its own over the virus, banning gather- ings drawing more than 10 peo- ple, as neighboring Israel issued its own strict new guidelines for life under the coronavirus threat, including curfews.

The Iranian state TV journal- ist, Dr. Afruz Eslami, cited a study by Tehran’s prestigious Sharif University of Technology, which offered three scenarios. If people begin to cooperate now, Iran will see 120,000 infections and 12,000 deaths before the out- break is over, she said. If they offer medium cooperation, there will be 300,000 cases and 110,000 deaths, she said.

But if people fail to follow any guidance, it could collapse Iran’s already stretched medical facilities, Eslami said. If the “medical facil- ities are not sufficient, there will be 4 million cases, and 3.5 million people will die,” she said.

Eslami did not elaborate on what metrics the study used, but even reporting it on Iran’s tightly controlled state television repre- sented a major change for a coun- try whose officials had for days denied the severity of the crisis.

Municipal workers label portable food containers intended for local residents in a closed primary school in Paszab, Hungary, on Tuesday. Officials bought 150 sets of food boxes for families who are eligible to receive a free hot meal, as all schools stay closed as a precaution against the spread of the coronavirus.

There is no easy or quick way out of this extremely difficult situation.

Mark Rutte
Dutch prime minister

“There is no easy or quick way out of this extremely difficult situation,” Mark Rutte, the Dutch prime minister, said in the first televised speech by a Dutch leader since 1973.

A senior South Korean health official, Kwon Jun-wook, urged people to take the virus seriously.

“In a similar way to how the Sept. 11 attacks completely changed people’s perception about security, quarantine au- thorities like us believe the daily lives of all the people around the world will be changed because of COVID-19,” Kwon told reporters Tuesday. “From now on, if you are sick, you should voluntarily rest to prevent a spread to others.”

Malaysia banned foreign travel and is allowing only essential services to stay open. France al- lowed people to leave home only for work, or do es- sential tasks. French President Emmanuel Macron said the re- strictions were tightened because people hadn’t complied with ear- lier guidelines and “we are at war.”

The first confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in So- malia, which has one of Africa’s weakest health systems.

As the pandemic expanded across Europe, the Mideast and the Americas, China and South Korea were trying to hold their hard-fought gains. China is quar- antining new arrivals, who in re- cent days numbered about an increasing number of cases, and South Korea will increase screen- ings of all overseas arrivals start- ing Thursday.

Infections have continued to slow in South Korea’s worst-hit city of Daegu. But there’s concern over a steady rise of infections around Seoul, where new clusters have emerged.

In the United States, officials urged older Americans and those with chronic health conditions to stay home, and recommended all group gatherings be capped at 10 people. Americans returning from abroad encountered chaotic airport health screenings that clearly broke all virus-fighting rules against crowds.

Britain’s dramatic escalation of social restrictions to fight COVID- 19 was sparked by new scientific evidence suggesting that 250,000 people could die in the U.K. and more than 1 million in the U.S. might die if the country did not suppress the spread of the new coronavirus.

The analysis, published by Im- perial College London epidemi- ologists, drew on the latest data from Italy. It found that a strat- egy of “mitigation” in slowing but not stopping the spread of the virus while protecting vulnerable groups like the elderly — would still lead to a huge number of cases that would overwhelm the health care system.

Roughly nine out of 10 of the over 19,000 cases of the new virus confirmed across the Middle East come from Iran, where authori- ties denied for days the risk the outbreak posed. Officials have now implemented new checks for
The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The streets and alleys of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, normally packed with tourists, were largely deserted Monday after the Dutch government ordered bars and restaurants closed amid the coronavirus crisis — and made a point of saying that the restrictions cover sex clubs and weed-selling coffeeshops.

"But they know that nobody is going to compensate them for loss of income," she said on Twitter. "90% of all dates are being canceled anyway. As always, we're left to fend for ourselves."

Unlike regular employees, most sex workers won't benefit directly from the half-trillion-euro package of loans the German government is making available to companies facing ruin because of the coronavirus outbreak.
Senate extends 3 surveillance authorities

The 75-day extension pushes off the debate over the surveillance tools as Congress attempts to deal with the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 75-day extension pushes off the debate over the surveillance tools as Congress attempts to deal with the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. It is unclear whether the House will accept the temporary extension of the surveillance powers, which lapsed Sunday.

Last week, the House passed a compromise bill negotiated by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy that would renew the authorities and impose new restrictions.

President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell endorsed the measure, but longtime skeptics of the surveillance tools in the Senate blocked a quick passage.

The House legislation would update the three expiring surveillance provisions, including one that permits the FBI to obtain court orders to collect business records on subjects in national security investigations.

Another, known as the “roving wiretap” provision, permits surveillance on subjects even after they’ve changed phones. The third allows agents to monitor subjects who don’t have ties to international terrorism organizations.

The legislation would scale back some current authorities, such as the government’s access to certain records.

It would also attempt to put stronger checks on some surveillance measures and make the process more transparent.

Justice dropping charges against 2 Russian firms

Russian businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin controls a Russia firm charged in 2018 in a disinformation conspiracy during the 2016 U.S. election.

Russian businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin controls a Russia firm charged in 2018 in a disinformation conspiracy during the 2016 U.S. election.

The 75-day extension pushes off the debate over the surveillance tools as Congress attempts to deal with the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.

Puddle jumpers

With umbrellas in hand Benjamin Prescott, 7, right, and his brother Joshua, 5, play in the puddles the rainfall brought to Sacramento, Calif., on Saturday.

Idaho bill bans trans girls, women from competition

Idaho bill bans trans girls, women from competition

Boise, Idaho — An Idaho bill banning transgender women from competing in women’s sports despite warnings that such a law is unconstitutional went back to the House on Monday after being amended in the Senate.

The Senate voted 24-11 to approve the measure that would apply to all sports teams sponsored by public schools, colleges and universities. A girls’ or women’s team would not be open to transgender students who identify as female.

Backers said that the law is needed because transgender female athletes have physical advantages. They said that allowing transgender women to compete can limit athletic, economic and self-growth opportunities provided through sports made possible by Title IX.

The 1972 law bars sex discrimination in education and is credited with opening up athletic competition for girls and women.

“It started to level the playing field,” said Democratic Sen. Michelle Stennett, noting that very young girls would be subject to invasive physical exams. “Beyond the medical inaccuracies, this bill risks harming the physical and emotional health of our children.”

Democratic Sen. Maryanne Jordan said that there was no need for the law because there were no instances of transgender girls or women competing in Idaho sports. She also said that the Idaho High School Activities Association has a policy in place already, as does the NCAA. Both include a requirement for medically prescribed hormone treatment before participating on a girls’ team.
Federal agencies expand telework to staffs

BY LISA REN AND MISSY RYAN
The Washington Post

The Trump administration on Monday directed federal agencies to expand telework to their staffs outside the Washington area as the public began to contract to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

After Sunday’s guidance to offer work from home to as many as the 300,000 Washington-area federal employees as they could, the White House budget office told agencies to offer remote work to additional employees across the country in areas with significant virus outbreaks.

The expanded telework to clear out federal buildings came as the government began shifting to more of an emergency footing in its response to the pandemic after weeks of prompting by experts and even some in the White House.

The Defense Department quickly found its computer networks overwhelmed by employees trying to connect to its servers from home through virtual private networks — and the loads were prompting cyberattacks, officials said Monday.

White House officials told agency leaders to make sure they were prepared to quickly scale back operations as employees either call in sick or are absent because they cannot work from home — or staffing face-to-face public services becomes too risky, according to administration officials with knowledge of these conversations.

The still-uneven telework policy led 26 Senate Democrats, led by Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, to send a letter to President Donald Trump on Monday, urging him to issue an executive order directing agencies to make telework mandatory “to the maximum extent practicable.” The letter criticized the administration for creating anxiety in the workforce by leaving it up to individual managers to decide how to proceed. “Voluntary guidance is not enough — agencies need clear orders,” the senators wrote.

The Social Security Administration announced late Monday that its 1,250 field offices and 165 hearing offices across the country will close to the public starting Tuesday.

“This decision protects the population we serve — older Americans and people with underlying medical conditions — and our employees during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic,” the agency said in a news release, parenthetically referring to the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

It was unclear how long the offices would close. The agency said it would continue to provide “critical services” over the phone, including hearing appeals of disability applications.

The decision at the Social Security Administration followed the closing by the Interior Department of some iconic sites, among them the Washington Monument and the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island. About 10 other parks closed over the weekend, including California’s Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Some federal offices acted decisively Monday to send employees home to work if they had not done so last week. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for example, announced that after an employee at its Washington headquarters showed symptoms of the coronavirus, it sent its Washington-area staff home.

Field offices have already begun conducting intake of discrimination complaints over the phone.

The General Services Administration Administrator Emily Murphy put the agency’s headquarters staff on mandatory telework through at least April 3, she told the staff.

But Murphy’s missive did not address whether telework would be available to thousands of employees who handle the government’s real estate portfolio outside Washington.

The Agriculture Department told Washington-area employees on Monday that they could telework until early April, after an employee at the agency’s headquarters tested positive for the virus.

The department also told managers in Seattle, New York City and parts of California to come up with plans to “maximize telework” for employees who have agreements in place, according to a memo sent to employees.

It was another example that some agencies are moving faster than others to clear their offices.

At the Education Department, spokeswoman Liz Hill said there is “maximum flexibility” on telework. “So, we aren’t closing the building but everyone who doesn’t need to be in the office is being encouraged to work from home.”

The U.S. Forest Service had no plans as of Monday to shut its ranger district offices, which provide a vital service in rural areas. Instead, the public is being asked to answer “self-screening” questions before meeting with the staff to determine whether they may be at risk of carrying the virus or came into contact with someone who is sick.

Surfer sets up toilet paper exchange on Calif. corner

BY ROB NIKOLEWSKI AND HAYNE PALMOUR IV
San Diego Union-Tribune

ENCINITAS, Calif. — Jonny Blue, a 33-year-old physical therapist and avid surfer from Encinitas, was seriously bummed Friday night.

He saw reports across the country of people hoarding toilet paper in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, and one of his good friends had a difficult time finding diapers and essential supplies for his kids at a nearby store.

So on Saturday morning Blue took a cardboard sign bearing the simple request — “Share your toilet paper” — and camped out on the corner of El Camino Real and Encinitas Boulevard.

“If just inspired me to remind people, listen, if you have a lot of something that probably means there are people who probably don’t have very much of it, because you took it all,” Blue said. “So sharing it is probably a good thing to keep in mind.”

The response was immediate and positive, with motorists honking horns in support. Drivers stopped to drop off rolls of toilet paper and, just as quickly, Blue would hand them off in an impromptu TP stock exchange.

“This guy came here and said he just ran out and was going to a bunch of stores and couldn’t find any,” Blue said as cars whizzed by. “Somebody had given me some so I gave it to him. He was stoked.”

“He was like, ‘Do you want me to pay you?’ I said, ‘No, man. Somebody gave it to me. Take it.’”

A moment later, a driver in a white pick-up truck slowed down just enough to toss out a roll to Blue’s burgeoning bundle.

“People are loving it,” Blue said. “People are honking, smiling, laughing. It’s actually been good because it’s actually been kind of a rough time right now.”

The run on toilet paper and other items such as hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes has led local grocery stores and national chains such as Target and Walmart to limit the amounts shoppers can purchase.

Blue launched his fledgling Robin Hood enterprise at 9 a.m. and, said during a break at 2 p.m. that he would resume for a couple more hours later in the afternoon.

“I think people want a sense of communality,” Blue said. “When things are really challenging, people are looking to band together and be unified. It feels like I kind of strung on a common theme where people were thinking, ‘Why are people hoarding toilet paper?’ It’s a simple thing, but it’s something that’s really tangible and really affects people’s lives, and when people saw my sign it really resonated with them.”

Blue said he planned to return to his post again. “I just want to encourage everyone to be better,” he said. “Difficult times can reveal us to ourselves and help us see ourselves more clearly.”

Jonny Blue makes a request for toilet paper so that he can in turn give it to drivers that need it while standing at the intersection of Encinitas Boulevard and El Camino Real on Saturday in Encinitas, Calif.
Washington state says Biden wins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden was declared the winner of last week’s Democratic presidential primary in Washington state, giving him victories in five out of six states that voted March 10.

After nearly a week of counting votes, the numbers showed the former vice president Monday held onto a small lead over Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Sanders had been hoping to win Washington. In 2016, he won more than two-thirds of the delegates over Hillary Clinton.

Of the state’s 89 pledged delegates, only 31 are allocated based on the statewide result. The remaining 58 are determined based on the results of the state’s 10 congressional districts, and those results might not be calculated until the election is certified by the secretary of state’s office, which could be as late as March 27.

Biden won four other states last Tuesday: Missouri, Mississippi, Michigan and Idaho. Sanders won North Dakota.

Dem primary uncertain as Ohio scraps vote

WASHINGTON — The Democratic presidential primary is consumed with uncertainty after leaders in Ohio called off Tuesday’s election just hours before polls were set to open, citing the need to combat the new coronavirus. Officials in Florida, Arizona and Illinois said they would move forward with the vote.

Not since New York City postponed its mayoral primary on the day of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks has an election been pushed off in such a high-profile, far-reaching way. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine initially asked a court to delay the vote, and when a judge refused to do so, the state’s health director declared a health emergency that would prevent the polls from opening.

The decision was a reminder that the most elemental act of American democracy — voting — will be severely tested Tuesday as several states hold presidential primaries while also confronting the impact of a global pandemic. The contests are playing out as the virus’ impact is becoming more tangible with schools closing across the country, workers staying home and restaurants and bars shuttering.

The U.S. stock market Monday plunged to its worst day in more than three decades. The rapidly shifting developments amount to a kind of chaos rarely seen in an election season. And it may not end soon as some states hold presidential contests in the coming weeks have already moved to postpone them and others were being pressed to follow.

“These are unusual restrictions,” Susan Lerner, executive director of Common Cause New York, said of recommended federal limits to try and control the spread of the virus. Her group is urging the delay of that state’s 2020 presidential primary from April 28 to June 23, when congressional and legislative primaries are already scheduled.

“Normally, we do not support postponing elections, but these are extraordinary circumstances,“ Lerner said.

Campaigns spent Monday sifting through data and talking to contacts on the ground to assess the impact of the coronavirus on turnout in places that will hold elections Tuesday. Former Vice President Joe Biden is moving closer to securing the Democratic presidential nomination but could face a setback if the older voters who tend to support him don’t show up. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, meanwhile, can’t afford to lose support from young voters who have been his most loyal supporters.

The tumult has left the campaign in a state of suspended animation. In-person rallies have been replaced with sometimes-awkward virtual events.

Sanders, the last Democrat standing between Biden and the nomination, isn’t planning to drop out. His campaign looked to have nowhere to go after a big loss last week in Michigan, and another blow landed Monday night when Biden was declared the winner of the primary in Washington state. Yet Sanders’ top advisers see no downside to staying in the race as they assess how the coming days and weeks unfold.

Sanders staged a virtual rally Monday night featuring himself, rocker Neil Young and activist actress Daryl Hannah. He also released a video criticizing Biden for suggesting as a senator that he’d be willing to cut Social Security benefits — a line of attack he employed frequently during Sunday’s debate.

“I don’t have to tell anybody that we are living in a very unprecedented and strange moment in the history of our country,“ Sanders said, urging supporters that it may be time to “rethink our value system, rethink many of the systems we operate under.

Sanders’ team had expected Biden to do well in all four states set to vote on Tuesday. But the Vermont senator has also cast some doubt about the entire process, saying no one should risk being infected while voting and noting that it’s important “to make sure that everybody who wants to vote has the right to vote, and that may not be the case now.”

Still, Sanders faces an increasingly tough path to the nomination. About half of the delegates in the Democratic primary have already been awarded and, if Biden has another big night Tuesday, he will pad an already large and perhaps insurmountable lead. Sanders trails Biden by more than 150 delegates nationally, meaning he’d need to win more than 57% of those yet to be allocated to clinch the Democratic nomination.
In city of Idlib, Syrians fear end is nearing

By Sarah El Deeb

Associated Press

Idlib, Syria — “There’s nothing new. Nothing at all,” said Yasser Aboud, as he looked away from his family’s few remain- ing belongings, dumped on the floor of the bare single room that would now be their home in the northwest Syrian city of Idlib. It was a far cry from the house, the farm, and the job that he, his wife and three chil- dren left behind two months ago, fleeing their hometown just 9 miles down the road as it was overrun by government forces. The rebel- led troops recaptured nearly half of Idlib province since late 2012; his mother- in-law was killed in an airstrike the same day; two of his brothers were shot and killed by government forces in 2012; his mother- in-law was killed in an airstrike the same year.

As Assad captures Idlib, “we will run to Turkey, we will sleep under the (border) wall,” Aboud said. “The most crucial thing is that we won’t enter territories” held by the government.

The government has deployed thousands of troops in the enclave, operating alongside its Syrian opposition allies. That has diminished the de facto control of Hayat Tahir Al-Sham has held over Idlib since it drove out rival factions in past fighting.

Mustafa Berro, a commander of a Turkish-backed rebel faction from Aleppo that has now sent forces to Idlib, said his fighter- s have not lost faith.

“We are worse off than in 2014” — when rebels held nearly half of Syria — “but we are better off than 2013” when they had no territory to control, he said. “We still have an area to work from and operate in.”

The massive displacement of past weeks has strained international aid deliveries into the enclave, where 1.5 million receive food assistance. In January alone, 1,227 trucks were sent across the border from Turkey, the largest number in seven years of cross-border operations, said U.N. As-

Women walk in a neighborhood heavily damaged by airstrikes last week in Idlib, Syria.

Iraq ex-governor named PM-designate as Baghdad awaits curfew

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq’s president on Tues- day named a former governor of the city of Nasiriyah to the post of prime minister follow- ing weeks of political infighting, as Bagh- dad residents rushed to stock up on supplies hours before a dayslong curfew was set to take hold amid a global pandemic that has caused more than 400,000 deaths worldwide.

Adnan al-Zurfi was appointed premier-designate by President Barham Saleh after tense meetings between rival political blocs that for weeks had struggled to reach a consensus over a candidate to replace outgoing Premier Adil Abdul-Mahdi.

The development came after an earli- er meeting between a new official, Mohammed Allawi, withdrew his candidacy after pol- itical groups rejected his proposed Cabi- net lineup.

Al-Zurfi, 54, was appointed by Iraq’s U.S. admin-istrator Paul Bremer as governor of Najaf in 2004, and later served in the same post for two terms between 2009 and 2015. His second term was cut short following his dismissal by the provincial council. In the aftermath, he run under former Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi’s list.

According to Iraq’s constitution, al-Zurfi has 30 days to propose a lineup of minis- ters and form a new government. President Barham Saleh wished al-Zurfi success, “in his new tasks to work for early and fair elections and to achieve the aspirations of the Iraqis,” according to a statement from his office.

Early elections have been a key demand of anti-government protesters who have camped out in the capital’s Tahrir Square since last October, when thousands took to the streets to decry government corruption, poor services and unemployment. Abdul- Mahdi resigned under pressure from the demonstrations.
Eugene Sheffer Crossword

ACROSS
1 Gloomy Earl Grey, for one
6 Some corp. recruits
12 Differently
13 PC port
14 Aviation prefix
15 Natural sweetener
17 Round of applause
18 So far
19 Stock units
21 Life story
22 Third son
23 Poke
26 Bottom line
28 Blue cartoon character
31 Winged
33 Roofing goo
35 Oaxaca water
36 Comes to
38 Chest muscle
40 P'terior superior
41 Monumental
43 Altar constellation
45 Soft felt hat
47 “Game of Thrones” actress Turner
51 German river
52 Windbag
54 “I smell —!”
55 Actor Carlucci
56 Sport shirt brand
57 Aliases
58 Twisty letter
59 Say it’s not so
60 Easter entry
61 Bad hairpiece
62 Corpulent
63 School papers
64 Justifications
65 Knightly address
66 Cordfield intruder
67 Suspension bridge support
68 Pest
69 Drescher or Tarkenton
70 Continental currency
71 Visibility
72 Hindrance
73 Laundry appliance
74 Vortex
75 Nailing Paul

DOWN
1 Arrare
2 Bread spread
3 Secondhand
4 Detox center
5 Ignore
6 Jargon suffix
7 Void
8 Title for Gandhi
9 Hearty embraces
10 “Rule, Britannia!” composer
11 Lays down
12 The lawn
13 Elevator name
14 “== a Rebel”
15 Mandible
16 In the manner of
17 UCLATOWAVIS
18 RHOSOWENASH
19 LAUSANNENINO
20 SITASLENTO
21 TAILJIF
22 FLYNNCOUGAGE
23 WEANYARES
24 DEMERITANKLE
25 OPIOK
26 KANYEADAENSN
27 ECOLJULIANNE
28 TINEOREHOAX
29 ODOMBADAPPT

3-18

CRYPTOQUIP

MANM FYD JVPQ QHNCC
AK JQBKQLPS
YPVLCLLPF MJ QZBPS
HYTA HPBD JP MABH. VANM
N ZJPD -ZLPTABK.

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: I HARBOR THIS FANCIFUL NOTION THAT I’LL BECOME A PONTIFIC ONE DAY, BUT IT’S ONLY A POPE DREAM.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P
OPINION

Let's hope Trump has learned from COVID-19

BY DOYLE McMANUS
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON

n a crisis, Americans expect leaders to tell the truth about the problem, to do all they can to solve it, and to tell citizens how they can help. We've seen plenty of that kind of leadership over the last few weeks as coronavirus became the dominant story of 2020.

We saw it from governors of both parties — Jay Inslee, of Washington; Andrew Cuomo, of New York; Mike DeWine, of Ohio — who closed schools and banned large gatherings, including sports events and Broadway plays. We saw it from business leaders who closed retail outlets and asked employees to work from home. We even saw it from the National Basketball Association.

One place we didn’t see much leadership was the White House. For weeks, President Donald Trump downplayed the epidemic, promised it would end on its own, and claimed tests were available to anyone who wanted one. (They weren’t, and still aren’t.).

It seemed discordant that so many other leaders were grappling with the virus as a growing crisis, only to hear the president insist as late as Thursday: “We’re in great shape. We’ll do great.”

So it was a welcome change last week when the president finally offered a strategy for how to manage the widespread virus testing that was available, weeks after public health professionals began demanding it.

The details were still blurry. His only specificity was that he expected a website that had been signed would go up “very quickly.” Even that turned out to be only a beta version aimed at the San Francisco Bay Area.

Over time, Trump said, more tests will be available, thanks to the Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche. Thank heaven for Swiss ingenuity! (Also for the scientists in the Bay Area, Germany and China who worked on the project last week.)

Let’s hope those plans work better than the initial testing program of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which turned into an embarrassment — and potentially deadly — failure.

And let’s hope Trump’s promise on Friday comes true: “We will turn a corner on the virus very quickly.”

But even as we root for the president to succeed, we also should hope he learns some lessons:

• Presidents don’t get a free pass if they fail to notice impending threats.

Trump has said several times that no neighborhood is a hot spot, which is true. “It’s an unforeseen problem (that) came out of nowhere,” he said.

Even if it is true, the president, director of national intelligence delivers a briefing on threats to national security. A warning about pandemics, including coronaviruses, has been part of that every year Trump has been in office.

• If you want the federal government to be effective in a crisis, you need to give it the tools to act.

That’s why the Obama administration set up a White House office on health security to coordinate the response and force agencies to cooperate.

But in 2018, Trump’s then-national security adviser, John Bolton, abolished the office. When the coronavirus appeared in China last year, there was no White House health czar to coordinate to action.

“It would be nice if the office was still there,” Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health said last week.

On Friday, Trump said he didn’t know anything about the office’s elimination. Asked whether he bore any responsibility, his only reply was: “I assume responsibility.”

• Whether the president likes it or not, the buck still stops with him.

For weeks, Trump’s main message about coronavirus and its problem was that he was “100 percent ready under control — thanks,” he said, to his decision to stop travel from China. When it turned out that his messages weren’t true, he blamed others. He claimed that the CDC had done “nothing meaningful … to fix the testing problem. It’s not my problem.”

He then failed to explain why he and his aides did nothing to fix the problem.

Blame doesn’t belong exclusively to Trump. The federal government as a whole has failed. The president’s business hasn’t kept that promise or even really tried.

We’ve learned a lot,” Trump said Friday. If he wants to convince anyone, he needs to move beyond empty bluster and tell us what, if anything, he’s really learned.

Doyle McManus is a Washington columnist for the Los Angeles Times. He has written a history of American grandmothers since 1945.

Coronavirus threatens grandparents’ child care role

BY VICTORIA BISSELL BROWN
Special to The Washington Post

W e are closing schools to limit the spread of COVID-19 and, at the same time, telling older people, who are most vulnerable to the virus, to avoid children, who are less likely to fall ill. The elderly and the young are being isolated by the very forces that keep American families together.

In a 2018 survey of American grandparents by AARP, 38% said they considered themselves caregivers or babysitters to their grandchildren, including 11% who lived in the same household as their grandchildren.

A 2014 Pew survey found 22% of grandparents provided regular child care for a grandchild. How are we going to square this circle of child care when we separate the elders from the kids?

Consider just three questions that arise when grandparents are removed from the family picture. First, where schools are still open and parents can go to work but elders have been sidelined, who is going to do what millions of grandparents do every day: take care of kids after school, before parents can get to the market or take them to medical appointments? Second, where schools are closed but parents are still expected to go to work or cannot afford to stay at home, who is going to take care of kids who have nowhere else to go? Third, once all schools are closed and parents are lucky enough to have jobs they can do remotely, when can grandparents, who lived in the same household as their grandchildren, separate the elders from the kids at home while their parents are at their computers?

Plenty of parents reading this are saying: “Wish I had that problem. Wish I had parents willing or able to help with child care.” I am familiar with those parents.

Run into them all the time at the park, at conferences, in preschool pick-up lines, at the store. Over and over, I hear how lucky my daughter and son-in-law are to have loving, reliable, active, healthy and, yes, unpaid adult members of their children’s academic and social world. True. But my husband and I are not unique. My next-door neighbor tends to some subset of her 12 grandchildren at their homes on weekends and during the week when hers are out of school. And there’s a 93-year-old mother now lives with her. Last spring, when talking about how shielding vulnerable children was a top priority, Dr. Anthony Fauci said, “I don’t know what I’d do without my father to take care of the kids.”

During the Great Recession, Millennials of Americans were like my next-door neighbor this spring. Millions of Americans are like you. Work schedules and family economies are based on grandparent care, and they have no way to pay for child care.

In my neighborhood, the local high school babysitter gets $15 an hour for managing three kids. Even if she’s willing to take that, which turned out not to be the case, her close, my daughter will spend $2,400 in child care in one month. That’s the child care cost that is impoverishing working families across the country.

What will such costs do to families with grandparents who provide child care in every ZIP code. Without a decent, affordable child care system, flexible work hours and paid sick leave, the over-65 population is propping up families all over the United States by performing essential child care for free. Remove those don’t pay for the family system, and we get yet another breakdown in our social system. Don’t reduce them, and you may kill Granddad — or Grandma. Paradigmatically, we constitute the labor force that parents most need right now. How do families decide what to do?

Last week, recalling the many days I spent in the hospital with pneumonia-laced flu two years ago, my grandparents’ kids decided to lay us off from our child care job.

“Eventually, my mom called and gave me a wonderfully loving and wholly pragmatic answer: ‘We cannot afford to have anything happen to you, Nana.’”

But what happens to me if I cannot see my grandchildren for — how long? Anyone have a cure for the hole that bores into my heart?

Victoria Bissell Brown is retired from the faculty of Cornell College, where she taught English, and is a co-founder of a nonprofit that writes histories of American grandmothers since 1945.


**OPINION/OMBUDSMAN**

**Panic-buyers, beware. Hucksters abound**

By Thomas Bishop

Special to The Washington Post

With the coronavirus outbreak spreading, panic-buying abounds, as countless pictures on social media of empty supermarket shelves attest. This behavior is nothing new. Panic-buying has always been with us. The first thing people often take during a time of crisis is to grab their wallets and head to stores. However, there is another, evolved version: an opportunity for people to impose order on a situation seemingly spiraling out of control. This is what happened when the 9/11 terrorist attacks, newspaper outlets observed a “rush of drivers heading to the pumps” to fill up on gas, while others loaded up on “plywood, lumber and nails and water.” When disaster hits, consumers react.

And when national uncertainty and misinformation escalates, fly-by-night companies often set out to take advantage of public panic by promising that their products hold the key to a family’s survival. During such times, it falls to government regulators to curb the actions of these new “survival merchants” looking to make a quick buck. Although the specifics of the business practices change according to the crisis, survival merchants typically use televangelists and newspaper ads to target consumers, often targeting vulnerable populations. Physical reinforcement of the home — often by building family panic rooms and bunkers — and access to water, gas masks and even weapons and ammunition, to protect the family during a social breakdown. Perhaps the most famous example of such merchants was the rise of Chicken Coop and Survival-All Inc. in Ohio. One local manager, Thomas Dixon, opened its doors with a distinctly unique design feature: It divided the space into two sections — one half a swimming pool and the other half a fallout shelter with a “glass window to take pictures of the swimmers.”

But there is a risk for merchants beyond being so tastefully crass that they alienate potential buyers. Perhaps the most insidious aspect of this short and surprisingly short life cycle. When it came to the fallout shelter salesmen, businesses were remarkably ineffective at persuading the public to buy their products. Time magazine reported that over the course of the 1980s, 30 companies filed for bankruptcy. “The market is now dead,” Time noted at the start of 1983, adding that “the day has come to accept that the decline of the shelter salesmen can be easily attributed to the ending of the Cuban missile crisis. But this is only part of the story.

The Federal Trade Commission also started to scrutinize its business practices. In 1962, Paul Rand Dixon, the commission’s chairman, announced that businesses selling unsupervised fallout shelters were committing “treason.” Setting out to cut “Fraudulent and dangerous advertisement.” Dixon introduced new advertising guidelines designed to “root the exploiters of human fear.” Any shelter firms caught claiming “Federally Approved Shelters” without the approval of the Office of Civil Defense faced fines and potential criminal prosecution.

As these features of consumer life in moments of disaster become more prevalent today in the age of social media — with the potential to panic-buy as a means of exercising some control over the uncontrollable exists, it will only become a matter of time before we see such a conduct. In an American market crowded by the multitude of the news media, this behavior is magnified. This environment requires aggressive action by regulators such as the FTC, at the state and federal levels.

To protect the most vulnerable, merchants must react swiftly to shut down such schemes, and consumers must beware of offerings that are too good to be true.

This is the first in a series of columns on the history and Program Leader in American studies at the University of Lincoln, and author of “Every Home a Fortress: Cold War Fatherhood and the Family fallout Shelter.”

Don’t let the Pentagon silence Stars and Stripes

By Ernie Gates

Stars and Stripes ombudsman

A s Stars and Stripes ombudsman, I have two distinct roles, one conventional and one unique to the military’s foremost news organization. The first is the job of an ombudsman — to serve as the ombudsman’s independent ombudsman is to hold the newsroom accountable to journalism, such as accuracy, fairness and impartiality — the things that add up to credibility. The unusual role stems from the fact that generations after U.S. soldiers created Stars and Stripes, it continues to be the soldiers’ independent news source within the maze of the American military. To help ensure that Stars and Stripes remains on course and upholds the standards of journalism, the first list found under “Duties and Responsibilities” in my formal job description is to “Protect the Newsroom from Political Bias.”

As you may have heard, the Defense Department wants to shut down Stars and Stripes. In the FY21 budget submitted to Congress, which would take effect Oct. 1, the expected $15.5 million appropriation for Stripes is zero. Wiped out.

What exactly is the threat to Stripes’ mission could there be?

The straightforward solution is for Congress to restore the appropriation and let the Pentagon leadership know that Stars and Stripes is not to be silenced. I take it as my mission to tell you, and to you, to give your representatives your views, too. Historically, Stars and Stripes has had strong bipartisan support in Congress, and it may come through again.

The stakes are clear. In a proposed Pentagon budget of $705.4 billion, $13.5 million is set aside for the operation of this newspaper. The Pentagon has a habit of finding a rounding error, as the bean counters say. But in Stripes’ annual expense budget of about $28.5 million, it’s a fatal cut.

Here’s how $15.5 million appropriation divides up, using the DOD comptroller’s accounting for June 9, 2019:

- $6.1 million is Overseas Contingency Operations funding, which fluctuates with the operational posture downrange. These days, it’s spread across reporting, printing and distribution in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, the Persian Gulf and expanded forces in Europe. Overseas contingency funding, Stripes can’t report and distribute the paper downrange.

- $2.3 million is $9.4 million covers part of Stripes’ Operations and Maintenance costs, including basic journalism, web services and business operations where troops are deployed and not downrange.

To cover the rest of its expenses, Stripes earns revenue from advertising and subscriptions, as commercial news organizations do. But to argue, as some do, that it should be 100% self-funding is to misunderstand the costly challenge of providing reliable, independent news and information to troops spread wide across the globe not only directly, but also in isolated posts such as Guan or Diego Garcia. No commercial business model could wind up with that kind of cost burden.

And what’s the purpose of that mission? To keep the independent voice of Stars and Stripes delivering the news, information and entertainment to America’s military members, and to keep their bosses. If you want to tell your own members of Congress to keep the Pentagon on silencing Stripes and Stars, go to https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials for help with contact information.

Restoring the $15.5 million before Oct. 1 is essential, but that’s only one of the many steps needed to ensure Stripes remains a news organization accountable to journalism and values and to defend it from command interference or censorship. It requires a report and a fight for more than 30 years in Virginia, where he lives today.

Ernie Gates is the independent ombudsman for Stars and Stripes, a congressionally mandated position in which he holds the magazine, newspaper outlet accountable to journalism values and to defend it from command interference or censorship. He replaced a report and a fight for more than 30 years in Virginia, where he lives today.
Broadway stars stream, rock stars stay home

Associated Press

From helping others cope to sheltering in place to canceling events, here’s a look at some of the ways the entertainment industry is reacting to the spread of the coronavirus:

**Singing at home**

Broadway shows may be shuttered, but that’s not stopping some Broadway voices. Stage stars like Audra McDonald, Idina Menzel, Kristin Chenoweth, Norbert Leo Butz, Kelli O’Hara, Wayne Brady, Betty Buckley and Laura Benanti will appear singing and performing live from their homes in two daily mini-online charity shows starting Monday night.

The shows are the brainchild of Seth Rudetsky and James Wesley, the host and producer of Sirius XM’s “On Broadway,” and will follow the traditional theater times of 2 p.m. Eastern and 8 p.m. Eastern.

The shows will encourage viewers to donate to The Actors Fund’s services for those dealing with the coronavirus outbreak and its financial costs.

“Broadway at Home” will kick off Monday with Kelli O’Hara. The shows can be seen at The Actors Fund YouTube channel, as well as Playbill.com and BroadwayWorld.com.

Online concerts have taken on a new appeal as the virus keeps people inside. Latin singers Juanaes and Alejandro Sanz recently performed on YouTube Live, a pair of Metropolitan Opera stars have belted out tunes on Facebook and Instagram, the Russian-German pianist Igor Levit took to Twitter on Thursday to stream his music and the Van- commend Symphony Orchestra live streamed a Thursday night performance.

**Met Gala must wait**

The Met Gala, annually one of the biggest nights in fashion, has been postponed due to the coronavirus.

Host Anna Wintour announced Monday on Vogue.com that the gala will not be held on its usual first Monday in May, due to the “unavoidable and responsible decision by the Metropolitan Museum to close its doors.”

This year’s previously announced celebrity hosts include Lin Manuel-Miranda, Meryl Streep and Emma Stone.

The Met Gala was one of last remaining major cultural events in the coming weeks in jeopardy is another.” The band has postponed April dates of its Van Tour 2020.

**Drake raking in the hits**

Rapper sets record for most Billboard Hot 100 songs with 208

**By MESFIN FEKADU**

Associated Press

Drake landed his 208th song on the Billboard Hot 100, setting a new record for most songs on the music chart.

The rapper’s latest track, “Oprah’s Bank Account” with DaBaby and Lil Yachty, debuted at No. 89 on the Hot 100 this week and helps Drake surpass the 207-song run of the cast of “Glee” held on the chart.

“Glee” aired its popular run from 2009 through 2015, and its cover versions of well-known songs debuted on the charts after episodes aired. The cast released several platinum- and gold-selling albums and earned a Grammy nomination in a category reserved for pop groups, pitting the cast against the likes of Maroon 5, Sade, Paramore and Train.

Drake, who launched his entertainment career as a cast member of the high school series “Degrassi: The Next Generation,” first charted on the Hot 100 with “Best I Ever Had” in 2009, eventually reaching No. 2. He has since topped the chart with the songs “One Dance,” “God’s Plan,” “Nice for What” and “In My Feelings.” His collaborations with Rihanna — “What’s My Name?” and “Work” — also reached No. 1.

Lil Wayne is behind Drake and “Glee” with 168 songs to reach the Hot 100 chart. The top 10 also includes Elvis Presley, Nicki Minaj, Kanye West, Jay-Z, Chris Brown, Taylor Swift and Future.

**Salaam plans novel on wrongful imprisonment**

One of the former “Central Park Five” is teaming with an acclaimed children’s author on a young adult novel with a personal theme — being wrongfully sentenced to prison.

Dr. Yusef Salaam and author Ibi Zoboi are working together on “Punching the Air,” according to Bray, an imprint of Har- len’s previously slated to return with new episodes on March 28, has halted production indefinitely out of concern for the safety of its cast and crew.

No new start date has been set. Actor-director John Krasinski and singer Dua Lipa were set to be featured next on “SNL” as host and musical guest, respectively.

A “Quiet Place Part II,” the film Krasinski was supposed to produce, has also pushed its release because of the outbreak.

**‘Saturday Night Live’ on hold indefinitely**

“Saturday Night Live” is officially the latest TV show to be delayed by the coronavirus pandemic, NBC confirmed Monday. The late-night sketch comedy program, previously slated to return with new episodes on March 28, has halted production indefinitely out of concern for the safety of its cast and crew.

No new start date has been set. Actor-director John Krasinski and singer Dua Lipa were set to be featured next on “SNL” as host and musical guest, respectively.

A “Quiet Place Part II,” the film Krasinski was supposed to produce, has also pushed its release because of the outbreak.

**Other news**

- Tom Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson, were released from an Australian hospital on Tuesday, five days after they were diagnosed with coronavirus.

The 63-year-old celebrities are self-isolating in a rented house.

From wire services

**Broadway at Home**

Actor Idris Elba tests positive for coronavirus

Idris Elba, 47, is the latest celebrity to test positive for the coronavirus.

“I feel OK. I have no symp- toms so far but have been isolated since I found out about my possible exposure to the virus,” the actor said Monday in a post on Twitter. “I am self isolating and be pragmatic.

I will keep you updated on how I’m doing. No panic.”

Elba recently spoke at the massive WE Day 2020 event in London on March 10 and reportedly posed with the actor. He tested positive last week.

**Salaam plans novel on wrongful imprisonment**

One of the former “Central Park Five” is teaming with an acclaimed children’s author on a young adult novel with a personal theme — being wrongfully sentenced to prison.

Dr. Yusef Salaam and author Ibi Zoboi are working together on “Punching the Air,” according to Bray, an imprint of Har- len’s previously slated to return with new episodes on March 28, has halted production indefinitely out of concern for the safety of its cast and crew.

No new start date has been set. Actor-director John Krasinski and singer Dua Lipa were set to be featured next on “SNL” as host and musical guest, respectively.

A “Quiet Place Part II,” the film Krasinski was supposed to produce, has also pushed its release because of the outbreak.

**Drake raking in the hits**

Rapper sets record for most Billboard Hot 100 songs with 208

**By MESFIN FEKADU**

Associated Press

Drake landed his 208th song on the Billboard Hot 100, setting a new record for most songs on the music chart.

The rapper’s latest track, “Oprah’s Bank Account” with DaBaby and Lil Yachty, debuted at No. 89 on the Hot 100 this week and helps Drake surpass the 207-song run of the cast of “Glee” held on the chart.

“Glee” aired its popular run from 2009 through 2015, and its cover versions of well-known songs debuted on the charts after episodes aired. The cast released several platinum- and gold-selling albums and earned a Grammy nomination in a category reserved for pop groups, pitting the cast against the likes of Maroon 5, Sade, Paramore and Train.

Drake, who launched his entertainment career as a cast member of the high school series “Degrassi: The Next Generation,” first charted on the Hot 100 with “Best I Ever Had” in 2009, eventually reaching No. 2. He has since topped the chart with the songs “One Dance,” “God’s Plan,” “Nice for What” and “In My Feelings.” His collaborations with Rihanna — “What’s My Name?” and “Work” — also reached No. 1.

Lil Wayne is behind Drake and “Glee” with 168 songs to reach the Hot 100 chart. The top 10 also includes Elvis Presley, Nicki Minaj, Kanye West, Jay-Z, Chris Brown, Taylor Swift and Future.
American Roundup

Robber doused store clerk with burning liquid

MD

OXON HILL — Police in Maryland arrested a man accused of dousing a convenience store worker with a burning liquid and stealing cigarettes.

Raymond Williams, 25, of Washington, walked to the convenience store counter early Saturday morning with a cup in his hand, Prince George’s County police said in a news release.

The cup contained a liquid that smelled of gasoline, police said. Williams is accused of asking the clerk for cigarettes, starting a fire in the cup while the clerk had his back turned and then dousing the clerk with the burning liquid when he turned back around.

Williams then jumped over the counter, stole about 20 packs of cigarettes and ran, police said. A witness called 911.

The clerk was taken to a hospital to be treated for critical burns, the release stated.

At least 4 arrested over illegal turkey hunts

MS

JACKSON — At least four people were arrested following an 11-month investigation that determined nearly 100 turkeys had been poached, according to wildlife officials in Mississippi.

The group was believed to have trespassed on 15 properties in Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson and Lincoln counties, according to a news release from the state Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Of the four people arrested and named in the news release, Kenneth Ray Britt, 39, had been charged with the most violations — 142.

The investigation determined that the illegal hunt during the 2019 season wasn’t constrained to Mississippi.

Tugboat crashes into bridge, 2 barges sink

LA

LULING — A tugboat leading a train of barges of grain crashed into a Louisiana bridge, causing two of the barges to sink in the Mississippi River.

The tugboat, identified as Cooperative Spirit, collided with the Luling Bridge early Sunday morning, news outlets reported.

Two of the 29 barges being pulled by the tugboat sank. The Coast Guard was working to recover the rest of the barges. No injuries were reported, Coast Guard spokesman John Michelli said.

A portion of the river near the bridge was closed after the crash.

Man waves gun at drive-thru for hot sauce

AZ

YUMA — An Arizona man facing charges after police said that he waved a gun at a fast-food drive-thru window and demanded hot sauce.

Abel Lerma is facing multiple charges after the incident in June. The Yuma Sun reported Lerma was arrested earlier this month on aggravated drunken driving charges.

Police said video surveillance cameras captured Lerma pulling a gun on an employee at a Füherto’s Mexican Food restaurant and demanded hot sauce, which is given for free with every food purchase.

Lerma and the driver of the car were later arrested.

Lerma, who was out of custody after posting a $50,000 bond and under the supervision of pretrial services, was arrested March 5 and has been charged with aggravated DUI for having a child under the age of 15 in the car and endangerment.

‘Princess’ needs help managing large estate

HI

HONOLULU — A judge ruled Friday that a 93-year-old Native Hawaiian heiress needs someone to handle her estate.

The so-called princess testified last Monday that she didn’t need a conservator because she’s still alive.

“Ms. [Abigail] Kawananakoa is a charming and gracious lady, in the best sense of the word,” said state Judge James Ashford. “Nevertheless, the Court finds … that for reasons other than age, Ms. Kawananakoa is unable to manage her property and business affairs effectively.”

Kawananakoa’s $215 million trust has been tied up in a court case since she had a stroke in 2017. Kawananakoa said that she’s fine.

After the stroke, she married her partner of 20 years, Veronica Gail Worth. Board members of her foundation and ex-employees said that the wife is manipulating Kawananakoa. Lawyers for the couple dispute that.

Kawananakoa inherited her wealth as the great-granddaughter of James Campbell, an Irish businessman who made his fortune as a sugar plantation owner and one of Hawaii’s largest landowners.

Native Hawaiians consider her a princess because she’s a descendant of the family that ruled the islands before the overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom in 1893.

State: 1 flushes drugs, 1 jumps out window

VT

BRATTLEBORO — Two men who sold cocaine to a confidential informant tried to evade arrest by flushing their drugs, prosecutors said.

Matthew Sinclair, 24, and Jorge Delapaz, 51, were charged with federal drug violations in January and February in a Brattleboro apartment, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Vermont.

Both were arrested earlier this month on charges of attempting to flush about 37 grams of cocaine down the toilet.

Pier scraps plans for cruise ship business

MI

— A waterfront project along Lake Michigan is scrapping plans to pursue the cruise ship business.

Discovery Center & Pier previously announced plans to transform a coal dock at Greilickville near Traverse City into a site that ships could use to land passengers. But CEO Matt McDonough said Tuesday that cruise ships weren’t aligned enough with the pier’s mission, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reported.

The organization said that its focus is on local partnerships to make changes that will make the pier better suited for multiple uses.

None of the cruise lines that had expressed interest in docking there had ships small enough to tie up to the pier.

They would instead need to anchor in Grand Traverse Bay and use smaller boats to carry passengers to shore.

From wire reports

Easy riders

Cyclists ride along an oceanfront trail along the Venice Beach Boardwalk on Sunday in Los Angeles.

The dollar amount that Michigan state lawmakers approved to help build a seawall in Bay City to protect a retired Navy ship and museum from high water. The USS Edson and Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum are near the mouth of the Saginaw River, MLive.com reported. High water is making it difficult to board the ship and use an adjacent parking lot.

The USS Edson was deployed to Vietnam and was in service during the Cold War.

THE CENSUS

$200K

State: 1 flushes drugs, 1 jumps out window

The dollar amount that Michigan state lawmakers approved to help build a seawall in Bay City to protect a retired Navy ship and museum from high water. The USS Edson and Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum are near the mouth of the Saginaw River, MLive.com reported. High water is making it difficult to board the ship and use an adjacent parking lot.

The USS Edson was deployed to Vietnam and was in service during the Cold War.

Pier scraps plans for cruise ship business

MI

— A waterfront project along Lake Michigan is scrapping plans to pursue the cruise ship business.

Discovery Center & Pier previously announced plans to transform a coal dock at Greilickville near Traverse City into a site that ships could use to land passengers. But CEO Matt McDonough said Tuesday that cruise ships weren’t aligned enough with the pier’s mission, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reported.

The organization said that its focus is on local partnerships to make changes that will make the pier better suited for multiple uses.

None of the cruise lines that had expressed interest in docking there had ships small enough to tie up to the pier.

They would instead need to anchor in Grand Traverse Bay and use smaller boats to carry passengers to shore.
## Sports on AFN

### Deals

**Monday's transactions**

**FOOTBALL**

- **ARIZONA CARDINALS** — Placed franchise tag on RB Kenyan Drake.
- **ATLANTA FALCONS** — Released TE Ta'Shawn House and OT Brandon Copeland.
- **CINCINNATI BENGALS** — Placed franchise tag on WR A.J. Green.
- **CLEVELAND BROWNS** — Announced tendered contract to WR KhaDarel Hodge.
- **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — Released DT Mark Barron, signed OT Milan� Bernard.
- **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** — Placed franchise tag on DL Joe Thuney.
- **NEW YORK GIANTS** — Agreed to terms with TE Luke Stocker.
- **NEW YORK RANGERS** — Placed franchise tag on LB Shaquil Barrett. Re-announced franchise tag on RB Kenyan Drake.
- **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** — Placed franchise tag on WR A.J. Green.
- **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — Placed franchise tag on OL Jason Pierre-Paul on a multi-year contract.
- **TENNESSEE TITANS** — Agreed to terms with T Dennis Kelly on a multi-year contract.

**HOCKEY**

- **National Hockey League**
  - **NEW YORK RANGERS** — Agreed to terms with D K’Andre Miller on an entry-level contract.

### Pro soccer

#### New US soccer chief disavows argument vs. women

**By Anne M. Peterson**

As a different set of lawyers took over for the U.S. Soccer Federation, new USSF President Cindy Parlow Cone dissolved papers submitted by the previous attorneys who argued women’s national team players had lesser skills and responsibilities than their male counterparts.

Parlow Cone took over as head of American soccer’s governing body last week when Carlos Cordeiro abruptly resigned because of the backlash over the documents, submitted by the USSF as it defended a gender discrimination lawsuit filed by women’s national team players. The federation’s claims in court documents that the women’s team didn’t have the physical abilities or the same responsibilities as the men’s team drew criticism from sponsors, including The Coca-Cola Co. and The Proctor & Gamble Co., as well as MLS Commissioner Don Garber, a USSF board member.

The outcry prompted Cordeiro to issue an apology last week while the women’s team was playing Japan in the SheBelieves Cup. The women protested by wearing warmup jerseys inside out in their warmup jerseys inside out before the game — obscuring the offensive assertions made by the previous attorneys. The federation has agreed to terms with T Dennis Kelly on a multi-year contract.

#### Kentucky Derby moved to September

**Associated Press**

The Kentucky Derby was postponed until September on Tuesday, the latest rite of spring in sports to be struck by the new coronavirus along with the Masters, March Madness and baseball season.

The Derby, America’s longest continuously held sports event, had been scheduled for May 2. It now will be run on Sept. 5, kicking off Labor Day weekend.

It’s the first time the Derby won’t be held on its traditional first Saturday in May since 1945, when it was run on June 9. The federal government suspended horse racing nationwide for most of the first half of the year before World War II ended in early May, but not in time to get the Derby in that month.

The date change still must be approved by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission at its meeting Thursday.

Carstensen said the date was chosen after talks with NBC Sports, which televises the Triple Crown races, based on the limited number of sports events that weekend and hotel availability in Louisville.

The status of the other Triple Crown races remains unclear. As of Tuesday morning, the Preakness had not responded to the Derby’s announcement. The New York Racing Association said Tuesday it intends to run the Belmont Stakes this year but that the date could change. The Preakness is scheduled for May 15 at Pimlico in Baltimore, and the Belmont is set for June 6 in New York. Carstensen said Churchill Downs alerted the other two tracks as it nears a new date with NBC.

**New US soccer chief disavows argument vs. women**

As a different set of lawyers took over for the U.S. Soccer Federation, new USSF President Cindy Parlow Cone dissolved papers submitted by the previous attorneys who argued women’s national team players had lesser skills and responsibilities than their male counterparts.

Parlow Cone took over as head of American soccer’s governing body last week when Carlos Cordeiro abruptly resigned because of the backlash over the documents, submitted by the USSF as it defended a gender discrimination lawsuit filed by women’s national team players. The federation’s claims in court documents that the women’s team didn’t have the physical abilities or the same responsibilities as the men’s team drew criticism from sponsors, including The Coca-Cola Co. and The Proctor & Gamble Co., as well as MLS Commissioner Don Garber, a USSF board member.

The outcry prompted Cordeiro to issue an apology last week while the women’s team was playing Japan in the SheBelieves Cup. The women protested by wearing their warmup jerseys inside out before the game — obscuring the U.S. Soccer crest.

#### Pro hockey

**National Hockey League**

- **NEW YORK RANGERS** — Agreed to terms with D K’Andre Miller on an entry-level contract.

### Pro soccer

**MLS**

**Eastern Conference**

- **Atlantic Division**
  - **New York City FC**
  - **Inter Miami CF**
  - **Cincinnati**
  - **Orlando City**
  - **Chicago**
  - **Columbus**
  - **Atlanta**

- **Central Division**
  - **New England Revolution**
  - **New York Red Bulls**
  - **Philadelphia Union**
  - **Los Angeles FC**
  - **FC Dallas**
  - **Colorado Rapids**

- **Pacific Division**
  - **Vancouver Whitecaps**
  - **Edmonton**
  - **Whitecaps**
  - **San Jose Earthquakes**
  - **Seattle Sounders**

**Western Conference**

- **Pacific Division**
  - **Seattle Sounders**
  - **San Jose Earthquakes**

- **Central Division**
  - **D.C. United**
  - **New York Red Bulls**
  - **Philadelphia Union**

- **Atlantic Division**
  - **Toronto FC**
  - **Montreal Impact**
  - **Philadelphia Union**
  - **New York Red Bulls**

**Schedule**

- **All games postponed at least until mid-May.**

**A young fan advocates for equal pay for women's soccer players**

After the United States defeated Japan in a SheBelieves Cup women's soccer match March 11 at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas, a young fan advocated for equal pay for women's soccer players. The WNT is the most successful soccer team in the world. As the women's team was playing Japan in the SheBelieves Cup, the women protested by wearing their warmup jerseys inside out before the game — obscuring the U.S. Soccer crest.

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**
Mobile apps with constantly updating news, featuring breaking news and stories from reporters at overseas bases. Unique galleries of images available nowhere else presented in an uncluttered interface and a responsive, intuitive design. One iOS app serves both phone and tablet devices.

In print, we serve military stationed overseas in contingency areas, Europe and Pacific. Daily editions focus on military news and include sports, comics and opinion. Available by mail delivery to any U.S. address.

Discover unique stories from reporters at bases around the world and embedded with downrange forces at Stripes.com, along with military news from every part of the country and photo galleries you’ll see nowhere else. DoDDs sports also gets good coverage online. If it concerns our U.S. forces, you’ll find it on our website.

STARS AND STRIPES
UNBIASED NEWS WHATEVER WAY YOU WANT IT.
By Ronald Blum  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball pushed back opening day until mid-May at the earliest on Monday because of the new coronavirus, the federal government recommended restricting events of more than 50 people for the next eight weeks.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred made the announcement following a conference call with executives of the 30 teams. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend Sunday that gatherings of more than 50 people or more be canceled or postponed across the country for the next eight weeks.

“The opening of the 2020 regular season will be pushed back in accordance with that guidance,” Manfred said.

The NHL and NASCAR announced they also will follow the same guidance. The French tennis federation announced Tuesday that the French Open is postponed, shifting from May to September.

Main-draw matches for the clay-court tournament at Roland Garros in Paris were scheduled to begin on May 24.

The NHL and the players association Monday they can go home — even outside of North America — and must self-isolate on their own. While the season is on hold. But the NHL also cautioned that it will not be able to even provide guidance on the potential reopening of team practices for another 45 days, which could push any potential return to play into May.

“I think in light of the CDC recommendations, it’s hard to foresee that we’re going to be happening here in March or even April, in my opinion,” NHL player agent Jay Grossman said.

NASCAR’s decision came after at least two Monday conference calls between the sanctioning body and its team owners. It affects seven total races — Atlanta and Homestead had already been postponed.

There’s no telling at this point when baseball games will start. The All-Star Game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on July 14 could be in jeopardy.

“We’re not going to announce an alternate opening day at this point. We’re going to have to see how things develop,” Manfred told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch at Cardinals camp in Jupiter, Fla. He didn’t want to speculate about the possibility of playing in empty stadiums, saying part of that decision would depend on timing.

MLB called off the rest of the spring training schedule on Thursday and said opening day, which had been scheduled for March 26, was postponed for at least two weeks. Teams and players agree that two to four weeks of additional spring training will be needed before the season begins.

“I am just treating this as January of the winter time,” Arizona catcher Stephen Vogt said in a text to The Associated Press. “I am working out with the anticipation of baseball activities ramping up over the next month. But my mentality is back to preparing for the season.”

Under an agreement last week between MLB and the players’ association, players are allowed to decide whether to stay at spring training or go home, but some teams have ignored that deal and told players to leave.

“There should be no organized activities in the camps,” Manfred told the Post-Dispatch. “We did agree with the MLBPA that spring training sites would remain open, but the thought there is with a skeleton crew, really, to give players some place to use a gym, as opposed to being forced out into a public gym and the like. And we’re really encouraging players to make a decision as to where they want to be over an extended period of time and get to that location as soon as possible.”

The players’ association sent an email to agents on Monday saying that for players who went home to their team’s regular-season city, it would pay $1,100 allowances through April 9 to players on 40-man rosters as of March 13. That amount also would go to players with minor league contracts at big league spring training or who were on 40-man rosters at the end of last season.

The union is negotiating with MLB over resetting the dates for players with opt-out clauses in their deals, and the sides are likely to agree on a roster freeze. They are discussing the possibility of payments to major league players who have not reached the point of big-money deals to make up for paychecks they won’t be getting in April and May.

This year marked the earliest opening day other than for international games. As it stood, Game 1 of the World Series would have been Oct. 28, and teams and players could push the postseason into November.

Any change to the 162-game schedule would necessitate baring over an array of issues, including when and how many games players get paid and how much major league service they are credited for. Service time determines eligibility for free agency and salary arbitration.

Players made a counteroffer to MLB on Sunday, and management told the union it would not respond until Tuesday at the earliest.

By Kyle Hightower  
Associated Press

For two decades, Tom Brady was the face of the Patriots, and even of the NFL. When he turns 43 in August, his home address no longer will be in New England.

The six-time Super Bowl champion plans to keep playing. But the centerpiece of the Patriots’ dynasty, the most successful quarterback in league history, says he is leaving the only pro team he has ever known.

Brady posted Tuesday on social media “my football journey will take place elsewhere.”

The comments were the first to indicate the Patriots icon wouldn’t leave New England. Statements later by team owner Robert Kraft and coach Bill Belichick made it clear that Brady’s remarkable stint there is over.

In a two-part message, Brady thanked the Patriots and the fans and said “FOREVER A PATRIOT.”

“I don’t know what my football future holds, but it is time for me to open a new stage for my life and my career,” he wrote. “Although my football journey will take place elsewhere, I appreciate everything that we have achieved and am grateful for our incredible TEAM experiences.”

The one-year contract Brady signed before last season expires Wednesday afternoon, and his agent could negotiate a deal with another team on Tuesday, though it can’t be official yet. He will count $13.5 million toward New England’s salary cap due to signing the bonus money he received in 2019.

Kraft said of Brady: “I had hoped this day would never come, but rather that Tom would end his remarkable career in a Patriots uniform after yet another Super Bowl championship. Unfortunately, the two sides were unable to reach an agreement to allow that dream to become a reality. While sad today, the overwhelming feeling I have is appreciation for his countless contributions to our team and community.”

A four-time Super Bowl Most Valuable Player and three-time league MVP, Brady has been the enduring face of the Patriots during a run that added another layer to Boston’s already rich sports history. Only Bill Russell, who won 11 NBA championship rings in the 1950s and 60s with the Celtics, has won more titles as a member of one of New England’s four major professional sports teams.

Brady would be the oldest starting quarterback in the league at 43 at the beginning of next season. The Colts, Buccaneers, Chargers and Dolphins are among the teams expected to be in a Brady derby.

“TB12,” as he has been dubbed, a nod to his 2017 book detailing his diet and exercise approach, arguably is coming off his worst non-injury season. He threw for 4,057 yards and 24 touchdowns in 2019, with eight interceptions. But he completed fewer than 56% of his passes six times in the final eight games of the year, including a season-ending loss to Miami that cost the Patriots a first-round playoff bye.

They lost at home to the Titans in the wild-card round, Brady’s earliest postseason exit in a decade — and likely his last game in a Patriots uniform.

Brady had a one-year contract for 2019 that paid him $23 million.

After franchising offensive lineman Joe Thuney and coming to terms on new deals with Matt Slater and Devin McCourty, the Patriots have only about $18 million in salary cap space.
**NFL**

**ALL-PRO WR HOPKINS SENT TO CARDS, DALLAS SIGNS WR COOPER FOR $100M**

BY BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

The NFL has barred in-person interviews with free agents — and it’s requiring local physical examinations for them rather than team-conducted exams.

The NFL also banned travel by team personnel to meet with free agents as well as those players traveling to team facilities. The league’s business year begins Wednesday, and the period in which players’ representatives could negotiate with clubs began Monday — though no deals could be finalized.

All offseason activities such as meetings, practices and mini-camps have been delayed indefinitely as a safeguard against the new coronavirus. No players can enter a club facility through March 31, with the exception of those receiving medical treatment.

The restrictions were first reported by ESPN.

The first day that players’ representatives could talk with teams would be day one of free agency, about a month later — with one of the NFL’s biggest stars, DeAndre Hopkins, headed to Arizona.

In a stunner that overshadowed several other deals, the Texans sent their three-time All-Pro receiver to the Cardinals for running back David Johnson, a second-round draft pick this year and a fourth-rounder in 2021.

In a flurry of activity Monday night, Raiders quarterback Derek Carr signed a five-year, $125 million contract with the Las Vegas Raiders, giving them a franchise tag on quarterback Derek Carr, who was up for free agency.

The New England Patriots signed quarterback Cam Newton to a one-year deal, giving them the potential for a quarterback battle with reigning league MVP, Tom Brady. Newton, who spent his first three seasons with the Carolina Panthers, is 31 years old and 20-16 in the postseason.

The Dallas Cowboys agreed with quarterback Kirk Cousins on a three-year, $51 million deal, giving them the possibility of building around him and Dak Prescott, who is currently on a four-year contract.

The Minnesota Vikings signed quarterback Kirk Cousins above, to a $66 million, two-year contract extension. Meanwhile, while the Dallas Cowboys placed their exclusive franchise tag on quarterback Dak Prescott, right. The Houston Texans traded wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins to the Arizona Cardinals for running back David Johnson, a second-round draft pick this year and a fourth-rounder in 2021.

**DRAFT ON SCHEDULE FOR VEGAS, BUT PUBLIC EVENTS CANCELED**

NEW YORK — The NFL will proceed with its draft but without public events next month in Las Vegas. It’s not yet clear, however, if the draft itself will be held in the city. Commissioner Roger Goodell said Monday the draft will take place April 23-25 as scheduled, but under a modified format still being developed. The draft will be televised regardless of its venue or format.

“In consideration of current information related to COVID-19 and guidance from medical experts such as the CDC, and in coordination with public authorities in Nevada and the city of Las Vegas, the NFL will modify its plans,” the league said in a statement.

The NFL said it is exploring “innovative options” for how the process will be handled and will provide that information as it becomes available.

“This decision reflects our foremost priority: the health and safety of all fans and citizens,” Goodell said. “While this outcome is disappointing both to the NFL and to the Las Vegas community, we look forward to partnering with the Raiders, the city of Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority for a future NFL Draft as well as evaluating opportunities for other major NFL events in Las Vegas in the future, including the Super Bowl.”

Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman said she was “heartbroken,” while the local tourism agency said it supported the decision based on federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations that scheduled events with more than 50 people be canceled to curb the spread of the respiratory illness.

Next year’s draft is scheduled for Cleveland.

Associated Press

**DEFENSIVE TACKLE JARRAN REED AGREED TO TWO-YEAR DEAL**

The New York Jets and former Seattle Seahawks defensive tackle Jarran Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, agreed to a two-year deal on Wednesday.

Reed, who was the 2019 NFL rookie of the year, will return to the Jets after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seahawks last month, will return to the team after the team signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2017.

The Jets have agreed to sign Reed to a two-year deal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Reed, who was released by the Seattle Seahawks in 2017, signed with the Jets on a deal reportedly worth $23 million.

The New York Jets and former Seattle Seahawks defensive tackle George Fant agreed on a three-year contract worth $30 million.

Starting defensive tackle David Oyegbemua will re-sign with New Orleans.

Minnesota reached an agreement with punter Britton Colquitt on a three-year, $9 million contract in which he will get $5 million in guaranteed money.

Washington agreed to resign inside linebacker Jon Bostic to a $6.6 million, two-year deal. The Redskins are also set to sign guard Wes Schweitzer, who spent his first three seasons with Atlanta.
TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.

End of an era

Six-time Super Bowl winner Brady leaving Patriots, says ‘my football journey will take place elsewhere’

Page 22