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U.S. President Donald Trump speaks next U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during a cabinet meeting at the White House in Washington,



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## U.S. mulls leaving some troops in Syria to guard oil: Pentagon



A convoy of U.S. vehicles is seen after withdrawing from northern Syria, at the Iraqi-Syrian border crossing in the outskirts of Dohuk, Iraq, October 21, 2019. REUTERS/Ari Jalal

DOHUK, Iraq/KABUL (Reuters) - The Pentagon is considering keeping some U.S. troops near oilfields in northeastern Syria alongside Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to help deny oil to Islamic State militants, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on Monday.

U.S. troops are crossing into Iraq as part of a broader withdrawal from Syria ordered by President Donald Trump, a decision that allowed Turkey to launch an offensive against the SDF which for years was a U.S. ally battling Islamic State. More than 100 vehicles crossed the border into Iraq early on Monday from the northeast tip of Syria, where Turkey agreed to pause its offensive for five days under a deal with Washington.

Germany proposes security zone for northern Syria  
Some U.S. troops may stay in Syria: Pentagon chief  
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The truce expires late on Tuesday, just after Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan is set to discuss next steps in the region at a meeting in Russia with President Vladimir Putin.

Speaking to reporters during a trip to Afghanistan, Esper said that, while the U.S. withdrawal was under way, some troops were still with partner forces near oilfields and there had been discussions about keeping some of them there.

He said that was one option and no decision had been made "with regard to numbers or anything like that". The Pentagon's job was to look at different options, he added.

"We presently have troops in a couple of cities that (are) located right near that area," Esper said. "The purpose is to deny access, specifically revenue to ISIS (Islamic State) and any other groups that may want to seek that revenue to enable their own malign activities."

Trump's shift has opened a new chapter in Syria's more than eight-year war and prompted a rush by Turkey and by the Damascus government and its ally Russia to fill the vacuum left by the Americans.

Trump's decision has been criticized in Washington and elsewhere as a betrayal of Kurdish allies who had fought for years alongside U.S. troops in a region rich in oil reserves and farmland.

The New York Times reported late on Sunday that Trump was now leaning in favor of a new military plan to keep about 200 U.S. troops in eastern Syria near the Iraq border. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A convoy of U.S. vehicles is seen after withdrawing from northern Syria, at the Iraqi-Syrian border crossing in the outskirts of Dohuk, Iraq, October 21, 2019. REUTERS/Ari Jalal

"NECESSARY STEPS"

Turkey is seeking to set up a "safe zone" along 440 km of border as a buffer against the YPG militia, the main component of the SDF. Ankara sees the YPG as a terrorist group due to its links to Kurdish insurgents in

southeast Turkey.

Erdogan has said Ankara will resume its assault when the deadline expires on Tuesday if the SDF has not pulled back. Turkish sources said that the priority for Ankara was to see the YPG withdraw from a 120-km long strip where Turkish troops and their Syrian rebel allies have focused their assault, rather than the full border region.

They said it remained Turkey's goal to establish the "safe zone" the full length of the border, which includes areas where Syrian and Russian troops have already moved in. "We will take up this process with Mr Putin and after that we will take the necessary steps" in northeastern Syria, Erdogan told a forum in Istanbul hosted by broadcaster TRT World on Monday, without elaborating.

Erdogan has also said Turkey will set up a dozen observation posts in the "safe zone", prompting criticism from Iran. "We are against Ankara's establishing of military posts in Syria," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told a weekly news conference on Monday broadcast live on state TV.

"The issues should be resolved by diplomatic means ... Syria's integrity should be respected," said Mousavi, whose country is a staunch ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Echoing such concerns, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said Russia believed long-term regional security could only be achieved by restoring Syrian unity and also by taking into account the interests of all the country's ethnic and religious groups.



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# Trump exhorts Republicans to 'get tougher' against impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump on Monday exhorted fellow Republicans to get tougher and fight for him, saying the Democratic-led U.S. House of Representatives wants to impeach him "as quick as possible" over his request that Ukraine investigate a domestic political rival.

Trump made his comments during a White House Cabinet meeting as Democrats sought to build public support for their fast-moving impeachment inquiry and the administration pressed its efforts to stonewall a probe that threatens his presidency.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a video and "fact sheet" that may give hints about articles of impeachment - formal charges - Democrats may pursue against Republican Trump, accusing him of abuse of power, a "shakedown" involving Ukraine and a cover-up.

Few Republican lawmakers have shown an inclination to remove Trump from office even as Democrats focus on his pushing a vulnerable foreign ally to interfere to his benefit in the 2020 U.S. election by providing political dirt on Joe Biden, a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination to run against Trump in the November 2020 election.

Trump: Republicans need to get tougher and fight amid impeachment inquiry

U.S. Energy Secretary Perry to step down December 1: DOE

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But Trump, who has denied wrongdoing, has come under sharp criticism from Republican Senator Mitt Romney.

And other Republicans have expressed misgivings about Trump policies, including criticism by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senator Lindsey Graham of his withdrawal of U.S. troops here in northeastern Syria, exposing U.S.-allied Kurdish fighters to a Turkish cross-border offensive.

Approval of articles of impeachment in the House would prompt a trial in the Republican-led Senate on whether to remove Trump from office.

"The Republicans have to get tougher and fight. We have some that are great fighters, but they have to get tougher and fight, because the Democrats are trying to hurt the Republican Party before the election," Trump said.



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks next U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during a cabinet meeting at the White House in Washington, U.S., October 21, 2019. REUTERS/ Leah Millis

Trump said the Democrats are "vicious and they stick together."

"They don't have Mitt Romney in their midst. They don't have people like that. They stick together," Trump added.

In an interview aired with "Axios on HBO," Romney denounced Trump's requests to Ukraine and China to investigate Biden, questioned Trump's character, criticized his decision to "abandon" Kurdish allies in the Syria war and deplored his hush money payment to an adult film star. Romney was the 2012 Republican presidential nominee.

Trump also labeled as "phony" an anti-corruption clause in the U.S. Constitution that Democrats have accused him of violating through the operation of his businesses including a hotel in downtown Washington. The so-called emoluments clause bars a president from receiving any gifts, payment or other things of

value from a foreign country.

An accusation of violating the emoluments clause could figure into the articles of impeachment against Trump.

Democrats mocked Trump. "It is literally in the Constitution," Democratic congressman Eric Swalwell said on Twitter.

Asked if it is a foregone conclusion that House Democrats will vote to impeach him, Trump said that "they're not going to beat me in the election, so of course they want to impeach."

"They want to impeach. And they want to do it as quick as possible," Trump added.

Trump, a wealthy real estate developer, also said serving as president has personally cost him \$2 billion to \$5 billion dollars. Trump also expressed annoyance at having to reverse his decision to stage the Group of Seven summit in June at his Trump National Doral golf resort in the Miami area.

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# Editor's Choice



NDP leader Jagmeet Singh takes a selfie with a supporter at the NDP election office on Election Day in Burnaby



The Leader of Canada's Conservatives Andrew Scheer door knocks on Election Day in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada October 21, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Osorio



Voting information pamphlets sit on a table as NDP leader Jagmeet Singh helps sort documents at the NDP election office on Election Day in Burnaby



Supporters wait for the leader of Canada's Conservatives Andrew Scheer to visit a local candidates office on Election Day in Regina



Green Party leader Elizabeth May waves after voting in the federal election in Sidney



A man enters a polling place to cast his ballot for today's election in Montreal



Protests against Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno's austerity measures in Quito



Justin Trudeau looks at his son Hadrien Trudeau at his polling place before he casts his ballot for today's election in the Papineau area of Montreal

## JAPAN TO DUMP ONE MILLION TONS OF RADIOACTIVE WATER INTO PACIFIC



Shown Above: A dead sea lion on California's coast shows high radiation readings.

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

"The operator of the ruined Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant will dump huge quantities of contaminated water from the plant site directly into the Pacific Ocean, Japan's environment minister has said - a move that would enrage local fishermen.

Tepeco (Tokyo Electric Power Company) admitted last year that the water in its tanks still contained contaminants beside tritium, even though they had already treated the waste materials.

"The only option will be to drain it into the sea and dilute it," the environment minister, Yoshiaki Harada, told a news briefing in Tokyo on September 10, 2019.

One recent study by Hiroshi Miyano, who heads a committee studying the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi at the Atomic Energy Society of Japan, said it could take 17 years to discharge the treated water after it has been diluted to reduce radioactive substances to levels that meet the plant's safety standards. Any decision to dispose of the waste water into the sea would anger local fishermen, who have spent the past eight years

rebuilding their industry.

Nearby South Korea has also voiced concern over the impact it would have on the reputation of its own seafood.

Last month, Seoul summoned a senior Japanese embassy official to explain how Fukushima Daiichi's waste water would be dealt with.

The government spent 34.5bn yen (£260m) to build a frozen underground wall to prevent groundwater reaching the three damaged reactor buildings. The wall, however, has succeeded only in reducing the flow of groundwater from about 500 tonnes a day to about 100 tonnes a day.



Japan has come under renewed pressure to address the contaminated water problem before Tokyo hosts the Olympics and Paralympics next summer.

Six years ago during the city's bid for the games, the prime minister, Shinzo Abe, assured the international community that the situation was 'under control'."

Many experts, government officials of other nations, Japanese residents and activists strongly disagree.

"The government must commit to the only environmentally acceptable option for managing this water crisis which is long term storage and processing to remove radioactivity, including tritium," Shaun Burnie, senior nuclear specialist with Greenpeace Germany, said in an email.

As far back as 2014, the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) recommended a controlled release of all this water into the ocean as 'the safest course of action', and Japan's Nuclear Regulation Agency (NRA) has made similar recommendations.

A 'Tritiated Water Task Force' convened by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in 2013 (PDF) examined five options in detail, including evaporating it and releasing it into the atmosphere, releasing it into the atmosphere as hydrogen gas, injecting it into deep geologic strata, storing it underground, and diluting it and discharging it into the ocean.

For reasons of cost, available technology, time required, and 'safety', in its final report issued in June, 2016, the task force concluded that ocean discharge was the least objectionable approach.

Bottom line...dumping the nuclear waste is cheap and the currents will carry it away from Japan.



Japan seems to expect the world to accept the unproven myth that the ocean can "clean up" their mess by dissolving all the deadly radiation.

As the Associated Press plainly noted: "The floating debris will likely be carried by currents off of Japan toward Washington, Oregon and California before turning toward Hawaii and back again toward Asia, circulating in what is known as the North Pacific gyre, said Curt Ebbesmeyer, a Seattle oceanographer who has spent decades tracking flotsam.

"All this debris will find a way to reach the West coast or stop in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch," a swirling mass of concentrated marine litter in the Pacific Ocean, said Luca Centurioni, a researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego."

And this process will be repeated over and over again as long as Japan continues to release radiation into the ocean.

Japan does not dare release the waste into the atmosphere because history has shown that radiation will continue to fall on the earth for hundreds, or even thousands of years.



Japan is an island nation without adequate land mass to safely store these contaminants away from human populations. They cannot respond quickly to the problem like Russia did to their "toxic accident," and so they are looking at between 40 to 100 years of "making room"

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**The 2019 Flu Season Is Predicted To Be Bad – The Public Is Encouraged To Get A Flu Shot**



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

Flu seasons are notoriously unpredictable, but there are already clues that the upcoming season may be especially difficult.

Flu season in the Southern Hemisphere can be an indication of what's to come in the Northern Hemisphere, and the recent flu season in Australia, where winter has just ended, arrived early and with a vengeance. A particularly virulent flu strain, H3N2, dominated.

Additionally, a pediatric flu death has already been reported in the U.S. — a 4 year old in California who had underlying health problems.

"We should never forget that the flu still kills," Dr. Cameron Kaiser, a public health officer for Riverside County, California, said in a news release announcing the death.

"A death so early in the flu season suggests this year may be worse than usual," Kaiser warned.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that last year, there were 37 million to 43 million flu illnesses in the U.S., and 36,400 to 61,200 flu-related deaths. Last year's flu season ran from Oct. 1, 2018, to May 4.

"The most important thing is for people to get their flu vaccine, and get it before the epidemic starts," he said.

Most healthy people who get the shot in September can expect some protection through the spring. But older adults may want to schedule their vaccination for sometime in October.

"There is a concern that some older people may have their immunity wane simply because their immune system is more frail, less robust," Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Flu activity usually picks up in October and November, peaks around February, and can last well into the spring months. The CDC recommends everyone over age 6 months be vaccinated against the flu, especially expectant mothers.

Pregnant women who get the flu tend to have complications similar to those over 65. The shot offers protection for both the woman and her unborn baby.

It takes about two weeks to build immunity to influenza after getting the vaccine. But even then, the flu vaccine offers only partial protection. Last year, the vaccine didn't work well: Its overall effectiveness was 29 percent.

Doctors blamed the poor match on a surprise second wave of H3N2 flu activity late in the season.

get the vaccine generally don't feel as sick if they do wind up with the flu, and they're less likely to develop complications of the virus, including pneumonia and death.

"Partial protection frequently gets overlooked, and we shouldn't forget that," Schaffner said.

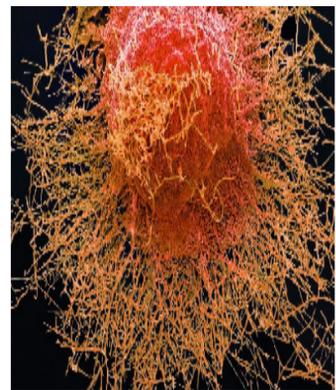
"Because it's those complications that do you in."

What's more, research published last year found the risk for heart attack or stroke increases the month after a person is diagnosed with the flu. The mechanism is likely one of inflammation and stress in the body caused by the virus.

A specific flu shot call Fluzone may be best for older adults. "For people over age 65, there is evidence that the high-dose vaccine will provide greater than a standard dose vaccine," Atmar said.

is one of the country's most severe ever, sickening more than 272,000 and killing 662:

•It also started in April, two months earlier, and peaked in June and July compared to the usual peak between August and September.

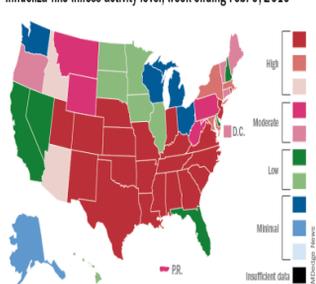


A human cell infected with the H3N2 flu virus, responsible for Australia's and the U.S.'s worst recent flu outbreaks. The same strain may dominate this year, too. Steve Gschmeissner/Science Source

•The 2017 flu season was Australia's deadliest in 20 years and was followed by the 2017-18 US season that killed nearly 80,000.

•In the US, there has already been one pediatric death recorded after a 4-year-old boy from California died from flu-related complications last year. (Courtesy <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/>)

Influenza-like illness activity level, week ending Feb. 9, 2019



Note: Based on data from the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**The 2019 Flu Season Has "Staying Power."**

**Is it too early to get the flu vaccine?** No. Doctors say people should get the flu vaccine now, and certainly before Thanksgiving.

"The concern with delaying it is that some people who might have the opportunity to get vaccinated now may not have that opportunity later," said Dr. Robert Atmar, a professor of medicine and an infectious disease expert at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.



**Why should I get the flu vaccine even if it doesn't work well?**

There is plenty of evidence that the vaccine can ease the severity of the flu if you do get sick. Doctors say people who



Fluzone and the standard dose shots available this year include protection against several influenza strains, including H1N1 and H3N2.

FluMist, the nasal spray favored by kids and anyone else averse to needles, is also back this year. (Courtesy nbcnews.com)

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**Australia Just Had a Bad Flu Season. That May Be a Warning for the U.S.** The flu season just ending in Australia



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