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Hong Kong protests turn to violent clashes in multiple towns



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United States sending troops to bolster Saudi defenses after attack

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday approved sending American troops to bolster Saudi Arabia's air and missile defenses after the largest-ever attack on the kingdom's oil facilities, which Washington has squarely blamed on Iran.

The Pentagon said the deployment would involve a moderate number of troops - not numbering thousands - and would be primarily defensive in nature. It also detailed plans to expedite delivery of military equipment to both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Reuters has previously reported that the Pentagon was considering sending anti-missile batteries, drones and more fighter jets. The United States is also considering keeping an aircraft carrier in the region indefinitely.

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"In response to the kingdom's request, the president has approved the deployment of U.S. forces, which will be defensive in nature and primarily focused on air and missile defense," U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said at a news briefing.

"We will also work to accelerate the delivery of military equipment to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UAE to enhance their ability to defend themselves."

The Pentagon's late Friday announcement appeared to close the door to any imminent decision to wage retaliatory strikes against Iran following the attack, which rattled global markets and exposed major gaps in Saudi Arabia's air defenses

Trump said earlier on Friday that he believed his military restraint so far showed "strength," as he instead imposed another round of economic sanctions on Tehran.

"Because the easiest thing I could do, 'Okay, go ahead. Knock out 15 different major things in Iran.' ... But I'm not looking to do that if I can," Trump told reporters at the White House.

But the deployment could further aggravate Iran, which has responded to previous U.S. troop deployments this year with apprehension. It denies responsibility for the attack on Saudi Arabia.

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement, which has been battling a Saudi-led military coalition that includes the UAE, has claimed responsibility for the strikes.

Workers are seen at the damaged site of Saudi Aramco oil facility in Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia, September 20, 2019. REUTERS/Stephen Kalin

Relations between the United States and Iran have deteriorated sharply since Trump pulled out of the Iran nuclear accord last year and reim-



Workers are seen at the damaged site of Saudi Aramco oil facility in Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia, September 20, 2019. REUTERS/Stephen Kalin

posed sanctions on its oil exports. For months, Iranian officials issued veiled threats, saying that if Tehran were blocked from exporting oil, other countries would not be able to do so either. However, Iran has denied any role in a series of attacks in recent months, including bombings of tankers in the Gulf and strikes claimed by the Houthis. U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, have fingered southwest Iran as the staging ground for the attack, an assessment based at least in part on still-classified imagery showing Iran appearing to prepare an aerial strike.

They have dismissed Houthi claims that the attacks originated in Yemen.

One of the officials told Reuters the strike may have been authorized by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The United States is wary of getting dragged into another conflict in the Middle East. It has troops positioned in Syria and Iraq, two countries where Iranian influence is strong and Iran-backed forces operate openly.

U.S. President Donald Trump addresses a joint news

conference with Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison in the East Room of the White House in Washington, U.S., September 20, 2019. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts

U.S. officials fear Iran's proxies might attempt to strike American troops there, something that could easily trigger a broader regional conflict.

Saudi Arabia has said it was attacked by a total of 25 drones and missiles, including Iranian Delta Wing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and "Ya Ali" cruise missiles.

U.S. Marine General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said officials were still hammering out the best array of capabilities to defend Saudi Arabia, noting the difficulty combating a swarm of drones.

"No single system is going to be able to defend against a threat like that, but a layered system of defensive capabilities would mitigate the risk of swarms of drones or other attacks that may come from Iran," Dunford said.

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Hong Kong protests turn to violent clashes in multiple towns

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Hong Kong police fired tear gas to disperse pro-democracy protesters on Saturday after pro-China groups pulled down some of the "Lennon Walls" of anti-government messages posted in the Chinese-ruled city in more than three months of unrest.

The first canisters were fired when protesters hurled petrol bombs toward an approaching police line in the new town of Tuen Mun, in the west of the New Territories, and again after night fell in nearby Yuen Long.

Under a fierce sub-tropical sun, protesters in Tuen Mun set fire to a Chinese flag as others tore down wooden and metal fences and traffic bollards to build road blocks, at least one of which was set alight.

RELATED COVERAGE

Hong Kong police fire tear gas to try to disperse protesters

Some smashed fittings at the Light Rail Transit station, dug up bricks and picked up stones from the sides of the tracks. Others turned fire extinguishers on the police, who made several arrests.

"Radical protesters damaged facilities in Light Rail Town Centre Station in Tuen Mun with metal rods, hurled objects into the Light Rail tracks and set barricades in the vicinity, causing obstruction to the traffic," police said in a statement.

"Radical protesters also threw petrol bombs, posing a serious threat to the safety of others and police officers. Authorities suspended rail and bus services in the area in response.

Hundreds of protesters retreated from the lines of riot police when the tear gas was fired, many

sprinting across a highway to regroup briefly. Others melted away into malls and side-streets.

Dozens of Beijing supporters had earlier torn down some of the large mosaics of colorful sticky notes calling for democracy and denouncing perceived Chinese meddling in the former British colony, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Similar "Lennon Walls" have blossomed across Hong Kong - at bus stops and shopping centers, under footbridges, along pedestrian walkways and at universities. They have also occasionally become hot spots of violence.

Protesters react to tear gas after a sit-in at Yuen Long to protest against violence that happened two months ago when white-shirted men wielding pipes and clubs wounded both anti-government protesters and passers-by, in Hong Kong, China September 21, 2019. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu

A pro-Beijing city legislator, Junius Ho, who has been a vocal critic of the protests, had urged his supporters to clean up approximately 100 Lennon Walls around the city on Saturday.

But in a message posted late on Friday on his Facebook page, Ho said that "for the sake of safety" the Lennon Walls would not be cleared up, only the streets.

REMEMBERING MOB ATTACK

Steve Chiu, who works in finance, said people like Ho would only give the pro-democracy movement fresh impetus.

"Through provocative acts like this, he helps unify the moderates and frontline in the movement," he told Reuters.

The walls are named after the John Lennon Wall



Protesters react to tear gas after a sit-in at Yuen Long to protest against violence that happened two months ago when white-shirted men wielding pipes and clubs wounded both anti-government protesters and passers-by, in Hong Kong, China September 21, 2019. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu

in communist-controlled Prague in the 1980s, which was covered with Beatles lyrics and messages of political grievance. Hundreds of pro-democracy protesters also gathered at a shopping mall near the subway station in Yuen Long, a few km to the northeast of Tuen Mun, to mark two months since activists were attacked by a mob.

Amid unrelenting chanting and colorful denunciations of Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, they put their hands on their hearts as they sang

"Glory to Hong Kong", an anthem marking the territory's promised wide-ranging autonomy when it returned to China. There were clashes outside when protesters set up road blocks, threw fire bombs and taunted police who again responded with tear gas. Police made a series of arrests in a Circle K convenience store to where protesters had fled.

"Some even threw petrol bombs at a police vehicle, causing danger to the life of the police officers onboard," police said in a statement.



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Editor's Choice



An attendee holds a sign asking Amazon to reach zero emissions by 2030 outside the Amazon Spheres during a Climate Strike walkout and march in Seattle



Security blocks the entrance of BlackRock's offices during a Climate Strike march in San Francisco



An anti-government protester is detained during a march in Tuen Mun, Hong Kong



People reach out for a pint of beer at the opening day of the 186th Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany September 21, 2019. REUTERS/Michael Dalder TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Houthi followers attend a gathering to receive food supplies from tribesmen in Sanaa



Rugby Union - Rugby World Cup 2019 - Pool C - France v Argentina - Tokyo Stadium, Tokyo, Japan - September 21, 2019 France's Charles Ollivon celebrates with fans after the match REUTERS/Issei Kato TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Versace Spring/Summer 2020 collection during fashion week in Milan



A youth reacts as he holds a placard during a Global Climate Strike rally in Lima, Peru September 20, 2019. REUTERS/Guadalupe Pardo TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

Disney CEO Bob Iger finally announced details for the long-awaited Disney streaming bundle...

Details: For \$12.99 monthly, consumers can access Disney+, ESPN+ and the ad-supported version of Hulu.

Driving the news: The update came as Disney executives walked investors through the high-level results of its third quarter earnings...

The company's massive success at the box office last quarter wasn't enough to save the entertainment giant from an earnings and revenue loss.



Be smart: It was the first full quarter that Disney reported earnings after acquiring much of 21st Century Fox in March.

The big picture: Investors had high hopes for Disney ahead of earnings, with many expecting the company to report high top-line growth...

Operating costs were high and cut into the company's profit margins. This was largely a result of investments Disney made in its new streaming products and Wars."

Disney Unveils Disney+, ESPN+, Hulu Bundle For \$12.99 Monthly



Overview

U.S. customers would be able to get Disney+, ESPN+ and ad-supported Hulu for \$12.99 a month. The bundle will be available when Disney+ launches on Nov. 12.

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

paying down its 21st Century Fox acquisition.

Tuesday's report sent a message to investors that if Disney's bet on streaming doesn't pan out, its traditional businesses may not be enough to protect the company from long-term industry changes.

What's next: Executives said they expect operating losses to continue to widen next quarter due to more investments in its streaming products.



Disney CEO Bob Iger

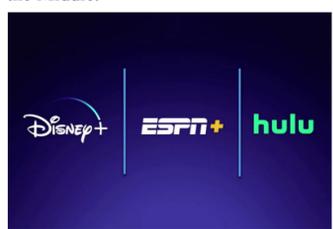
On an earnings call Tuesday, CEO Bob Iger said that U.S. customers would be able to get Disney+, ESPN+ and ad-supported Hulu for under \$15 a month.

Iger said the bundle will be available when Disney+ launches on Nov. 12.

"Our play... is to have general entertainment, we'll call it Hulu, more family-like entertainment which is Disney+ and sports," Iger said on the call.

The Disney+ video streaming service will draw on Disney's deep catalog of content and offer up new shows featuring favorite characters from "Toy Story" and "Monsters Inc." to Marvel and "Star Wars."

Also, with the Fox acquisition now closed, Disney will put all episodes of "The Simpsons" on the service on day one as well as "The Sound of Music," "The Princess Bride" and "Malcolm in the Middle."



"We're also focused on leveraging Fox's vast library of great titles to further enrich the content mix on our DTC platforms. For example, reimagining

"Home Alone," "Night at the Museum," "Cheaper by the Dozen" and "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," Iger said on the call.

All Disney films released in 2019 will also be available on Disney+ as soon as their theatrical and home entertainment windows have closed.

Disney+ on its own will cost users \$6.99 a month, or \$69.99 for a full year.



ESPN+ is part of Disney's plan to revitalize the sports network. Viewership has been on the decline, relationships between cable operators and networks are tense...

It has seen fast growth in the ESPN+ service since launching last year, adding more than 2 million subscribers.

Also, having a sports streaming service separates Disney from competitors like Netflix and Amazon Prime, which don't have limited live sports programming.

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Uber Elevate, An Aerial Ride-Sharing Service, Will Launch In The Dallas-Fort Worth Market

SPECIAL REPORT

Uber's One-Stop Plan For Transportation Control



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

In 10 short years, Uber's ride-hailing service has become so well-known that people use "uber" now as a verb. For its next act, Uber wants to manage everything about how you get around, whether on the roads or sidewalks, underground or in the air. Like Amazon, which started selling books online and now delivers almost everything right to your door, Uber aims to leverage its digital expertise from ride-hailing to become a one-stop shop for transportation. Here's how CEO Dara Khosrowshahi described the grand vision last week at the Uber Elevate Summit: "We don't just want to be the Amazon of transportation, but also the Google of transportation." In Uber's multi-modal view of the future, you'd use the Uber app to punch in your destination — JFK Airport, for example — and you'd be offered multiple options for your journey, each with an estimated time of arrival and different price point. You could get an inexpensive Uber Pool or

Uber X, the app might say — but with current traffic, expect it to take up to 2 hours. Or you could hail an Uber car to a downtown skyport and then board an air taxi that will zip you over the congested freeway to JFK, saving time but doubling your fare. You'd select the option that suits your schedule or budget, and it would all be stitched together into a one-click transaction.



Starting with scooters and e-bikes, the pieces of that personal mobility vision are beginning to come together. Next month, Uber will launch piloted helicopter service between lower Manhattan

and JFK for around \$200, about the cost of a premium Uber Black car ride.

It's a precursor to Uber Air, the name for its planned flying taxi network that is set to start trials next year in Dallas, Los Angeles, and Melbourne, Australia. Commercial passenger service is targeted for 2023.

Last week, Uber and Volvo introduced their latest autonomous vehicle prototype, which could one day drive itself — at least on simple routes.

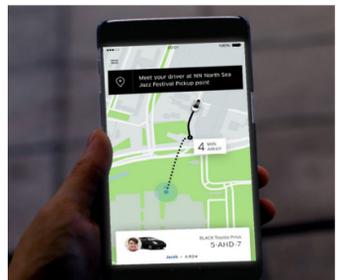
In Boston and Denver, Uber has integrated real-time public transit information into its app, with the goal of allowing people to purchase bus or train tickets through Uber.

Business transportation is another growth opportunity, like restaurants that deliver meals using Uber Eats, or health care agencies that hire Uber Health to provide rides for patients so they don't miss their appointments.

Uber Freight aims to make logistics more efficient by matching shippers with carriers the way it pairs ride-hailing customers with drivers.

Uber's expertise in matching supply and demand, and the cloud-based digital platform it built for ride-hailing, make it easier to build out that broader transportation ecosystem.

"We want to be your everyday use case when you wake up and you go to work, or you go out to eat or you go see a friend, we want to be there," says Khosrowshahi.



The bottom line: There's definitely an advantage to having one transportation app, with one-click payment, anywhere in the world — as long as you don't mind Uber following you around. (Courtesy axios.com)

Related

Uber Wants To Look To The 'Cities Of

The Future'

It aims for transporting people through the sky

When Uber envisions the future, it not only wants to put urban air taxis and drones in the skies. It also wants to transform how people navigate cities and how they live in them.

"We want not just to be the Amazon of transportation but also the Google of transportation," Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said.



Uber advanced its pitch for urban air taxis during a two-day conference in Washington, D.C. — the Uber Elevate Summit 2019 — at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center earlier this month. (Photo/ Getty Images for Uber Elevate/TNS)

One of the first places Uber wants that to play out is Dallas-Fort Worth. It's one of the first three markets for Uber Elevate, an initiative to launch the aerial ride-sharing service.

Uber took that message — and its pitch for urban air taxis — to a new, and potentially tougher, audience last week. It held a two-day conference about the ambitious effort in Washington, D.C., the home turf of the regulatory agencies and lawmakers that it must win over.

About 1,500 policymakers, tech executives and aviation officials attended the conference. It featured lawmakers and federal officials, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Federal Aviation Administration officials.

Uber gave a progress report and made splashy announcements at its third annual Uber Elevate Summit.

It announced the first international market for the air service — Melbourne, Australia. It revealed that Uber Eats is working with McDonald's to deliver Big Macs and fries by drone.

It touted the progress of six aviation companies that are designing the aircraft.



Artist's rendering of an Uber "flying taxi."

And it dived into specifics, such as economics, safety and FAA-required certification. It showed off its different modes of transportation, from its new self-driving Volvo SUV to electric scooters.

Through splashy presentations and showroom floor exhibits, Uber and its business partners tried to build the case that urban air taxi service is not a far-fetched idea but one that's coming to fruition.

Uber went public in May. The tech giant's growth has been fueled by venture capital, but it is spending billions of dollars and has yet to turn a profit.

That hasn't slowed development of its aerial ride-sharing service. It expects to start flight demonstrations next year and launch commercial service in a few cities in 2023. It wants the urban air taxis eventually to become autonomous.

Mark Moore, Uber's director of engineering for vehicle systems, said he's already seen some of the aircraft take flight. He declined to name the companies that are flight testing, saying they're keeping quiet for competitive reasons.

"It's incredibly impressive," he said. "They're nothing like helicopters." (Courtesy dallas morning news via http://the-gazette.com)

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