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Boeing's failed Starliner mission strains 'reliability' pitch



Inside C2

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U.S. transport chief said economic issues not a factor in 737 MAX's safety review



FILE PHOTO: Elaine Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation speaks at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2019 (GES 2019) in The Hague, Netherlands June 4, 2019. REUTERS/Piroschka van de Wouw

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The economic impact of Boeing Co's (BA.N) planned halt of 737 MAX production will not be considered by U.S. regulators in their ongoing review of when to end the grounding of a plane involved in two major fatal crashes, U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said on Friday.

FILE PHOTO: Elaine Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation speaks at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2019 (GES 2019) in The Hague, Netherlands June 4, 2019. REUTERS/Piroschka van de Wouw
In an interview with Reuters, Chao said the White House has not pressured the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to speed up its review.

Chao also said the White House Council of Economic Advisers had conducted a study of the economic impact of the grounding, which forced Boeing - a critical American manufacturing company - to halt deliveries in March, and assessed that it would cause around a 0.4% reduction in U.S. gross domestic product.

"Regardless as to what the impact on GDP is, our responsibility is to ensure that the 737 MAX must be safe before it is ungrounded," Chao said, adding that "my job is protect" the FAA from any pressure the agency might face.

The 737 MAX has been grounded worldwide since March after two crashes involving Boeing's fastest-selling jet in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people within five months, costing the plane manufacturer more than \$9 billion so far.

On Friday, United Airlines (UAL.O) said it is extending cancellations of Boeing 737 MAX flights from early March until June. United's announcement is the longest that any U.S. carrier has scheduled for the grounded aircraft, after American Airlines (AAL.O) and Southwest Airlines Co (LUV.N) canceled flights into early April

Chao said her directive to FAA Administrator Steve Dickson is clear: "ensure that he finds out what happened, correct the problem and do not unground until FAA feels that it is safe."

President Donald Trump, who has touted the strength of the U.S. economy as he seeks re-election in 2020, called Boeing Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg on Sunday to ask about the status of 737 MAX production, citing two people briefed on the matter confirmed.

Muilenburg assured Trump that the planned production halt was temporary and that the company would not be laying off any workers, the sources said. The production halt, set to begin in January, was announced by Boeing on Monday.

Reuters reported this week the FAA is not expected to end the grounding until at least February.

Chao said of Boeing: "They've got a tough challenge ahead of them and they owe it to the American people to ensure that their airplane is safe. And I think they want that, too."

Boeing said on Friday it continues "to follow the lead of the FAA and global regulators, as they will determine the timeline for certification so the MAX can safely return to service."

Chao said reforms to the FAA's longstanding process of delegating some certification tasks to Boeing should be not be adopted until a number of reviews are completed.

"Let's wait to see what the reports say before we act too quickly," Chao said.

The FAA's practice of delegating some certification tasks to Boeing has come under criticism from lawmakers and in some official reports, including the FAA's failure to more closely evaluate a key safety system involved in both fatal crashes. The FAA is not delegating any tasks in the ongoing review.

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Boeing's failed Starliner mission strains 'reliability' pitch

SEATTLE/CAPE CANAVERAL (Reuters) - Boeing Co's (BA.N) stunted Friday debut of its astronaut capsule threatens to dent the U.S. aerospace incumbent's self-declared competitive advantage of mission reliability against the price and innovation strengths of "new space" players like Elon Musk's SpaceX.

The Boeing CST-100 Starliner spacecraft, atop a ULA Atlas V rocket, lifts off for an uncrewed Orbital Flight Test to the International Space Station from launch complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida December 20, 2019. REUTERS/Thom Baur

Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company, has anchored its attempt to repel space visionaries like Musk and Amazon.com (AMZN.O) founder Jeff Bezos partly on its mission safety record built up over decades of space travel.

While SpaceX and Bezos' Blue Origin are racing to send their own crewed missions to space for the first time, Boeing or Boeing heritage companies have built every American spacecraft that has transported astronauts into space. And the single-use rockets it builds in partnership with Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) have a virtually unblemished record of mission success.

"We are starting from a position of mission reliability and safety," Boeing Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg told Reuters earlier this year when asked about SpaceX and other insurgents aiming to disrupt Boeing on everything from astronaut capsules to rockets to satellites.

"There is a difference between putting cargo in space and putting humans in space, and that's a big step. Our very deliberate, safety-based approach for things like CST-100, that will be a differentiator in the long run," Muilenburg said.



The Boeing CST-100 Starliner spacecraft, atop a ULA Atlas V rocket, lifts off for an uncrewed Orbital Flight Test to the International Space Station from launch complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida

The actual technical glitch that stunted Friday's CST-100 Starliner mission to the International Space Station was a timer error though Boeing said it was too early to determine the exact cause of the fault.

Boeing was already working to surmount other technical and safety-related challenges on the multibillion-dollar NASA human spaceflight program. A government watchdog report in November found Boeing demanded "unnecessary" new

contract funds from NASA.

Friday's glitch adds to a year of intense scrutiny over how Boeing developed its money-spinning 737 MAX jetliner following twin crashes that killed 346 people in five months.

While there is no link between the 737 MAX crashes and the Starliner setback, one rocket industry executive told Reuters that in both cases problems arose as Boeing was racing to catch up with fast-moving rivals.

Boeing had no immediate comment.

"From a public relations standpoint, this error makes them not look so good because of all the 737 MAX issues," said Teal Group space analyst Marco Caceres. "If you look at this in isolation, I don't think of it as a massive problem for Boeing. There are only two companies picked for this program - that is an enviable place for Boeing to be, as long as nothing tragic happens."

SpaceX successfully launched its own rival Crew Dragon astronaut capsule on a roundtrip journey to the ISS earlier this year, though it faces its own technical problems.

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Dr. Lai is a board-certified pediatrician who earned her medical degree from The University of Texas School of Medicine in San Antonio and completed her pediatric internship and residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her special clinical interests include General Pediatrics, caring for newborns, managing autism, and treating childhood obesity. She cares for young patients at Kelsey-Seybold's Tanglewood Clinic, near the Galleria.

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Editor's Choice



Participants kiss as they take part in the 2019 World Pride NYC and Stonewall 50th LGBTQ Pride Parade in New York, U.S., June 30, 2019. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon /File Photo. SEARCH "GLOBAL POY"



A man jumps off the Tower Bridge in London, Britain, June 1, 2019. REUTERS/Alkis Konstantinidis/File Photo



Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, holding their son Archie, meet Archbishop Desmond Tutu (not pictured) at the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa, September 25,



Military delegates arrive before a military parade marking the 70th founding anniversary of People's Republic of China, on its National Day in Beijing, China October 1, 2019. REUTERS/Thomas Peter/File Phot



Indian Air Force (IAF) soldiers march as advanced light helicopters fly during the Indian Air Force Day celebrations at the Hindon Air Force Station on the outskirts of New Delhi, India, October 8, 2019.



A masked Kashmiri man with his head covered with barbed wire attends a protest after Friday prayers during restrictions following the scrapping of the special constitutional status for Kashmir by the Indian government, in Srinagar, October 11, 2019



Fireworks explode over Tiananmen Square as performers take part in the evening gala marking the 70th founding anniversary of People's Republic of China, on its National Day in Beijing, China October 1



People run after collecting food aid from a South African National Defence Force (SANDF) helicopter in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai in Nhamatanda village, near Beira, Mozambique, March 26, 2019.

Former Philippine Secretary Of Agriculture Emmanuel “Manny” Piñol Signs MOU With Texas-Based Firm



Former Department of Agriculture Secretary and current Chairperson of Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Emmanuel “Manny” Piñol (middle in Barong) signs the Memorandum of Understanding with Scott Seeds Company Chief Executive Officer Colby Kriegshauser (right) while Philippine Consul General Jerril Santos looks on. (Photo courtesy of Noemi Frias)

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

HOUSTON, Monday, Dec. 16, 2019 - Former Secretary of Agriculture Emmanuel “Manny” Piñol signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mr. Coby Kriegshauser, Chief Executive Officer of Texas-based company Scott Seed Company. The event was held at the office of the Philippine Consulate General in Houston, Texas, Monday Dec. 16, 2019 and witnessed by Philippine Consul General Jerril Santos. The Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (FAC-GH) headed by its president Loloy Reyes and newly elected 2020 president Noemi Frias witnessed the signing of the Memorandum between the Philippine government through its agency, Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and Scott Seed Company.



Sec. Piñol as chairman of Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) in coordination with Governor Edwin Jubahid of Davao del North and head of the Davao delegation signs also the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) The said MOUs represent multilateral agreements underlying the Mindanao Sorghum Development Program, a pilot project of MinDA which will help augment/supplement corn production with the expected growth of the livestock industry. Sorghum, just like corn is not only used as sweetener (syrup), or for manufacturing beer but is also used as livestock feed and source of ethanol. The initial twenty-five (25) tons of sorghum seeds that will be shipped to Mindanao (for free) in late January or early February of 2020 will be planted on 10000 hectares of land in Davao del Norte. This will help boost the economic development of the area and its local farmers (the “lumads” or Mindanao’s indigenous people).



Chairman Piñol referred to sorghum as the “seeds of peace” since 4 other provinces (former “hotspots”) in Mindanao — Lanao del Norte, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Basilan— are earmarked for sorghum farming with an additional 500

ha of land (ancestral domain) in the next 2-5yrs.

The Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) is a government agency of the Philippines created through Republic Act 9996 or the Mindanao Development Authority Act of 2010. The office is mandated to promote, coordinate and facilitate the active and extensive participation of all sectors to effect socioeconomic development of Mindanao. (Edited by Edward Libranda) (Courtesy Philippine Sentinel)

attention to each customer’s seed.



Affectionately known as Pops, Ira Scott’s teaching and values will live on through Scott Seed Co.

Thank You Pops!

When Ira Scott began farming in Deaf Smith County, Texas, little did he imagine that 60 years later two of his grandsons would be raising seed on the family farm for export around the world. In 1994, Gary Kriegshauser’s two sons acquired the family business and retained the original company name. (Courtesy <https://scottseed.net/>)



About Scott Seed Company

The Scott Seed Company is a member of the Texas Seed Trade Association. It is a leader in the seed trade industry since its founding in 1946 by Ira Scott, one of the pioneers of seed production. They work closely with the USDA and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

As a third generation seedsmen, Scott Seed has remained one of the leaders in the seed trade industry since its founding. The success of Scott Seed Company owes much to the strong foundation and commitment that the family started with in 1946.

Being a small, family owned business is an advantage in the market place. The company produces a better product at a lower cost than bigger companies because of their low overhead and personal

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President Donald Trump shakes hands with Gen. Jay Raymond, after signing the letter of his appointment as the President Donald Trump shakes hands with Gen. Jay Raymond, after signing the letter of his appointment as the chief of space operations for U.S. Space Command during a signing ceremony for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Friday, Dec. 20, 2019. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday celebrated the launch of Space Force, the first new military service in more than 70 years.

In signing the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act that includes Space Force, Trump claimed a victory for one of his top national security priorities just two days after being impeached by the House.

It is part of a \$1.4 trillion government spending package — including the Pentagon's budget — that provides a steady stream of financing for Trump's U.S.-Mexico border fence and reverses unpopular and unworkable automatic spending cuts to defense and domestic programs.



President Donald Trump signs the Na-

ional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Friday, Dec. 20, 2019, with first lady Melania Trump and Vice President Mike Pence.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

"Space is the world's new war-fighting domain," Trump said Friday during a signing ceremony at Joint Base Andrews just outside Washington. "Among grave threats to our national security, American superiority in space is absolutely vital. And we're leading, but we're not leading by enough, and very shortly we'll be leading by a lot."

Later Friday, as he flew to his Florida resort aboard Air Force One, Trump signed legislation that will keep the entire government funded through Sept. 30.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper told reporters Friday, "Our reliance on space-based capabilities has grown dramatically, and today outer space has evolved into a warfighting domain of its own." Maintaining dominance in space, he said, will now be Space Force's mission.



President first floated the idea of the military in space during a speech to Marines in California (left). President Trump displays the copy of his signed Space Policy Directive-3 last year (right).

In a report last February, the Pentagon asserted that China and Russia have embarked on major efforts to develop technologies that could allow them to disrupt or destroy American and allied satellites in a crisis or conflict.

"The United States faces serious and growing challenges to its freedom to operate in space," the report said.

When he publicly directed the Pentagon in June 2018 to begin working toward a Space Force, Trump spoke of the military space mission as part of a broader vision of achieving American dominance in space.



An artist's illustration of the Manned Orbiting Laboratory, a clandestine U.S. military space station project in the 1960s that was declassified in 2015.

(Photo/Credit: National Reconnaissance Office)

Instead of being its own military department, like the Navy, Army and Air Force, the Space Force will be administered by the Secretary of the Air Force. The law requires that the four-star general who will lead Space Force, with the title of Chief of Space Operations, will be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but not in Space Force's first year. Trump said its leader will be Air Force Gen. John W. Raymond, the commander of U.S. Space Command.

Space Force is the first new military service since the Air Force was spun off from the Army in 1947. Space Force will be the provider of forces to U.S. Space Command, a separate organization established earlier this year as the overseer of the military's space operations. The division of responsibilities and assets between Space Force and Space Command has not been fully worked out.



Space Force will be tiny, compared to its sister services. It will initially have about 200 people and a first-year budget of \$40 million. The military's largest service, the Army, has about 480,000 active-duty soldiers and a budget of about \$181 billion. The Pentagon spends about \$14 billion a year on space operations, most of which is in the Air Force budget. Vice President Mike Pence has touted Space Force as "the next great chapter in the history of our armed forces." And Esper earlier this week called this an "epic moment" in recent American military history.

Johnson says Democrats' opposition to making Space Force a separate branch of

the military means it could be curtailed or even dissolved if a Democrat wins the White House next November.



President Donald Trump poses for a photo after signing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Friday, Dec. 20, 2019, before traveling to Mar-a-lago in Palm Beach, Fla.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik) poses Some in Congress had been advocating for a Space Force before Trump entered the White House, but his push for legislation gave the proposal greater momentum.

Trump's first defense secretary, Jim Mattis, was initially cool to the idea, arguing against adding new layers of potentially expensive bureaucracy. Mattis' successor, Esper, has been supportive of Space Force. In September he said it will "allow us to develop a cadre of warriors who are appropriately organized, trained and equipped to deter aggression and, if necessary, to fight and win in space." He added, "The next big fight may very well start in space, and the United States military must be ready."

"The Space Force won't be measured by the number of people unlike, for instance the Marine Corps, which is really a labor-intensive service," Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett said on CNN. "Space Force is much more measured by the technology and the capabilities."

(Courtesy <https://apnews.com/>) Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 at Andrews Air Force

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