|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attacks | **43** |
| Killed | **200** |
| Injured | **185** |
| Suicide Blasts | **5** |
| Countries | **13** |

**NORK Ship Seized**

The U.S. has seized a North Korean freighter that was caught shipping coal [in violation of U.N. sanctions](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/north-korea/u-n-report-north-korea-evading-sanctions-buying-oil-selling-n981821), the Justice Department revealed Thursday.

The 17,000-ton cargo ship, called the Wise Honest, was stopped in Indonesia last year after it was found to be carrying coal. The ship's captain was charged with violating Indonesian law, and last July, the U.S. filed an action to seize the ship, according to court papers.

Federal prosecutors said the seizure marks the first time the U.S. has taken possession of a North Korean ship for violating international sanctions.

"This sanctions-busting ship is now out of service," said John Demers, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's National Security Division.

The North Korean ship, "Wise Honest."Department of Justice

The Wise Honest, North Korea's second-largest ship for carrying bulk cargo, was on its way to American Samoa, U.S. officials said.

On Thursday, the Justice Department asked a federal judge to give the U.S. ownership of the vessel through a civil forfeiture action — the same thing prosecutors do when they seek to take ownership of planes or boats used by drug smugglers. The Justice Department says the U.S. is entitled to take this action because payments to maintain and equip the vessel were made through American banks.

"Our office uncovered North Korea's scheme to export tons of high-grade coal to foreign buyers by concealing the origin of their ship, the Wise Honest," said Geoffrey Berman, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. "This scheme not only allowed North Korea to evade sanctions, but the Wise Honest was also used to import heavy machinery to North Korea, helping expand North Korea’s capabilities and continuing the cycle of sanctions evasion."

The announcement of the seizure came just hours after North Korea launched suspected short-range missiles — the second such weapons test in a week. But Berman said the effort to take control of the Wise Honest had been in the works for some time and was not spurred by North Korea's overnight actions.

The Justice Department said the Korea Songi Shipping Company used the Wise Honest from at least November 2016 through April 2018 — and broke American law by paying U.S. dollars to "unwitting" banks for several improvements, equipment purchases and service expenditures for the vessel.

The March 2018 cargo shipment yielded payments totaling more than $750,000, the Justice Department said.

Berman declined comment when asked if the heavy machinery shipped back to North Korea was used in the country's weapons program.

The seizure follows a report in March by a U.N. panel of experts that found North Korea is successfully evading United Nations sanctions through elaborate smuggling and deceptive tactics, allowing the regime to import oil and ship coal to China and other countries.

The sanctions are designed to deprive Pyongyang of cash for its nuclear weapons and[ballistic missile programs](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/north-korea/north-korea-rebuilding-long-range-rocket-site-photos-show-n979721) and force the regime to abandon its arsenal. The Trump administration has led international efforts to tighten sanctions against North Korea, vowing to impose “maximum pressure” to persuade North Korea agree to relinquish its weapons in return for an end to sanctions.

"These violations render the latest United Nations sanctions ineffective by flouting the caps on the import of petroleum products and coal oil" by North Korea imposed by the U.N. Security Council in 2017, according to the U.N. report. "These transfers have increased in scope, scale and sophistication," it said.

Despite U.S. warnings to keep up the economic pressure on North Korea, the regime has not suffered a spike in fuel prices in recent months, a sign that analysts say shows the country is able to secure enough fuel to keep its economy afloat.

North Korea has adapted to sanctions over the years and now employs increasingly sophisticated methods, the U.N. panel found in its March report. Pyongyang used to alter sections of shipping documents but now creates entirely fake registration and other papers that enable it to smuggle illicit cargo through ports around the world.

**The US Saber Rattles**

A flare lit up the sky early Thursday as the Air Force launched an unarmed intercontinental ballistic missile from Santa Barbara County amid a round of missile launches by North Korea.

The U.S. test missile launch was the second this month from Vandenberg Air Force Base, with the Minuteman 3 roaring out of a silo at 12:40 a.m., carrying a test re-entry vehicle.

The Global Strike Command said in a news release that the re-entry vehicle traveled 4,200 miles over the Pacific to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

**Ventura County news coverage:**

* [Hot, dry summer weather could bring yet another destructive wildfire season](https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/local/2019/05/08/weather-hot-dry-summer-bring-another-destructive-wildfire-season-california/1124209001/)
* [Borderline shooting survivors tell their stories, six months later](https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/local/communities/conejo-valley/2019/05/08/shooting-survivors-thousand-oaks-borderline-bar-say-feels-like-just-happened/3566659002/)

[A similar launch was conducted May 1](https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/local/2019/05/01/minuteman-test-missile-launched-vandenberg/3641772002/) at Vandenberg near Lompoc.

Both launches were conducted by airmen from the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming.

The Air Force says tests verify the accuracy of the system and demonstrate a robust nuclear deterrent but are not a reaction to world events.

However, the latest launch came amid a round of short-range missile launches by North Korea.

The latest North Korean projectiles were fired Thursday from near a military base about 50 miles from Pyongyang, according to South Korea’s military. Few other details were immediately available.



**An unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile launches during an operational test at 12:40 a.m. Thursday from Vandenberg Air Force Base.***(Photo: U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO)*

State media in North Korea said the nation also held a short-range ballistic missile test Saturday as part of a regularly scheduled defensive military exercise. It was the country’s first such test in more than a year and came amid what appeared to be stalled denuclearization talks between Pyongyang and Washington.

A website devoted to analysis of North Korea, known as 38 North, said Saturday’s test provided “convincing evidence” that Pyongyang is continuing to seek greater military and strategic capabilities despite holding nuclear disarmament talks with President Donald Trump.

“Pyongyang perceives itself to be under threat of aggression by the United States. (North Korea's leader) Kim Jong Un very likely has other strategic weapons projects underway, whether foreign procurement efforts or indigenous development programs,” 38 North said in a post on its website

**The Iran Equation**

 In a highly unusual move, national security adviser John Bolton convened a meeting at CIA headquarters last week with the Trump administration's top intelligence, diplomatic and military advisers [to discuss Iran](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/u-s-officials-iran-official-ok-d-attacks-american-military-n1003421), according to six current U.S. officials.

The meeting was held at 7 a.m. on Monday, April 29, and included CIA Director Gina Haspel, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joe Dunford, [Secretary of State Mike Pompeo](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/pompeo-makes-unannounced-trip-iraq-amid-tensions-iran-n1003111), and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, five of the officials said.

National security meetings are typically held in the White House Situation Room. The six current officials, as well as multiple former officials, said it is extremely rare for senior White House officials or Cabinet members to attend a meeting at CIA headquarters.

The officials said the discussion was not about [the intelligence that led to the decision in the following days to send a carrier strike group and bomber task force to the Middle East](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/officials-u-s-carrier-group-bombers-going-mideast-due-multiple-n1002431), but did not describe what the meeting covered.

Five former CIA operations officers and military officials said that in the past, such meetings have been held at CIA headquarters to brief top officials on highly sensitive covert actions, either the results of existing operations or options for new ones.

[](https://www.msnbc.com/andrea-mitchell-reports/watch/ambassador-of-iran-to-u-n-disputes-iranian-threat-as-fake-intelligence-59306053889)

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The U.S. has a very specific [intelligence gathering capability on Iran](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/iran-steps-away-parts-nuclear-deal-anniversary-u-s-withdrawal-n1003156) that is only able to be reviewed at CIA headquarters, two former officials said.

Another possible reason to hold a meeting of senior White House officials at Langley is if there is disagreement about what the intelligence shows on a particular subject, said John McLaughlin, a former acting CIA director. Then-Vice President Dick Cheney frequently traveled to CIA to grill analysts about intelligence, McLaughlin said. Critics later accused Cheney of seeking to cherry-pick intelligence suggesting that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, a charge he denies. The CIA and other agencies wrongly assessed that Iraq had WMD.

A spokesperson for the National Security Council declined to comment on the April 29 meeting.

The meeting came amid rising tensions between the U.S. and Iran, as the Trump administration piles pressure on Tehran's economy through crippling sanctions. Days after it took place, Bolton, citing indications of an increased threat from Iran, announced the deployment of a U.S. aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber squadron to the Persian Gulf. He warned Tehran that "any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force."

Asked on Thursday about Iran, President Donald Trump said: "They're in bad shape right now. I look forward to the day where we can actually help them. We're not looking to hurt Iran. I want them to be strong and great and have a great economy."

"But they should call, and if they do, we're open to talk to them."

Administration officials believe sanctions reimposed in the year since Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal are deeply damaging Iran's economy, fueling runaway inflation and drastically cutting Iran's oil revenues.

Mark Dubowitz of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a think tank that takes a hard line on Iran, suggested [in a Wall Street Journal op-ed on April 2](https://www.wsj.com/articles/build-an-iranian-sanctions-wall-11554246565) that the administration could "build a wall of additional sanctions" to encourage Iran to halt its support for militants, its work on missiles and its human right abuses.

The administration announced new additional sanctions on Wednesday. The International Monetary Fund said last month that inflation in Iran could hit 37 percent this year, and issued a forecast that the country's economy will contract by 6 percent.

Democratic lawmakers have accused the White House of stoking tensions with Iran to lay the groundwork for war.

"I'm deeply worried that the Trump administration is leading us toward an unnecessary war with Iran," Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said on Tuesday.

"Trump's Iran strategy is blind escalation," said Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, who sits on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "There is no endgame. No overriding strategy. No way out. It's just escalation for the sake of escalation."

Yet even some critics of the administration's hard-line Iran policy said there was good reason for the acceleration last week of moving military assets in the Persian Gulf.

"There is legitimate intelligence that the Iranians are preparing to launch attacks in the region," one former official said.

The Trump administration has said its goal is to produce "systemic change" in Iran's behavior and denied accusations it is seeking "regime change." Bolton has long advocated for regime change in Iran.

**Iran Approves Attack on America Ships**

The U.S. decision to surge additional military forces into the Middle East was based in part on intelligence that the Iranian regime has told some of its proxy forces and surrogates that they can now [go after American military personnel and assets in the region](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/officials-u-s-carrier-group-bombers-going-mideast-due-multiple-n1002431), according to three U.S. officials familiar with the intelligence.

The intelligence shows that [an Iranian official](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/pompeo-makes-unannounced-trip-iraq-amid-tensions-iran-n1003111) discussed activating Iranian-backed groups to target Americans, but did not mention targeting the militaries of other nations, the officials said.

Among the specific threats the U.S. military is now tracking, officials say, are possible missile attacks by Iranian dhows, or small ships, in the Persian Gulf; attacks in Iraq by Iranian-trained Shiite militia groups; and attacks against U.S. ships by the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The U.S. has accused [Iran](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/trump-admin-slaps-new-restrictions-iran-s-nuclear-activities-n1001861) of moving missiles and missile components through the region's waterways for years, shipping missiles to the Houthis in Yemen and others. And Shiite militia groups like Baghdad Katib Hezbollah (BKH) have been in Iraq for years, acting essentially as sleeper cells. What is new and what has alarmed U.S. military officials, sources say, is the call to awaken and activate these existing threats.

One U.S. official said Iran usually conceals the missiles and components when delivering them to the Houthis. These missiles are visible to overhead surveillance, leading to concerns Iran could attempt to launch missiles from the dhows. There are some indications they have mobile launchers on board, as well, one of the officials said.

The three officials say that in addition to learning that an Iranian official had discussed attacks on Americans, the U.S. began seeing the movement of Iranian and Iranian-backed forces in various places across the region, prompting the commander of U.S. Central Command, Marine Corps Gen. Frank McKenzie, to request additional forces move to the region.

On Sunday, Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan approved the request [to accelerate the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the region](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-sending-carrier-strike-group-send-message-iran-n1002196). National Security Adviser John Bolton announced the movement in a statement Sunday night.

A spokesperson for U.S. Central Command declined to provide detailed information on the threats.

"U.S. Central Command has seen recent and clear indications that Iranian and Iranian proxy forces were making preparations to possibly attack U.S. forces in the region," said the spokesperson, Capt. Bill Urban. "This include threats on land and in the maritime. We are not going to be able to provide detailed information on specific threats at this time."

"Make no mistake, we are not seeking a fight with the Iranian regime," Gen. McKenzie said Wednesday during a speech at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a think tank that favors a tough U.S. posture toward Iran. "Any attack on U.S. interests will be met with unrelenting force."

Despite the increase in U.S. military heft to the region, Iran has not slowed its movement of forces or changed its posture, according to the three U.S. officials.

Congressional Democrats say they are concerned the Trump administration is trying to provoke a wider conflict.

"The intelligence is real," said a senior Democratic congressional official briefed on the intelligence, "but the response seems wildly out of proportion."

Iranian officials have called the accelerated deployment of the carrier group "psychological warfare." On Twitter, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said, "If US and clients don't feel safe, it's because they're despised by people in the region — blaming Iran won't reverse that."

There is more:

Intelligence sources confirm this morning that Iranian President Rouhani has been sidelined by the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)  after the nuclear deal became viewed as a complete failure.  While Rouhani keeps his title, he is now merely an Observer; with IRGC calling all the shots.   Among their first acts: Informing Iran Proxies they are now free to attack adversaries.

This morning on the east coast of the USA, word arrived that **Iran regime has told some of its proxy forces and surrogates that they can now go after military personnel and assets in the region, according to three U.S. officials familiar with the intelligence reports**.

The United States has repeatedly made clear to Iran and to the public that any attack by Iranian proxies against US forces, US Bases or those of our allies, will be viewed by the US as an attack by Iran itself.

Despite this, Iran has continued to ship medium range ballistic missile via boats, to put those missiles into positions to attack US forces and those of our allies.  Every effort to get Iran to stand-down has failed.

Washington and London are now officially in "crisis management mode" with military and political leaders on both sides of the Atlantic convinced Iran is about to undertake a serious series of actions.

Everyone is prepping for a response to Iran, should Iran do something foolish. The Iranians at this time have NOT stood down their assets and still are in threatening posture.

Pre-emption is a possibility I am told, but as of now there is incredible nervousness in Washington and London with everyone on a hair trigger to hit Iran hard should they carry out acts against allies or allied assets.

Today, all eyes are on a small island near the Strait of Hormuz called Abu Mesa Island.

**Emergency Action Messages (EAM's)** have now been transmitted to the Armed Forces of the United States via the Global High Frequency Communications System.   These encrypted messages are of a class of messages from "SKY-KING"  that instructs military members, "stop whatever you're doing and do this, right now."  It is the single highest priority messages issued within the US Military.

There is no way for anyone outside the US to break the encryption, so there is no way to tell what orders have been given.

That could mean anything. We sit, and we wait. Trump has been talking softly today saying, “We wish the Iranians no harm. We just want them to come back to the table and talk.”

Iran has let us see them moving assets into place. Right? Well, Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)  Navy has transferred Khalije-Fars anti-ship and Hormuz-1 & 2 SEAD Ballistic missiles to Yemen & several Iranian Islands near Hormuz Strait  and along Persian Gulf **to use them against the US Navy, USS Abraham Lincoln Aircraft carrier group in case of war.**

Many are expecting to hear Iran tell the world there is no longer any reason for them to remain in that nuclear deal because US Economic Sanctions are destroying their nation.

Many are also expecting Iran to announce either:

a) They have already achieved a functioning nuclear bomb and have several stockpiled, OR;

b) They are resuming development of nuclear weapons immediately.

Only time will tell if these expectations are realistic.

It all depends on who is giving the orders. They have no hesitated to order forced migrations. They have not hesitated to manipulate money, hack into servers, print trainloads of propaganda, school shootings, and even Nadler’s contempt charge against Barr are all designed to stop Trump from winning. But, if Iran attacks US ships, it will be virtually impossible for the Democrats to win in 2020.

I say that, but the global press is ready, willing, and able to run 24 hours a day saying it was Trump’s fault the boats were attacked.

**Sunday Update**

The United Arab Emirates said Sunday that four commercial ships off its eastern coast "were subjected to sabotage operations," just hours after Iranian and Lebanese media outlets aired false reports of explosions at a nearby Emirati port. Emirati officials declined to elaborate on the nature of the sabotage or say who might have been responsible. However, the reported incident comes as the U.S. has warned ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region, and as America is deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf to counter alleged threats from Tehran.

Tensions have risen in the year since President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, restoring American sanctions that have pushed Iran's economy into crisis. Last week, Iran warned it would begin enriching uranium at higher levels in 60 days if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal.

The statement from the UAE's Foreign Ministry put the ships near the country's territorial waters in the Gulf of Oman, east of the port of Fujairah. It said it was investigating the incident "in cooperation with local and international bodies." It said there were "no injuries or fatalities on board the vessels" and "no spillage of harmful chemicals or fuel."

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which oversees the region, did not immediately offer comment on the incident. Emirati officials declined to elaborate while their investigation is ongoing.

Earlier Sunday, Lebanon's pro-Iran satellite channel Al-Mayadeen, quoting "Gulf sources," falsely reported that a series of explosions had struck Fujairah's port. State and semi-official media in Iran picked up the reports, citing Al-Mayadeen, which later published the names of vessels it claimed were involved in the incident.

The Associated Press, after speaking to Emirati officials and local witnesses, found the reports about an explosion at the port to be unsubstantiated. Fujairah's port is located about 140 kilometers (85 miles) from the Strait of Hormuz, through which a third of all oil at sea is traded. The facility handles oil for bunkering and shipping, as well as general and bulk cargo. It is seen as strategically located, serving shipping routes in the Persian Gulf, the Indian subcontinent and Africa.

The reported sabotage incident comes after the U.S. Maritime Administration warned Thursday that Iran could target commercial sea traffic.

**Schiff: Don’t Investigate Biden’s Son**

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-CA) said on Sunday that Joe Biden's Ukraine corruption scandal should be off limits as the 2020 US election approaches, and that President Trump shouldn't be allowed to investigate - or encourage Ukraine to investigate.

Biden has come under fire for a March, 2016 incident in Kiev in which he threatened to withhold $1 billion in US loan guarantees to Ukraine unless President Petro Poroshenko fired his head prosecutor, General Viktor Shokin, who was leading a wide-ranging corruption investigation into natural gas firm Burisma Holdings. As it so happens, Joe's son Hunter Biden sat on Burisma's board, and was indirectly paid as much as $50,000 per month.

'I said, ‘You’re not getting the billion.’ I’m going to be leaving here in, I think it was about six hours. I looked at them and said: ‘I’m leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor is not fired, you’re not getting the money,’" bragged Biden, recalling the conversation with Poroshenko.

"Well, son of a bitch, he got fired," Biden gloated.

Biden claims he didn't know Hunter was on the Burisma board for an entire two years (Hunter reportedly joined in April 2014, two years before Biden's threat), and that the effort to remove Shokin had nothing to do with the "

"Shokin was fired because he attacked the reformers within the prosecutor general’s office,"

And this should be completely off limits to Trump, according to Adam Schiff . Schiff told 'This Week' that Congress should take up legislation banning political campaigns from working with foreign governments in an effort to influence US elections, responding to news that Trump's attorney, Rudy Giuliani, had planned to travel to Ukraine to encourage them to further investigate the Biden matter. Giuliani has since canceled the trip.

"Going after his son is just a method of going after someone the president believes is his most formidable opponent," Schiff told ABC's 'This Week.' "So let the president go after him, but don’t seek the help of a foreign government in your election."

In March, The Hill's John Solomon revealed that Ukraine's Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko has launched an investigation into the head of the Ukrainian National Anti-Corruption Bureau for allegedly attempting to help Hillary Clinton defeat Donald Trump during the 2016 US election by releasing damaging information about a "black ledger" of illegal business dealings by former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort.

Trump made a comment that he should ask Barr to investigate Joe Biden’s foreign ties and suddenly like magic now the entire Left is saying presidential candidates shouldn’t be spied on. Meanwhile, President Trump told Politico on Friday that it would be "appropriate" for him to ask Attorney General William Barr about launching an investigation into Biden, or his son Hunter.

"Certainly it would be an appropriate thing to speak to him about, but I have not done that as of yet. … It could be a very big situation," said Trump during a 15-minute phone interview Friday afternoon.

The New York Times earlier this month reported on Giuliani’s efforts to investigate and publicize the issue. The president argued that the alleged conflict of interest, or appearance thereof, was not mushrooming into an all-out scandal because Biden is a Democrat.

“Because he’s a Democrat,” Trump said, the report had about “one-hundredth” the impact as it would have if he “were a Republican.” Politico

To recap; Biden didn't know his son Hunter was on the board of a Ukrainian natural gas firm for a full two years, before threatening to withhold $1 billion in US loan guarantees if the President of Ukraine didn't fire the guy investigating the Biden-linked Burisma, and Adam Schiff thinks that should be off limits to investigate, or for voters to consider, going into the 2020 election.

**Ancient Spanish Coins Found in Utah**

Spanish treasure that predates the arrival of Columbus by 200 years has been found in a US national park. The two coins, one minted in Madrid in 1660 and the other made around the 1200s, were found lying on the floor at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Utah.

Their presence in the desert remains unexplained and no information has been released about whether they were found with other artifacts. Spanish explorers arrived in Mexico in the 1500s and began exploring north, although there is no record of them being in America at the time the coins were made.

 Spanish treasure that predates the arrival of Columbus by 200 years has been found in a US national park. The oldest coin found, which has been tentatively dated to the 1200s.

How did 1200s Spanish coins end up in a remote Utah canyon? This is the most exciting theory as it suggests Spanish settlers could have been in the area as much as 500 years earlier than currently known.

However it is regarded by experts as extremely unlikely, while Spain controlled large swathes of the Southern and Western United States until the 19th century they did not establish a serious presence until 1519 onwards.

Christopher Columbus set foot in the Americas in 1492. At present the first presence is recorded in 1765 with the Spanish expedition led by Juan Antonio de Rivera. However, the coins could record a previously undocumented earlier expedition as one dates back to the 1200s. There is also a suggestion that the coins may have been traded with a native American tribe that then transported them to the area.

Christopher Columbus reached the Americas in 1492, although other explorers had arrived in the Caribbean beforehand. It is possible the coins were traded with a native American tribe which traded them with others before they were transported to, and eventually lost, in Utah. This also seems highly unlikely. It is also possible that the old coins were actually brought to the Americas long after they were minted.

Despite both being made in Spain, one in the 1660s and the second in the 1200s, it is possible they were kept in Spain and transported to the new colonies much later. After Columbus arrived in 1492, Spaniard settlers began to arrive. When moving to the Americas they took all their possessions with them including - quite possibly - these coins. Archaeologists also aren't ruling out the theory that the coins were dropped by a tourist - as they were found among litter.

This could be the more plausible theory as old coins were a favored souvenir for soldiers returning from the Middle East and in the two World Wars. With such different minting dates it also seems unlikely that they were in circulation in Spain at the same time. Archaeologist Glen Harmon, from the national park service, said: 'A visitor was hiking in one of the canyons around here and he found these two strange things.'

He took them home and, after realizing they were old Spanish coins, returned them to the park. 'Based on the design we're very confident that one of the coins - the larger one - is called the 16 maravedi.

'Experts we were talking to identified it as being minted in Madrid, based on its marks, probably in 1662 or 1663, which puts it in the reign of Philip IV.

'The other coin - and we haven't got a confirmation back on this yet - looks like it might be something dating from the mid-to-late 13th-century.'

It's a mystery how such old coins have turned up in an area that wasn't visited by Spanish explorers until 1776. However, archaeologists are working on four main theories. They may have been left by early Spanish settlers or explorers, traded with native American tribes possibly in Mexico and then lost in the canyon, or someone brought a really old coin to the continent. However Dr. Rory Naismith, lecturer in Medieval British History at King's College London, speculated that the coins may have been dropped by a modern collector.

'It would be very strange, in a genuine early modern deposit, to have coins from such widely separated periods,' he said.

'These would not have been in circulation at the same time in Spain. With no further context, it is more likely that they are a modern loss: Basically dropped by a coin collector.

'This is not necessarily as unlikely as it sounds. A 19th-century shipwreck off the south coast of England was found to be full of ancient and medieval coins from the Mediterranean.

'Old coins were also a favored souvenir for soldiers returning from the Middle East and in the two World Wars.'

If the coins were dropped by early Spanish settlers, archaeologist Harmon said that's really exciting as there is little documentation of early Spanish settlement.

'The earliest Spanish presence in the Glen Canyon area is 1776 when Father Atanasio Dominguez and Father Silvestre Velez de Escalante came through.

'But they were nowhere near the area where these coins were found, that we know of.'

'Does this point to an early Spanish presence that is unknown or really poorly documented? That's one possibility.'

However, it's also possible that the coins were traded with a native American tribe and then later lost at the canyon.

'That would also be really cool just to see that kind of connection between the early Spanish and native Americans at that time,' said Harmon.

But instead the old coins may have been brought across the Atlantic long after they were minted.

'If that really is a 13th-century coin, that does not indicate 13th-century Spanish were over here,' said Harmon.

A second coin discovered in the park, minted in Madrid, was likely made in 1662 or 1663 .

Christopher Columbus led the first major Spanish expedition to the Americas, which went to Caribbean islands and the coastline of Central America, shortly before Europeans began heading to the area in the 1500s.

'That indicates that someone brought over a coin that was really old even then.'

A final theory is that the coins were dropped by a tourist. As they were found among litter archaeologists aren't ruling it out, although they said that it seems unlikely. Columbus set sail for the Americas on August 3, 1492, firing the starting gun for European colonization of the area. The first Europeans are recorded in Utah as part of the 1765 Spanish expedition led by explorer Juan Antonio de Rivera. He claimed the area for Spain and found the Colorado river. Then in 1776, Franciscan priests led by Escalante and Dominguez came through as they tried to find a route from Santa Fe to California, and then came back after their trip was unsuccessful.

In the early 1800s fur trappers looking for new hunting grounds show up in the area, and Salt Lake City is founded by Jim Bridger. However, these coins may come from a previously undocumented expedition. There were gold deposits along the Colorado river at this time, and an interest in finding a route to California, leaving scope for a possible further expedition. The coins were found near the Halls Crossing Marina on Lake Powell. However, the exact location is being kept secret by park officials until they can check there for more artifacts.

**The Proxy War in Venezuela**

China’s ruling Communist Party has used its foreign relations arms to subtly distance itself from Maduro this year. Unlike neighboring Russia, which openly [boasts](https://www.breitbart.com/asia/2019/05/06/maduro-envoy-in-moscow-suggests-expanded-russian-troop-presence-in-venezuela/) of having intervened militarily in the country on Maduro’s behalf, China’s Foreign Ministry has stopped short of referring to Maduro as the nation’s president since Guaidó took office in January and took nearly a week to issue an official statement on the military uprising Guaidó called for on April 30. When it did, it urged a “peaceful settlement” without offering any specific statement of support for either Maduro or Guaidó.

Rubio suggested that Beijing may be distancing itself from Maduro because the tide has shifted so definitively against him in Latin America that the rest of the region may sour on investments with China if it interferes to help him. That does not mean China is not helping Maduro, merely that it cannot afford the bad press, Rubio stated.

“The Chinese are very involved. First of all, they are owed a bunch of money, so they want to get paid,” he explained. “Number two is they are single-handedly helping conduct the Internet control operation. They have basically taken a commercial version of their great Internet firewall and given it to Maduro, and it is a service they are providing him, so they are the ones that are shutting down the Internet and access to social media.”

Maduro’s regime regularly cuts nationwide access to the Internet to prevent Guaidó and other opposition leaders from being able to communicate with the masses or organize rallies against him. Most Venezuelan opposition figures, like Maduro, are avid Twitter users. Last week, Guaidó used Twitter to broadcast live from La Carlota, an airbase outside of Caracas, and declare the final step in removing Maduro, which he branded “Operation Freedom.”

Guaidó, according to Rubio, has “no access to the media. Any time he tries to speak or communicate on social media, they shut down the Internet. … Literally, every time he holds a rally, they shut down the Internet.”

As the Chinese are “single-handedly controlling the defensive cyber operations shutting down the Internet,” they are responsible for silencing Guaidó. Yet being more open about their role could jeopardize investments in other parts of the continent.

“The Chinese play a tricky game because on the one hand, they are trying to grow in influence and presence throughout Latin America, so they are seeing all of these countries supporting Guaidó, and they don’t want to … antagonize these countries by being cheerleaders for the Maduro regime,” Rubio noted.

“On the other hand, they view Venezuela as a place of strategic importance because they have an existing leverage relationship with him [Maduro], they’re there on the ground, and the notion in their mind is they need to be against what they view as any American efforts to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.”

“That is not the case here, but that is how they view it because they think that, if they allow that [re-democratization] to happen in one place, that would be a predicate for it to happen in other places, including, potentially, China itself,” he said. “So the game they’re playing is, they don’t want to upset the Colombians, they don’t want to upset the Panamanians, they look at the list of countries that are against Maduro, so they don’t want to harm their relationships with those countries by being too far out there.”

The lukewarm tenor of the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s remarks on Venezuela continued Tuesday.

“On the Venezuela issue, China upholds the UN Charter and the basic norms governing international relations,” spokesman Geng Shuang [told](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1661701.shtml) reporters. “We insist that this issue should be resolved through inclusive political dialogue and consultation under Venezuela’s constitution between the government and the opposition independently. We stand against external interference and unilateral sanctions.”

Geng once again did not name either Guaidó or Maduro. Instead, he claimed that China stood alongside the European Union, which [backs](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-politics-eu/eu-parliament-recognizes-guaido-as-venezuelan-interim-president-idUSKCN1PP1HQ) Guaidó, and promised China would “step up communication and work together in a constructive manner with the international community including the EU for the political settlement.”

China has invested billions, officially and through its corporate entities, in Venezuela’s socialist regime, both under Maduro and predecessor Hugo Chávez. Maduro’s incompetent handling of the economy [scared](https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/08/09/chinese-state-media-turns-its-back-on-former-hot-investment-destination-venezuela/) Chinese money away for most of 2017 and 2018, but, late last year, China agreed to hand Maduro a [$5 billion loan](https://www.breitbart.com/asia/2018/09/13/china-lend-venezuelas-5-billion-economic-meltdown/) in exchange for one million barrels of oil, according to [Maduro himself](https://www.breitbart.com/asia/2018/09/19/maduro-china-agreed-to-help-venezuela-for-one-million-barrels-of-oil/).

In addition to allegedly controlling the Venezuelan Internet, the Chinese government used telecommunications giant ZTE to build a replica of its “social credit system” – which allots points to individuals based on how much the government likes them and prevents them from access to basic societal services if their point totals drop too low – for Maduro.

The socialist government [branded](https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2018/11/15/report-chinese-telecom-giant-building-venezuela-social-credit-system/) the new system the “Fatherland Card.” It gives the regime control over what Venezuelans buy and helps track Venezuelans’ public statements, social media, and anything that can be interpreted as political activity. Without the card, Venezuelans cannot access the little food, medical care, and fuel left in the country.

Outside of Venezuela, Beijing has worked to promote its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Latin America. While the BRI is nominally intended to rebuild the Ancient Silk Road – the major trade route connecting Asia to Europe – Chinese officials have convinced several Latin American nations to agree to major infrastructure projects in the region. As the preeminent communist country in the region, Cuba has taken the lead in [promoting](https://www.breitbart.com/latin-america/2018/11/09/cuban-president-agrees-bring-belt-road-west-china-visit/) BRI, but 18 Latin American countries have [joined](https://dialogochino.net/26121-belt-and-road-the-new-face-of-china-in-latin-america/) to varying degrees, agreeing to pay China to build ports, roads, and railways.

In February, Adm. Kurt Tidd, the head of the Pentagon’s Southern Command, [described](https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2018/02/15/us-commander-china-extension-one-belt-one-road-latin-america-threatens-us/) Belt and Road as providing “ample opportunity for China to expand its influence over key regional partners and promote unfair business and labor practices.”

“Increased reach to key global access points like Panama create commercial and security vulnerabilities for the United States, as do Chinese telecommunications and space ventures with dual-use potential, which could facilitate intelligence collection, compromise communication networks, and ultimately constrain our ability to work with our partners,” he warned.

**The Ginsu Missile**

One of the common complaints among opponents of the war on terror is that no matter how precise our strikes might be, they still can end up harming civilians. Well, where there’s a will, there’s a way — and that’s how the U.S. military ended up with the “knife missile.”

The “knife missile” or “ninja bomb” (depending on which nickname you think sounds cooler) is a modified Hellfire air-to-ground missile. The Wall Street Journal (subscription required) on Thursday first reported its existence. The official name for it, according to the sources is the R9X.

Instead of explosives, however, the R9X uses six blades that deploy just before impact. The result is the terrorist gets sliced to ribbons while collateral damage is exponentially reduced.

“To the targeted person, it is as if a speeding anvil fell from the sky,” one source told The Journal.

However, to civilians in the vicinity, it’s almost as if nothing had happened.

In fact, another nickname for the device is the “flying Ginsu” because — much like the knife of 1980s television infomercial fame — it can slice through metal, glass and concrete with no issue.

The secret R9X missile is designed to destroy individual terrorist targets without harming surrounding civilians and could potentially kill a car's front seat passenger without harming the driverhttps://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/05/09/pentagon-builds-knife-bomb-kills-targets-without-exploding/ …

Pentagon builds 'knife bomb' that kills targets without exploding

The Pentagon has built a new missile known as a 'ninja bomb' which deploys a ring of steel blades to kill its target rather than exploding.

people are talking about this

In fact, in one high-profile strike where the weapon was allegedly used, the target car’s windshield wasn’t even shattered when the blade passed through the roof.

Do you think the R9X should be deployed against more terrorist targets?

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The R9X was developed as part of a request of the Obama administration to reduce collateral damage from strikes.

It has been in development since 2011, and a version of the R9X was considered as an option to kill Osama bin Laden.

It’s only been deployed “about a half-dozen times,” The Journal reported, both by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense.

Neither the CIA nor the Pentagon would comment, but two of the strikes could be confirmed by The Journal.

The first was against Jamal al-Badawi, the al-Qaeda mastermind behind the USS Cole

Ars Technica notes that while the Pentagon has confirmed the strike against al-Badawi, it hasn’t confirmed the type of weapon used against him.

In February 2017, the website also reported, an R9X in Syria killed al-Qaeda second-in-command Ahmad Hasan Abu Khayr al-Masri.

The earlier strike may have given a clue as to the existence of the R9X; a huge hole could be seen in the roof of al-Masri’s car, but no explosion was in evidence.

**Civil war Breaks out in DC**

 “Enough is enough,” Byrne said in a recent public statement. Despite spending millions and countless hours on an investigation that found NOTHING, some want to keep this nonsense going. There are real issues in our country and this whole sideshow is a waste of time. Let’s move on!”

Byrne’s statement ripping the subpoena is just the latest in a long line of statements, including from Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), and several other members of Congress.

No Republicans on the Senate Intelligence Committee are publicly defending Burr or the subpoena at this stage. In fact, when asked by Breitbart News on Wednesday evening, no Republican members of the Senate Intelligence Committee would publicly support the subpoena. None of them would back Burr remaining chairman of the committee, either.

These GOP senators who are not publicly defending Burr or the subpoena include the offices include Sens. John Cornyn (R-TX), who is up for re-election in Texas in 2020; Tom Cotton (R-AR), Susan Collins (R-ME), Ben Sasse (R-NE), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Jim Risch (R-ID). These are all the offices of Republican members of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

In fact, while no members of his committee are publicly defending him, there are actually no Republicans anywhere in elected office defending Burr’s rogue subpoena. It remains to be seen what happens next, but McConnell has not yet replied to a request for comment on what he thinks of the matter and whether he will continue to allow Burr to serve as chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

**Logan Acting**

John Kerry is at it again. “That’s a violation of the Logan Act, and frankly he should be prosecuted on that, but my people don’t want to do anything on that,” Trump said to reporters at the White House.

Trump suggested that only Democrats liked to prosecute political opponents.

In 2018, Kerry admitted meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif “three or four times” to discuss Obama’s nuclear deal with Iran that Trump ended.

“John Kerry violated the Logan Act, plain and simple,” Trump said. “He shouldn’t be doing that.”

Trump said that Kerry was keeping Iranian officials from reaching out to him to work with his administration.

“They should call, and if they do, we’re open to talk(ing) to them. We have no secrets, and they can be very, very strong financially,” Trump said.

Trump acknowledged there was a risk of military confrontation with Iran after he sent a carrier group to the Middle East amidst threats from Iran to American interests.

“We have one of the most powerful ships in the world that’s loaded up and we don’t want to do anything,” he said.

**The New America Civil war**

It’s getting serious. The Globalists are now fighting on multiple fronts with their propaganda press covering every route of escape. Events are rapidly coalescing to the inevitable conclusion that **America must either rise up and defend itself or fall to the lawless, lunatic Leftists and globalists who seek to destroy it** from within.

Soon, it will be time for [President Trump](http://trump.news/) to take decisive action to eliminate the domestic enemies of America (see full list below) and restore the rule of law to this sovereign nation. Although I don’t have any special inside information about Trump’s plans, an analysis of accelerating events points to an **historic showdown** as pro-American forces face off against anti-American traitors throughout every level of government and society.

With deranged, lawless Democrats now demanding the impeachment of Attorney General William Barr for completely fabricated reasons — i.e. they don’t like the fact that he won’t go along with the Russia collusion hoax that was fabricated by the treasonous deep state — we are getting closer each day to the need for military arrests of those lawmakers and domestic terrorist organizations (see list below) who are actively conspiring to defeat America as founded and turn this country over to globalists to be looted, dismantled and erased from history.

## President Trump must know that We the People are ready and willing to defend this nation against domestic enemies

The President needs to know that We the People wholly support his efforts to drain the swamp and “lock them up.” We are law-abiding patriots and defenders of the both First and Second Amendments, and we are ready to back President Trump’s decisive commands with city-by-city, county-by-county defenses to identify and arrest all enemies of America who are attempting to destroy this nation from within.

**Trending:**[Seriously? Florida Man Arrested, Thrown in Jail for Bumper Sticker that Had the Word ‘A\*\*’ On It](https://dcdirtylaundry.com/seriously-florida-man-arrested-thrown-in-jail-for-bumper-sticker-that-had-the-word-a-on-it/)

To be clear, yes, I’m talking about armed, law-abiding citizens all across America who are willing to defend America from the traitors who are trying to destroy it.

From idiotic lunatics who would push America into an all-out economic collapse (Ocasio-Cortez) to high-level treasonous criminals who armed America’s enemies with nuclear weapons and leaked U.S. military secrets to China and Iran (Barack Obama), all those who threaten the United States of America must be identified, arrested and removed from power as part of the process of restoring the rule of law in America.

I don’t have any special inside information of what Trump is planning, and I don’t speak for Trump in any way. But some of the actions that Trump could take to restore the rule of law in America and eliminate the sabotage actions of the domestic enemies currently operating in America include the following:

* Deploy the military police nationwide to arrest and detain the CEOs of all tech companies and financial institutions that are systematically de-platforming conservatives, Trump supporters and Christians.
* Every CEO of every tech company (Google, Twitter, etc.) or financial institution (Chase, Mastercard, GoFundMe, etc.) that has de-platformed users for being conservatives must be charged and prosecuted for willfully denying Americans their basic civil rights to engage in speech and commerce.
* The domain names of all such tech companies and financial companies should be seized by the State Dept. and held in escrow until such time that the corporations sign consent decrees that guarantee the freedom of speech and freedom of commerce for all Americans, without interference, shadowbanning, de-platforming or algorithmic censorship.
* RICO Act racketeering laws can be used to level felony criminal charges against all those engaged in these activities.
* Every fake news media organization that actively participated in the sourcing and publishing of fabricated “leaks” what were intended to further the political coup effort against President Trump should have its conspirators arrested and removed from public influence. CNN, the New York Times, the Washington Post and Buzzfeed, among others, have collapsed into “journo-terrorism” hubs where they attempt to terrorize the American public with fabricated news hoaxes with the aim of destabilizing the Trump administration. These activities are not expressions of a “free press” but rather active efforts to commit sedition and treason as part of a coordinated, deep state political coup to overthrow the results of the 2016 election and nullify the will of the voters. The left-wing media has essentially merged with the deep state and now functions as the propaganda extension of the very treasonous groups that are attempting to overthrow America’s democracy.
* Every member of Congress, in both the House and Senate, who has actively participated in furthering the Russia collusion hoax and attempted coup against the United States of America should be arrested by military police and charged with sedition, then removed from public office and held to face military trials. Sen. John McCain should be charged posthumously for his role in the “Trump dossier” which was used to obtain an illegal FISA warrant application to spy on Trump campaign and administration personnel (in total violation of U.S. law).
* As part of the cleanup operation to eliminate domestic terrorist groups that are operating inside the United States, Antifa must be designated a domestic terrorism organization, and all those who collude with Antifa to carry out acts of violence against conservative Americans must be arrested and charged with terror-related acts of conspiracy. This will include a very large number of college and university professors who exploit their positions of academic power to recruit and deploy domestic terrorist groups against the United States government.
* The mayors of “sanctuary cities” and the governors of “sanctuary states” must be declared to be engaged in an active insurrection against the United States of America, then arrested and subjected to military tribunals for their active roles in undermining the nation through willful complicity with criminal felons and terror-linked groups.
* All governors who signed laws authorizing the voting of illegal aliens must be arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit voter fraud. A national voter ID law must be put into place and fully enforced. Until California or any state agrees to enforce voter ID laws, **that state’s members of Congress must be suspended and prevented from participating in federal legislation in any way whatsoever**. The message to California? If you don’t enforce voter ID laws, you will lose your Senators, members of Congress and your Electoral College votes. You cannot participate in democracy if you aren’t willing to follow the basic rules of democracy.
* Activate American patriots to defend the national borders. Militia groups must be called up by the President to defend America’s territories against foreign invaders. Those attempting to illegally enter the United States via border crossings must be ordered to turn around and go home. Those caught inside the border must be arrested and immediately deported to their home countries. The message must be clear: Immigrants are only welcomed in the United States through legal processes, not illegal border crossings. If you want to become an American, wait in line like everybody else who immigrated legally.

By now, President Trump knows that the American people are ready and willing to activate their Second Amendment responsibility nationwide, to protect and defend the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. There are millions of military veterans and both active duty and former law enforcement Americans who are ready and willing to enforce the rule of law and, at the direction of the Commander in Chief, do their part to identify and eliminate the threat of “enemies within.”

Most real Americans have reached the point where they now realize their country will be completely overrun and destroyed if something isn’t done to halt the enemies within. Time is growing short. The will of the American people to defend their nation is stronger than ever, but most Americans will not act unless they are given authorization by the President.

That authorization may not come before the 2020 election. Many think that once Trump wins a second term, there’s nothing holding back a full-fledged defense of America and the complete rooting out and elimination of America’s domestic enemies. I am a little more well connected, intuitively. There may not be a 2020 election. The 2020 election has already become so corrupted with the recent test run of Ballots-R-Us in multiple States, that the integrity of the national election system is not reliable. California removed President Trump from the ballot. Minnesota has been compromised by foreign citizens being given the right to vote by Obama. At least 9 States have added hundreds of thousands of foreign citizens to their voter rolls.

The only way to stop this is to make the mass arrests now. Americans cannot win an election against 25 million illegal voters, ballot mills, and the tech giants deleting conservative content from any searches people might want to do. If you search anything Trump using Google or Twitter or Facebook, you are only going to see what they want you to see. If it wasn’t for his press conferences and rallies, you would think Trump has a lower popularity than Congress. The truth is that it is higher than any president in history at this point in his first term. Do you think it can get worse? Oh, trust me. It can get much worse. Make the arrests now, and we may have a chance at salvaging the 2020 election.

**NSA Leaker Arrested**

A 31-year-old Tennessee man was arrested on Thursday over allegations that he illegally obtained and then leaked classified national defense information to a reporter, according to the [Department of Justice](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-intelligence-analyst-charged-disclosing-classified-information) (DOJ).

Daniel Everette Hale of Nashville worked as a NSA intelligence analyst while deployed to Afghanistan, after which he worked for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) - where he worked as a **political geography analyst** between December 2013 and August 2014.

While assigned to the NSA during active duty for the Air Force, Hale allegedly began communicating with a reporter for an unknown news outlet - meeting with them "on multiple occasions," while also communicating via an encrypted messaging platform.

After his shift from the NSA to the NGA, Hale is accused of printing **six classified documents unrelated to his work**in February 2014, which were later published by the reporter's news outlet.

*According to allegations in the indictment, while employed as a cleared defense contractor for NGA, Hale printed from his Top Secret computer 36 documents, including 23 documents unrelated to his work at NGA.  Of the 23 documents unrelated to his work at NGA, Hale provided at least 17 to the reporter and/or the reporter’s online news outlet, which published the documents in whole or in part. Eleven of the published documents were classified as Top Secret or Secret and marked as such. –DOJ*

This is another whistleblower to *The Intercept* about to go prison. ALL WHISTLEBLOWERS CHARGED UNDER TRUMP HAVE BEEN INTERCEPT SOURCES. There are others who are being watched.

According to the indictment, the reporter was listed in Hale's cell phone contact list, and he possessed two thumb drives - one of which contained a page marked "SECRET" from a classified document that he had printed in February, 2014, and later attempted to delete from the drive.

The other thumb drive contained Tor software - commonly used to access or exchange information on the 'dark web' - which were recommended by the reporter's news website in an article notifying people how to leak documents.