

Tuesday 09/08/20

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US Dow Falls 632 Points as Tech Stocks Extend Losses

US stocks extended their dip into negative territory for the third day on Tuesday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average index falling more than 600 points as technology shares continued to undergo a meltdown amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

At closing bell, the Dow had slid into the red by 632.42 points, the S&P 500 had fallen by 95.12 points, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite had plunged by 465.44 points. Earlier trading saw the Dow plummet from green territory by 600 points, whereas the Nasdaq fell over 3%. The closing figures prove to be the latest in the New York Stock Exchange's worst stock sell-offs in over five months amid the novel coronavirus pandemic, which initially sent American and foreign stocks plunging after COVID-19-containment measures imposed by various countries shuttered the global economy.

However, the current downfall into red territory has largely been driven by declining tech stocks that previously benefited from the massive spike in Americans resorting to remotely working, learning and shopping in an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

"I think we should start to anticipate a rotation, the momentum behind tech is going to ease," Seema Shah, a chief strategist at Principal Global Investors, [told the Wall Street Journal](#).

Tuesday trading saw shares of Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft and Google-parent Alphabet down by more than 3%, as Apple's stock price plunged by over 5%. Additionally, Zoom Video Communications, the popular video chat software tapped by several companies and institutions to stream courses and business meetings during the pandemic, saw its share price fall by 4.43%

"As we're seeing easing lockdowns and the prospect of a vaccine, people are beginning to go back to a more normal way of life and reliance on tech is starting to fade from the peak where it was at the height of the lockdown," Shah noted.

Elsewhere, shares belonging to electric car company [Tesla sank by 21.06%](#) on Tuesday, marking its worst one-day drop ever. The company's stock tumble comes after the vehicle maker failed to be added to the S&P 500 index.

Although investor concerns were mostly influenced by the tech industry, political issues, particularly in regards to US-China relations, have also weighed on trading matters. In response to US President Donald Trump announcing Monday that [he was considering "decoupling" economically from China](#), Beijing officials on Tuesday [launched a global initiative regarding data security](#) after accusing the US of "bullying."

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Golden Retriever Pup Struggles to Get Comfy - Video Club

A golden retriever puppy recently demonstrated that it's not only humans who struggle to catch some good ol' Z's, especially when it seems nearly impossible to find that comfy spot.

Video shared on Facebook's popular Golden Retriever Club group by user Alice Gercovich captured the ever-so-adorable moment in which a golden retriever pup repeatedly tossed and turned in an attempt to find the perfect sleeping position while lounging outdoors.

In the end, the young furball discovered that sleeping on their stomach was the best option.

Someone get this pup a memory foam bed!

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Cartoon: For God's Sake - Cartoon

A Bible signed by US President Donald Trump days after his infamous photo-op in front of St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC, is being placed on the auction block for nearly \$40,000.

The signed Bible, which is an edition of the King James Version, is currently being sold by [California-based memorabilia company Moments in Time](#) with a starting bid of just \$37,500. It's unclear how the auction house managed to get a hold of the holy book. [According to TMZ](#), the Bible was signed just days after federal officers [deployed gas canisters and flash-bang grenades](#) at peaceful protesters in early June who were in Lafayette Park, which is located just outside of the White House.

The violent clearing of demonstrators was done to clear a path so the president could walk over to St. John's Church and snap a couple Bible-holding pictures. It's worth noting that the Bible being sold by Moments in Time is not the same one that Trump was photographed holding.

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US Spy Plane Impersonates Malaysian Aircraft to Fly Close to Chinese Airspace - Report

On Tuesday, a US spy plane was spotted seeming to disguise itself as a Malaysian aircraft as it "patrolled intensively" between China's Hainan Island and the Paracel Islands, which Beijing

claims as well. The dangerous maneuver poses the risk of confusing civilian and military aircraft, which in the past has resulted in deadly airliner shootdowns.

According to the South China Sea Probing Initiative (SCSPI), a Chinese think tank connected to Peking University, a US Air Force RC-135W Rivet Joint signals intelligence spy plane was spotted departing Kadena Air Force Base on Okinawa, Japan, on Tuesday, only to be mysteriously replaced by what seemed to be a Malaysian aircraft over the South China Sea. Once the plane crossed the South China Sea, it then [“patrolled intensively” over the international waters between Hainan Island and the Paracel Islands](#), the latter of which the US has challenged Beijing’s claims of sovereignty over, SCSPI said.

The think tank noted another RC-135W performed the same maneuver several days prior: broadcasting [a nonsense International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\) hex code](#) identifier while it patrolled in the South China Sea, but switching back once it entered the Philippine Sea. An aircraft’s hex code is [part of its registration with the United Nations-run ICAO](#) and only changed rarely. The code identifies the aircraft in the sky, telling other planes as well as ground control what it is and where it is. While it’s common for military aircraft engaged in combat patrols to refrain from broadcasting such signals for fairly obvious reasons, the transponder serves as the bedrock of civil aviation safety, preventing collisions as well as misidentifications. However, the practice of using fake transponder codes to disguise its spy planes is a common practice in the US Air Force. In 2019, several such examples arose, all of them involving RC-135W Rivet Joints, which monitor communications and other emissions across a broad part of the electromagnetic spectrum.

One incident on February 23, 2019, saw an RC-135W flying from Puerto Rico begin broadcasting a fake hex code as it flew close to Venezuelan airspace. The incident happened the same day as the infamous attempted forced crossing [of the Tienditas Bridge by forces supporting the Venezuelan opposition](#), which claimed they were trying to bring humanitarian aid in from Colombia. Weeks earlier, US-backed opposition figure Juan Guaido had declared himself the country’s interim president and attempted to rally supporters inside and outside Venezuela to overthrow Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

In another incident on July 3, 2019, another RC-135W over the Persian Gulf switched its transponder code to an Iranian code as it flew laps inside Iranian airspace, even flying over Iranian territory in the form of two islands. [Observers noted this trickery left an especially sour taste](#), as it came on the anniversary of the [US shootdown of Iran Air Flight 655 in 1988](#), when the US Navy destroyer USS Vincennes shot down an Iranian airliner in international airspace, killing all aboard.

Then, on September 23, 2019, a US Air Force RC-135U Combat Sent, a version of the plane specialized for radar monitoring, broadcast a fake New Zealand code as it flew close to Russia’s Crimean Peninsula.

However, that same day, an Iranian drone seemed to do the same thing as it flew through Emirati airspace, suggesting it’s not just the US that engages in this practice.

I honestly cannot believe that an Iranian UAV is currently flying a few miles from Dubai and has not been shot down. Most likely Spoof Hex Code pic.twitter.com/1GAzgGGy7h — Manu Gómez (@GDarkconrad) [September 23, 2019](#)

The confusion created by disguising military aircraft as civilian planes places innocent lives at risk, as incidents like Iran Air Flight 655 prove. An RC-135W was also at the center of another

infamous airliner shootdown: when a Soviet interceptor shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007 off the coast of Sakhalin Island in 1983, it was because [Soviet radar controllers had mistaken the Boeing 747 for an RC-135W](#) that was also patrolling in the area at the time and crossed flight paths with it.

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Photo: China's FC-31 Stealth Fighter Prototype Spotted on Training Mission

A recent photo posted on Chinese social media shows a Shenyang FC-31 "Gyrfalcon," a fifth-generation fighter jet the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has not yet adopted. The photo seems to confirm rumors from earlier this year that the plane was being reconsidered as a carrier-based fighter.

A photo that appeared on Sina Weibo over the weekend shows the FC-31 is still flying and has received some upgrades along the way.

In the photo, the plane has a new paint scheme, a standard military gray color, and is blasting into a climb on full afterburner. It also seems the airspeed measurement device located on the plane's nose has been removed, possibly replaced with the nose-mounted radar that production models would include. [The South China Morning Post noted the engines](#), however, remain the same: Guizhou WS-13 turbofan engines, which also power China's zippy JF-17 Thunder aircraft.

In all, the undated photo more closely resembles [the model presented at the Paris Air Show in June 2019](#) than the testing aircraft seen in prior years. Shenyang Aircraft Corporation has built just two FC-31s, which are also sometimes referred to as J-31s, although J designations only apply to PLA-developed aircraft.

In this photo provided by China's Xinhua News Agency, a J-31 stealth fighter takes off for test flight ahead of the 10th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai, south China's Guangdong Province, Monday, Nov. 10, 2014.

Although the FC-31 has been flying since 2012, the PLA [has so far been hesitant to adopt it, as Chengdu's J-20 became](#) the country's first fifth-generation stealth aircraft. However, the huge J-20 cannot fit on an aircraft carrier, meaning China's burgeoning carrier fleet is [forced to continue relying on the inadequate J-15 fighter](#).

In July, the Chinese Aeronautical Establishment, the research and development branch of the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), [reported it intended to begin testing a "new type of aircraft" for naval use](#) in conjunction with Shenyang. The recently surfaced photo, which shows the logo of the AVIC clearly printed on the FC-31's empennage, seems to confirm the [widespread rumors that the mystery plane referred to was the FC-31](#).

However, the photo shows no clear signs the FC-31 has yet been modified for carrier operations: a rear tail hook cannot be seen, nor can any obvious hinges on the wings to enable folding for below-deck storage.

Although claims the FC-31 was derived from stolen plans for Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II fighter [have been thoroughly debunked, the plane is broadly comparable](#) to the F-35 in terms

of performance and boasts the same basic aircraft layout as the US plane's A and C models, the latter of which the US Navy uses for carrier ops.

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Saudi-Led Coalition Strikes Down Explosive-Laden Drone From Houthi Militants - State Media

According to Saudi state media, Saudi air defenses intercepted an explosives-laden drone launched from Houthi territory in Yemen on Tuesday night.

The intercept is [just the latest in nearly a dozen incidents](#) over the last two weeks as the five-year-long war in Yemen continues to rage.

Early Tuesday morning, [the Houthis announced they had launched a number of drones](#) toward Abha International Airport, about 65 miles away from the Saudi-Yemeni border and from which the Royal Saudi Air Force launches many of its airstrikes in Yemen.

[The report by Saudia TV did not say](#) what the drone's target was or from where in Yemen it had been launched.

The Saudi-led coalition, which includes the United Arab Emirates and various militias and forces within Yemen loyal to ousted President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, has waged an unceasing war against the Zaidi Shiite Houthi movement since it forced Hadi from power in 2015.

The Houthis control most of the populated parts of the country, including the capital of Sana'a, and in recent years have steadily increased their offensive capabilities to strike targets deep inside Saudi Arabia. Estimates of deaths in Yemen range into the hundreds of thousands, and food insecurity has threatened millions.

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At Least 37 Million People Displaced by US War on Terror, Study Finds

A new report by the Costs of War Project has found that at least 37 million people have been displaced by the US War on Terror; however, the group warns that the estimate is conservative and the real total could be far higher.

According to [a report published on Tuesday by the Costs of War Project](#) at Brown University's Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs, at least 37 million people have been displaced, either internally or been forced to become refugees, in eight different countries as a result of the US War on Terror, begun in 2001.

For comparison, the population of the US state of California is 39.5 million, and the population of Canada is 37.59 million. However, the researchers warn that is a "very conservative" estimate, as the true number could be closer to between 48 and 59 million people.

The report focused on eight conflicts, including declared and undeclared war zones, where the US has carried out military operations under the guise of destroying international terrorism: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and the Philippines.

The group's data was compiled from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

In Afghanistan, some 5.3 million people have been displaced in total since 2001, although this number is in considerable dispute, as the researchers concluded that 2.1 million Afghans had fled the country since 2001, but they also found evidence that as many as 2.4 million had fled just between 2012 and 2019. Another 3.2 million have been displaced internally. The researchers noted, however, that war and civil turmoil in the Central Asian country has continued almost nonstop since the late 1970s.

In neighboring Pakistan, the US war near the Afghan border has displaced some 3.7 million people, including 360,000 refugees abroad and 1.56 million from the border area.

Meanwhile in Libya, where the US supported the 2011 overthrow of longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi, at least 1.2 million people have been displaced in what the IDMC called a "state collapse trigger[ed] mass displacement." At the start of 2020, the report notes, 451,000 remained internally displaced, and the civil war continues to rage.

Iraq has the largest total number, with 9.2 million people displaced by several wars. In March 2003, the US launched a massive invasion of Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein, and the brutal counterinsurgency war that erupted afterward had displaced some 4.7 million people by 2007. While the US war in Iraq officially ended in 2011, war erupted again just three years later in 2014, when Daesh roared into existence, and the US once again became involved in major combat operations in Mesopotamia. By 2020, 650,000 Iraqis remained refugees abroad, and 1.4 million had been internally displaced.

In neighboring Syria, where Daesh first established its would-be caliphate amid a civil war raging since 2011, the US became involved at several distinct levels over the years. The report was very truncated in its analysis, looking just at the five provinces where US forces fought on the ground - Aleppo, al-Hasakah, al-Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor and Homs - and only since 2017.

By those criteria, 7.1 million had been displaced, including 470,000 internally. However, 220,000 of those have been just since October 2019, when the Turkish invasion of eastern Syria pushed 220,000 Kurds from their homes, including 17,900 who crossed the border into Iraq for safety. However, the report notes that if a different metric were used - one including all of Syria beginning in 2013, when the US started arming Syrian rebel militias - the number of displaced persons increases massively to between 44 and 51 million people.

In Somalia, where the US has waged or supported wars for decades, "virtually all Somalis have been displaced by violence at least once in their life," the Norwegian Refugee Council is quoted as saying in the report. From a population of 15 million, some 4.2 million have been displaced by US operations, including 80,000 refugees and 3.4 million internally displaced persons.

Like Somalia, Yemen has seen war rage for decades. The US began airstrikes in Yemen in 2002, pursuing al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, but conditions deteriorated catastrophically in 2015, when Saudi Arabia and several of its allies, including the US, launched a war against the Yemeni Houthi movement.

The ongoing war, in which Saudi, Emirati and Moroccan aircraft have bombarded the country and supported militias on the ground as well as forces loyal to ousted Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, has displaced 4.4 million people. In 2019 alone, 400,000 more people were displaced. According to the OCHA, 100,000 Yemenis have been killed by combat operations since 2015, and another 130,000 have died from hunger and disease.

The Philippines is the only country on the list not located in southwestern Asia or northern or eastern Africa. However, the US-supported military operations in Mindanao against groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Abu Sayyaf and the Maute Group have displaced some 1.7 million Filipinos, nearly all of them internally.

“In documenting displacement caused by the US post-9/11 wars, we are not suggesting the US government or the United States as a country is solely responsible for the displacement.

Causation is never so simple,” the authors note in the report. “Causation always involves a multiplicity of combatants and other powerful actors, centuries of history, and large-scale political, economic, and social forces. Even in the simplest of cases, conditions of pre-existing poverty, environmental change, prior wars, and other forms of violence shape who is displaced and who is not.”

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Bible Signed by Trump After Infamous Church Photo Op on Sale for \$37,500

A Bible signed by US President Donald Trump after a photo op at a church in Washington, DC, in June has now been listed for sale by memorabilia company Moments in Time.

According to [TMZ](#), which first reported the news, the autographed Bible has been listed [at a price of \\$37,500](#).

However, the Bible for sale isn't the exact same one the president held up for photos outside St. John's Episcopal Church, the outlet noted. Rather, Trump signed the Bible some time in the first week of June, a few days after the incident at the church, TMZ reported.

In June, hundreds of lawful protesters congregated in Lafayette Park in front of the White House were violently dispersed by police using chemical irritants, rubber bullets and sound cannons so that the president could walk to the church across the street from the White House to take pictures in front of the historic building with a Bible. The demonstrators were peacefully protesting the brutal police killing of unarmed Black man George Floyd on May 25 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The ambush was carried out by the National Guard, the US Park Police and the Secret Service. In June, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), along with other civil rights groups, filed a lawsuit against Trump, US Attorney General William Barr and other federal officials for violating protesters' constitutional rights by attacking them with tear gas and other weapons.

The lawsuit was filed in the US District Court for the District of Columbia by the ACLU, the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the law firm of Arnold & Porter on behalf of Black Lives Matters DC

and individual protesters. The suit accuses Trump and other administration officials of both violating and conspiring to deny protesters' First and Fourth Amendment rights.

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'This is a Metaphor': Netizens Stunned as Melania Trump's New Rose Garden Reportedly Needs Repairs

Less than three weeks after its official unveiling, first lady Melania Trump's newly renovated Rose Garden is reportedly already falling apart, drawing the ire of netizens.

"New Rose Garden is already undergoing repairs including poor drainage and sod in bad shape. #MelaniasRoseGarden," [one user wrote](#).

"Yeah, I'm still pissed about the Rose Garden. And this isn't helping," [another added](#).

"Just 3 weeks after Melania ruined the White House Rose Garden it is already undergoing emergency repairs. I feel like this is a metaphor," [a third chimed in](#).

A source with knowledge of the matter [recently told CNN](#) that the garden is already under repair and is having "issues with water drainage" and "some minor complications with updated construction." In addition, new sod is being laid down in the garden.

With US President Donald Trump having held a Monday news conference in the White House's North Portico, a source told CNN that hosting reporters at the Rose Garden in its current state "would not be doable."

The first lady announced that she was doing a complete design overhaul of the Rose Garden in late July. The renovation included changes to plants, trees, grass and flowers and also involved adding new limestone paths, as well as updated drainage and irrigation systems and underground electrical cables.

Melania's gardening efforts drew widespread criticism after claims surfaced that the first lady had reportedly removed the cherry trees and roses that had been planted in 1962 at the direction of then-first lady Jacqueline Kennedy. However, [that is not the case](#), as many mistook the removal of crabapple trees for the famous cherry trees.

It's worth noting that even the crabapple trees were not chopped down. Instead, they were relocated to be planted elsewhere.

"I normally think Melania has impeccable taste – but removing Jackie O's rose garden and all the beautiful flowers and color for whatever reason I find really upsetting not to mention not nearly as beautiful," American columnist Meghan McCain, daughter of the late US Senator John McCain, [tweeted in August](#).

"Not everything historical is meant to be redone."

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Young Children May Develop 'Lethal' Syndrome After COVID-19 Diagnosis

Newly published research has indicated that the long-term effects of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), a pediatric disease linked to COVID-19, are “dangerous” and “potentially lethal.”

“With prompt recognition and medical attention, most children will survive but the long-term outcomes from this condition are presently unknown,” concludes the study, which was published Friday in the [journal The Lancet](#).

The analysis also found that around 71% of 662 patients with MIS-C were admitted to the intensive care unit. Common symptoms included abdominal pain or diarrhea, fever and vomiting. In addition, around 22% of patients required mechanical ventilation and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, which provides cardiac and respiratory support to people whose hearts and lungs cannot get the body enough oxygen. An abnormal echocardiogram was also observed in 54% of patients.

MIS-C was first reported in late April in Britain. However, since then, additional cases have appeared within the US and abroad.

The [latest data](#) from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that there have been 792 cases of MIS-C in the US as of September 3. Only 16 deaths linked to the disease have been recorded during that same time frame.

The condition has been likened to Kawasaki disease, which usually occurs in children younger than 5 years old and causes inflammation of blood vessels throughout the body. Kawasaki disease typically causes a fever, as well as a rash, sore throat and swollen lymph glands. Additional symptoms of MIS-C include skin color changes, rashes and labored breathing.

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‘All Over the Place’: Trump Alternately Praises, Disparages Military to ‘See What Sticks’ -
Journo

US President Donald Trump is “all over the place” when it comes to the military, pushing back on reports he had called fallen troops “suckers” and “losers,” and continuing military operations even as he says the country’s long wars should end, Ted Rall, a columnist and syndicated editorial cartoonist, told Radio Sputnik’s Political Misfits.

In an [article](#) published in The Atlantic on September 3, the outlet’s editor-in-chief, Jeffrey Goldberg, quotes various anonymous sources claiming that the US president had repeatedly disparaged service members. For example, Goldberg claims that Trump canceled a visit to the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery near Paris in 2018 and had said: “Why should I go to that cemetery? It’s filled with losers.” In another instance, Trump allegedly referred to the more than 1,800 US Marines who died at Belleau Wood in World War I as “suckers.”

“First and foremost, we have to remember the source of the Atlantic article, Jeffrey Goldberg, is what we call in fiction an unreliable narrator. It’s the same guy, back in the build up to the Iraq War, that actually posited something that was not only not true, but could not have been true, namely that [former President of Iraq] Saddam Hussein aligned with al-Qaeda. Considering that

they were mortal enemies, that could not have been true,” Rall told [hosts Michelle Witte and Bob Schlehuber](#) Tuesday.

“Goldberg’s been in service of the national security state for many, many years,” Rall noted.

“That said, I think everybody is sort of taking it for granted that Trump said what is alleged.”

On September 4, Jennifer Griffin, a Fox News national security correspondent, [tweeted a long thread](#) claiming that she had spoken to two former Trump administration officials who confirmed that the president had “disparaged veterans.” Trump [retorted on the same day](#) by tweeting that Griffin “should be fired for this kind of reporting.” Over the weekend, Trump again [took to Twitter](#) to accuse the Democratic Party and “fake news” media of orchestrating a disinformation campaign against him ahead of the November presidential election.

During a Labor Day news conference at the White House, Trump once again pushed back against the allegations in Goldberg’s article, stating that American soldiers are “in love” with him. “I’m not saying the military’s in love with me, but the soldiers are. The top people in the Pentagon probably aren’t, because they want to do nothing but fight wars so that all of those wonderful companies that make the bombs and make the planes and make everything else stay happy. But we’re getting out of the endless wars. You know how we’re doing,” the president said, [the Independent reported](#).

“Trump is all over the place when it comes to militarism,” Rall pointed out.

“I mean, he has expanded [former US President Barack] Obama’s drone wars. He backed the Saudis in the proxy war in Yemen. He’s been active in Syria on both sides, kind of. He’s all over the place ... The sense I’m getting is of a commander-in-chief who is pressured by what people in the military call guys wearing a lot of lettuce, you know, all those decorations,” Rall noted.

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Photo: US Navy Ends Multi-Day Search for Missing Sailor in North Arabian Sea

Although the US Navy search for a missing service member has been called off, an investigation into the sailor’s disappearance in the North Arabian Sea remains ongoing, according to a Tuesday release from the US 5th Fleet.

“The US Navy has ended search and rescue efforts for Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Ian McKnight, assigned to USS Nimitz (CVN 68), who is believed to have gone overboard Sept. 6,” [the release read](#).

“We are deeply saddened as we call off the search for IT2 Ian McKnight,” Capt. Max Clark, commanding officer of the Nimitz, expressed in the release.

US Air Force personnel previously joined members of the US Navy in their search in the North Arabian Sea.

Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich, spokesperson for the Bahrain-based US 5th Fleet, [told Stars and Stripes](#) earlier this week that officials first conducted a muster and thoroughly searched for McKnight aboard the Nimitz, the oldest active US aircraft carrier, to no avail.

“The ships and aircraft have worked around the clock since the [search and rescue operations] commenced,” she explained, hours before the search was called off.

Her comments to the outlet came approximately 36 hours after a “man overboard” alert was sounded on the Nimitz. Rebarich detailed that both shore-based aircraft and personnel deployed aboard the Nimitz and the guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton took part in search and rescue operations.

Rebarich highlighted that McKnight has been labeled duty status whereabouts unknown (DUSTWUN), because while the reason for his absence is still to be determined, enough evidence has been provided for officials to believe it is not a case of voluntary “unauthorized absence,” which is the Navy equivalent of absent without leave (AWOL).

[Navy guidelines](#) provide a commander with up to 10 days to conduct search efforts for a DUSTWUN-labeled sailor. “As a result of that assessment, if the commander concludes that the Sailor is missing, then and only then, shall the commander recommend that the person be placed in a ‘Missing’ status.”

Even if no remains are recovered, a DUSTWUN-labeled sailor may be listed as deceased if there is enough information to overcome “any reasonable doubt or logical possibility” that they may have survived.

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Federal Docs Detail Dozens of Drone Sightings at Several US Nuclear Power Plants

A new collection of documents obtained via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reveals a total of 24 US nuclear facilities were sites of unexplained drone incursions between December 2014 and October 2019.

[Sputnik reported in mid-July](#) that Douglas D. Johnson, a volunteer researcher with the Scientific Coalition for Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena Studies, had obtained Federal Aviation Administration documents through a FOIA request and found that federal authorities had abandoned an investigation into several [mysterious drone sightings](#) in Colorado and Nebraska. Later that month, South London-based technology journalist, consultant and author [David Hambling reported](#) that additional US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) documents obtained by Johnson detailed at least two occasions in which “a number of small drones” buzzed around the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Maricopa County, Arizona.

The Palo Verde facility generates around 35% of Arizona’s total power capacity, Hambling reported.

“Officer noticed several drones (5 or 6) flying over the site. The drones are circling the 3 unit site inside and outside the Protected Area,” an official report noted of one such event, which was followed by a similar incident the night after. However, the armed guards were unable to stop either drone flight, which reportedly lasted for some 80 minutes.

[Hambling explained on Monday](#) that a follow-up FOIA request was issued by Johnson, who received a list of at least 57 security incidents (SIDs) that occurred between December 2014 and October 2019.

The UK-based journalist noted that when the list was generated, three of the incidents were identified as "open" and five were marked "closed resolved." However, Hambling further explained that a total of 49 cases were marked "closed unresolved."

"This indicates that for 85% of the cases the NRC has no idea who the perpetrators are or what they intended, and has given up on finding them," Hambling wrote.

Though only seven drone incidents were reported for 2017, that figure increased three-fold, to 21 SIDs, in 2018.

Like the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant, several locations were visited multiple times by drones, such as the Perry Nuclear Power Plant in Cleveland, Ohio, which was the site of six SIDs.

A total of seven incidents were logged at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County, California.

Another SID, involving a pair of "industrial-sized" drones, occurred at Palo Verde in December 2019, despite the introduction of so-called drone detection technology following the two September 2019 SIDs.

Despite the mystery drones' ability to penetrate federal defenses, security personnel have "pointed out that no flyovers have yet exhibited a threat to nuclear power plant," according to Hambling, citing FOIA-obtained documents.

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'Insult to Our Country': Trump Says Kamala Harris 'Could Never' Be US President

US President Donald Trump told attendees of his Tuesday campaign rally that "nobody likes" Democratic vice presidential nominee and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) and that she "could never be the first woman president" of the US.

"That would be an insult to our country," Trump expressed during his Tuesday campaign rally at Smith-Reynolds Regional Airport in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, speaking of a possible Harris presidency - in the event that Democratic presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden secures a November victory and then vacates his seat before his four-year term ends.

"If our foreign adversaries were devising a scheme to cripple America, they could hardly do better than the Biden-Kamala Harris [ticket]," he said before giving his own play-by-play of her "free-fall" campaign to be the Democratic presidential nominee.

Trump's Tuesday remarks come amid his barrage of rhetoric leveled against Harris as a response to her recent comments about a COVID-19 vaccine hypothetically being approved by the Trump administration.

[Speaking to CNN's Dana Bash](#), Harris argued that she would "not take [Trump] for his word" regarding such a vaccine and would need the drug to be backed by a "credible" source to consider it valid.

"They'll be muzzled; they'll be suppressed; they will be sidelined," Harris told Bash, speaking of public health experts who would potentially speak out against the efficacy of a Trump-approved vaccine.