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Photos Suggest Russia Adopting New Long-Range Anti-Air Missiles to Advanced Su-57, Su-35S Jets

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Newly released images of Russia's advanced new fighter jets seem to show some modified versions of long-range air-to-air missiles under their wings, suggesting Moscow is pushing the weapons onto new platforms, greatly enhancing their ability to patrol the skies.

Commemorative videos celebrating the centennial of the opening of Russia's Akhtubinsk Flight Test Center in Astrakhan Oblast included some interesting footage of potential new missile designs that could make Russia's long-range interceptors even more potent.

One video, [an hour-length documentary titled "The First in Everything."](#) begins with the test center's origins during the Russian Civil War and ends with its latest project, the JSC Sukhoi Company's Su-57, which NATO has assigned the code name "Felon." In the film's final moments, several of the stealthy fifth-generation jets are seen flying in formation, and two of them seem to be carrying new variants of the Vypel R-77 air-to-air missile.

One aircraft seems to have [the K-77M missile, a highly advanced design](#) that incorporates an active electronically scanned array (AESA) seeker radar, designed to compensate for enemy pilots' extreme maneuvers intended to trick the missile and evade it. The regular R-77 missile is a rough analogue of the United States' AIM-120 AMRAAM air-to-air missile, and its upgrades in range have paralleled those of the AMRAAM, with the K-77M reportedly having a vastly extended range of up to 100 miles. The missile is intended to become the Su-57's primary air weapon.

The other missile is more mysterious. [The Drive claims it's a further modified R-77](#) called Izdeliye 180-Pryamotochniy Dvigatel (Product 180-Direct-Flow Motor), which features an experimental ramjet engine. Ramjets are optimized for super-fast flying in excess of Mach 3 - much faster than a standard missile. According to the outlet, the missile has never been seen outside of a demonstration mock-up, meaning it's unclear if the photo is proof the Izdeliye 180-PD is actually being tested or not.

In another, much shorter video on Akhtubinsk [put out by the Russian Ministry of Defense](#), an Su-35S is seen launching what seems to be an R-37M air-to-air missile. The missile is well-known; its ultra-long range - reported as being up to 186 miles - is well-suited to the MiG-31, Russia's primary long-range interceptor, which sports a special, powerful radar that can use the R-37M to maximum effect.

However, the R-37M is new to the Su-35S, a derivative of the Su-27 with some seriously impressive upgrades making it almost as capable as the new Su-57. [Izvestiya reported in April the Su-35S had begun](#) captive-carry tests with the R-37M to test how well it integrates with the aircraft, but this is the first time one has been seen being fired by the jet.

[The Su-57 has also been tested as a platform](#) for the ultra-long-range missile.

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Amid Debate Over Purpose, Pentagon Delays Request for E-4B 'Doomsday Plane'  
Replacement  
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The US Air Force has canceled a planned announcement that it would begin receiving proposals for a replacement to the aging E-4B Nightwatch, a modified Boeing 747 that could take over the Pentagon's duties in the event of a nuclear conflict.

A request for proposals originally planned to be announced in December has been indefinitely delayed and for unknown reasons, [the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center said in an update](#) to a posting on government contract site beta.SAM.gov on Friday.

The Nightwatches are a class of four aircraft, highly modified Boeing 747 airliners intended to host the secretary of defense and become a mobile command post in case the Pentagon is destroyed in a conflict, being specially modified to survive the electromagnetic pulse of a nuclear blast. However, in the absence of a nuclear war, the Nightwatches have become the secretary of defense's typical air transport, since they provide the secretary with the ability to work "in the office" even while traveling.

This has left its mark on the jets, however, and the aging planes are [spending considerable amounts of time in repair or storage](#) to make sure they can fly in the coming years if they are actually needed, and their secondary job of ferrying the Pentagon chief has been passed to other aircraft, like the C-32.

As a result, [the Air Force sought some \\$16.6 million in December 2019](#) to explore replacing the aircraft, with the successor being dubbed the Survivable Airborne Operations Center (SAOC). It had planned to unveil that competition this coming December in order to kick off the design competition in 2021, but that has now been delayed.

[According to Military.com, at least part of the reason](#) might be an ongoing dispute with the US Navy over whether or not to roll the duties of the E-6B Mercury, an aircraft that shares the moniker "doomsday plane," into the SAOC. [Defense One noted in 2017](#) that US President Donald Trump had set aside \$7.8 million to develop a "uniformly-configured aircraft."

Like the Nightwatches, the Mercury fleet are modified airliners - in this case Boeing 707s - intended to become mobile command posts in case of conflict or an attack on the homeland.

However, while the Nightwatch would become an ersatz Pentagon, directing the fight from high above, [the Mercury's job is to relay launch orders](#) to the country's nuclear arsenal, especially the 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines silently prowling the world's oceans.

Both aircraft have been flying since the 1970s, making the E-4Bs among the oldest 747s still in use, [along with the president's own Air Force One](#) fleet.

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Facebook Bans All Pages, Groups & Instagram Accounts Linked to QAnon  
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Social media giant Facebook announced on Tuesday it was banning all groups, pages and Instagram accounts associated with the conspiracy theory-peddling movement QAnon. "Starting today, we will remove Facebook Pages, Groups and Instagram accounts for representing QAnon. We're starting to enforce this updated policy today and are removing content accordingly, but this work will take time and will continue in the coming days and weeks," [Facebook said in a Tuesday news release](#). "Our Dangerous Organizations Operations team will continue to enforce this policy and proactively detect content for removal instead of relying on user reports."

The change was an update to an effort begun in August "to disrupt the ability of QAnon and Militarized Social Movements to operate and organize on our platform," the update notes. According to Facebook, the social media site took down more than 1,500 QAnon groups and pages in the first month alone for discussing potential violence, and another 6,500 pages and groups tied to more than 300 Militarized Social Movements, which it does not expand upon but later notes includes groups associated with the left-wing anti-fascist ideology Antifa. [In July, Twitter began a similar crackdown](#) on QAnon content.

QAnon is a conspiracy theory that grew out of the dark corners of internet chat forums like 8chan, and alleges that US President Donald Trump is doing battle with a cabal of Satan-worshiping, deep-state elites that includes politicians such as Hillary Clinton and investor George Soros, as well as Hollywood stars, who together run a massive child sex-trafficking ring and cannibalistic cult. Other ideas the group reportedly spreads are [that the COVID-19 pandemic is a hoax](#) or that [industrial bleach is an effective treatment for the virus](#).

NBC has noted that in response to these moves by the social media giants, QAnon adherents have begun camouflaging their messaging by dropping the QAnon label and adopting a "save the children" message in reference to the alleged sex trafficking.

"Q is getting more mainstream, more acceptable, and more vanilla," [conspiracy researcher Mike Rothschild told NBC last month](#). "Rebranding as '#Savethechildren,' 'wake up,' or 'fight the deep state' are all messages that a lot of people can get behind without the weird numerology and belief that JFK Jr. is coming back to life."

In response to the ban, Rothschild wrote on Twitter on Tuesday that the ban wouldn't end QAnon, but it might slow down its spread.

"I'm already seeing people assuming that QAnon is dead without Facebook. Talk to actual Q believers. Read what they write. Watch their videos. These people think they're fighting the minions of Satan to save the world. A ban will push some of them away, but not all," he wrote. "My hope, ultimately, is that a Facebook ban flattens Q's growth and spread into other conspiracy spheres. That would be a great start."

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## 'Persistent Eye in the Sky': Spy Drones Deployed Abroad Are Being Modified to Police US Cities

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Spy drones developed for use in US foreign wars have begun appearing over US cities as police forces and defense contractors push for new, lucrative contracts. One peace activist told Sputnik that the fights against their use abroad and their use at home should never have been separate, and are intricately linked to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Long before the Black Lives Matter uprisings swept American cities in May and June of 2020, police forces across the United States were pursuing more and more surveillance drone technology. While smaller, helicopter-style drones have made some headway with police, more recently, fixed-wing surveillance drones like [General Atomics' MQ-9B SkyGuardian](#) are coming closer to large-scale domestic use.

The SkyGuardian is a version of the MQ-9A Reaper, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that replaced the MQ-1 Predator as the Pentagon's chief weapon in its [undeclared wars across the Middle East and North Africa](#). Reapers are used to carry out airstrikes in Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan and even Iraq, as when [a Reaper was used to assassinate Iranian Quds Force commander](#) Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani and several leading Iraqi military leaders in January. However, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has for years stood in the way of large-scale, semi-autonomous domestic drone use, with unarmed Predators being limited to the southwestern deserts along the US border with Mexico.

Part of that is that the software governing the UAVs is unproven, but companies like helicopter maker Sikorsky, owned by giant Lockheed Martin, [have developed the MATRIX software that could one day lead](#) to semi-autonomous passenger aircraft. Sikorsky and General Atomics have been working with the FAA "to update its rules for the age of ubiquitous unmanned flight" with the hopes of having the SkyGuardian certified to fly [in American skies by 2025, according to Defense One](#).

General Atomics "has really been salivating with this idea of spy drones that could be used by police departments in the United States," peace group Code Pink co-founder Medea Benjamin, [who co-authored a recent story on the subject in Salon](#), told [Radio Sputnik's Fault Lines](#) on Tuesday.

[Interview starts at 85:55]

"There are thousands and thousands of police departments so imagine the kinds of profits they could reap if they were able to sell these," Benjamin told cohosts Shane Stranahan and Jamarl Thomas.

Noting the SkyGuardian UAV is described as a "persistent eye in the sky," Benjamin said it could take "minute-by-minute videos that get stored to be able to see every movement of everybody below them. There are civil liberties groups like the ACLU [American Civil Liberties Union] and Electronic Frontier Foundation [that have been fighting this and trying to get laws passed](#) in different states to stop this from happening. But still, this is controversial, and the verdict is not in yet about whether this might be our future. Of course, a lot depends on what the American people will tolerate," she explained.

However, she cautioned that [police forces have already adopted smaller drones](#) over the last decade, such as the Zenmuse Z30, built by Chinese drone-maker Dà-Jiāng Innovations (DJI), a

Shenzhen-based company [now under fire as part of Washington's larger push](#) against Chinese tech giants by alleging they could furnish user data to the Communist Party of China.

Benjamin noted that not only have civil liberties groups fought back against these practices in court, but protests such as Black Lives Matter demonstrations, which have coalesced around demands to defund police forces' massive budgets, affect police abilities to obtain and use expensive surveillance drones as well.

"People got very angry" about several spy drones being spotted over protests in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in May and June, where the spark of the present wave of protests first caught tinder, Benjamin said. They "contacted their elected representatives and their police departments and said, 'Why are these drones, which are drones that were designed to be along the borders - which we should be protesting against as well - why are they flying over our cities?'"

"This isn't a left-right issue; there are many people who would consider themselves conservatives who don't want the government spying on them, who want a smaller government, who believe in civil liberties. So there has been already a lot of pushback," Benjamin told Sputnik. She further noted [the original test demonstration of the SkyGuardian in San Diego](#) received so much pushback from the community that its stated purpose was changed to "mapping of critical infrastructure."

Benjamin said the chickens have come home to roost in a way, as the SkyGuardian becomes just the latest weapon of war deployed abroad for years with minimal opposition in the US [to be brought home to be used against US citizens](#).

"This is part of the surveillance that has been going on and the militarization" of the US border with Mexico "that predates Trump. When there has been permission to use these very large and sophisticated drones only at the borders. Then people say, 'Oh, well, we got to protect ourselves from the southern hordes who want to come in and invade our country.' And then, slowly but surely, you see those very same drones being seconded to police departments in different states and then used, as I mentioned, when there are protests happening," Benjamin said.

"So, these things that we fail to protest when they're killing people in Yemen and Afghanistan and Iraq and Syria then come to our borders and then from our borders, it's very easy for them to creep into our cities."

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Video: Hazmat-Fitted Cleaners Sanitize White House as Positive COVID-19 Cases Spike by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

Triggering a collective raising of eyebrows at the White House late Monday, a cleaning crew sporting protective hazmat suits was spotted sanitizing various parts of the presidential residence, including the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room.

Footage of the curious incident was captured and subsequently shared on social media by reporters just a few hours after [US President Donald Trump returned to the White House](#) following a [brief hospital stay over his positive COVID-19 diagnosis](#).

It's unclear what specific cleaner was used to sanitize the designated areas; however, footage does show the substance being sprayed throughout the briefing room and the White House press area by an employee.

— Dan Zak (@MrDanZak) [October 6, 2020](#)

The shift in cleaning procedures marks a first for the White House, as employees had previously not opted to use such suits or spray maneuvers.

Erin Scott, a photojournalist working in the White House and on Capitol Hill, [noted in a late Monday tweet](#) that “after Trump returned to the White House with COVID-19, the same day Press Sec [Kayleigh] McEnany tested positive, we stumbled upon this in the briefing room.” At present, over a dozen individuals among Trump’s family, inner circle and government advisers have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, with the most recent being top White House aide Stephen Miller, [who noted in a statement that he is currently self-isolating](#). Recently, Vice Commandant of the US Coast Guard Adm. Charles Ray’s positive diagnosis prompted several members of the Pentagon’s senior leadership, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, to self-quarantine, [Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr reported Tuesday](#).

With the White House slowly becoming a new hotspot for the respiratory disease, alarms recently sounded off after reports indicated that the administration [would not be conducting contact tracing on all individuals](#) who were present at the Rose Garden event for Judge Amy Coney Barrett, Trump’s nominee to fill the sole empty seat on the US Supreme Court. At least 11 individuals who attended the September 26 event have tested positive for COVID-19.

In fact, [congressional lawmakers submitted a letter Tuesday](#) to Mark Meadows, the White House chief of staff, demanding that the Trump administration “release a total number of positive tests among White House personnel,” and that it expedite contact tracing so as to identify all individuals who have come in contact with the president, among other requests. The New York Times’ Maggie Haberman [recently reported](#) that the White House “resembled a ghost town” on Tuesday, as many staffers have opted to stay home and self-quarantine. “A culture of nervousness replaced a culture of negligence about precautions against the virus, led by Mr. Trump, that has infused the White House since March,” she wrote. “The White House communications and press shops were bereft of people.”

Citing sources familiar with the matter, Haberman indicated that a televised address to the nation was being considered by Trump, but that he was “still sounding somewhat short of breath in conversations.”

Trump returned to the White House late Monday after doctors determined that it was safe for him to do so, though he is not “entirely out of the woods” with regard to COVID-19, according to White House physician Dr. Sean Conley. Questions regarding the president’s health have only continued to surge after video footage of a photo-op outside the White House appeared to show [Trump experiencing shortness of breath](#).

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## Legendary Guitarist Eddie Van Halen Dead at 65 From Throat Cancer

Legendary Dutch-American rock star Eddie Van Halen died on Tuesday at the age of 65 after a decades-long battle with throat cancer.

The talented guitarist and co-founder of the iconic 1980s rock band Van Halen died on Tuesday at the St. Johns Hospital in Santa Monica, California, with his wife, Janie, his son, Wolfgang, and his brother Alex, by his side, [TMZ reported](#).

Sources with direct contact with the rock star told TMZ that Van Halen's health had severely deteriorated in the last 72 hours, with doctors discovering that the cancer had spread to his brain and other organs.

Wolfgang confirmed his father's death on Twitter with a [statement](#) that reads: "He was the best father I could ever ask for. Every moment I've shared with him on and off stage was a gift. My heart is broken and I don't think I'll ever fully recover from this loss."

Van Halen's long battle with cancer, which many suggest was result of heavy smoking, saw the musician undergo surgery in 2000 to remove part of his tongue. Last year, the iconic rock guitarist flew between Germany and the US to receive radiation treatment for cancer and was admitted to the hospital over the last year for intestinal issues, TMZ reported.

Despite health issues, Van Halen continued to attend concerts and play music with his son, who became the band's bassist in 2006.

The legendary musician formed the Van Halen rock group in 1972 with his brother Alex on drums, Michael Anthony on bass and David Lee Roth on vocals. The iconic guitarist - who among many other accomplishments played the classic guitar solo on Michael Jackson's 'Beat It' - was the group's primary songwriter.

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## Scientists Find 2,000-Year-Old Intact Brain Cells of Man Killed During Vesuvius Eruption

A team of Italian researchers has uncovered intact brain cells in the skull of a man who died nearly 2,000 years ago during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the city of Herculaneum, which was buried by ash.

The man was believed to be around 20 years old when he died in the eruption, which took place in 79 AD.

In a [study](#) published in January in the New England Journal of Medicine, the researchers concluded that the hot ash from the volcanic eruption charred the man's brain through a process known as vitrification.

Vitrification refers to the transformation of a substance into glass and usually occurs when heated materials liquidize and are then cooled so rapidly that they form a glassy solid.

The site reached temperatures higher than 500 degrees Celsius, which was hot enough to vaporize brain tissues and turn them into black glass.

The man's corpse and vitrified brain were found in a wooden bed in a building known as the Collegium Augustalium in the 1960s.

Researchers continued to study the man's vitrified brain using an electron microscope. The [latest study](#), published in the journal PLOS One, reveals that the man's brain still contains intact neurons. In other words, the researchers found proteins that typically exist in human brain tissue and fatty acids found in hair that indicated "thermally induced preservation" of the brain tissue, according to the January study.

"The discovery of brain tissue in ancient human remains is an unusual event," Pier Paolo Petrone, a forensic anthropologist at the University of Naples Federico II involved in both studies, said in a statement, according to [USA Today](#). "But what is extremely rare is the integral preservation of neuronal structures of a 2,000-years-ago central nervous system, in our case at an unprecedented resolution."

"This opens up the room for studies of these ancient people that have never been possible," Petrone added.

Researchers have also found intact nerve cells in the man's spinal cord, which was vitrified during the volcanic eruption.

"The perfect state of preservation of these structures is due to the unique process of vitrification which occurred at Herculaneum. The discovery of proteins whose genes are expressed in the different region of the human adult brain further agree with the neuronal origin of the unusual archaeological find," the researchers concluded in the most recent study.

The latest findings may shed light on the vitrification process, Petrone added, which could be integral to understanding the risk of a "possible future eruption of Vesuvius, the most dangerous volcano in the world, which looms over 3 million inhabitants of Naples and its surroundings."

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Israeli Couple Fined After Having Sex Near Beach, Violating COVID-19 Orders  
Pixabay/CC0

A couple engaging in sexual relations at a restaurant near a beach in Rishon LeZion in southern Israel was slapped with four fines on Saturday for breaking multiple COVID-19 regulations. According to the Jerusalem Post, the couple was apprehended and fined by police for walking along the beach without masks. The couple refused to wear masks even after being asked to do so by police, claiming that they lived near the beach. However, a security check by the officers revealed that the couple did not live together or near the beach, [the Post reported](#).

Shortly afterward, an employee at a closed restaurant witnessed the couple having sex on one of the tables set up outside the establishment. Security officers arrived at the scene and realized it was the same couple that had been fined earlier. The couple was once again fined for not wearing masks and violating COVID-19 regulations.

Under regulations for the country-wide lockdown, which went into effect before September 18, professional athletes and individuals exercising by themselves are the only ones that can be present at the beach without masks.

The regulations also stipulate that people must remain at least 6.5 feet apart.

Israel became the first country to reimpose nationwide lockdown measures last month, [the New York Times reported](#).

The latest data by [Johns Hopkins University](#) shows that there have been more than 277,000 cases of the novel coronavirus reported in Israel, and almost 1,800 related deaths.

In the last week, Israel has seen highs of 9,000 new cases daily and maintains one of the world's worst outbreaks on a per capita basis. In addition, its ultra-Orthodox community, which comprises about 10% of the population, accounts for more than one-third of the country's total cases, [AP reported](#).

The ultra-Orthodox community has also claimed in recent weeks they are being unjustly targeted by authorities, pointing to the large weekly protests, mostly by secular Israelis, against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of the pandemic. The government has approved temporary restrictions on protests, allowing groups of up to 20 people, all wearing masks and standing 2 meters apart, to protest no further than a kilometer from their homes.

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News COVID-19 Might Spread Via Air Vexes 'Interface Between Science And Policy' - Epidemiologist

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Monday updated its guidelines to note that COVID-19 may spread through airborne transmission. Kumi Smith, assistant professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of Minnesota, joined Radio Sputnik Tuesday to discuss the new guidance.

According to the [new CDC guidelines](#), "Some infections can be spread by exposure to virus in small droplets and particles that can linger in the air for minutes to hours. These viruses may be able to infect people who are further than 6 feet away from the person who is infected or after that person has left the space."

The new guidelines add that there is also some evidence that infections have occurred between people who were more than 6 feet apart within enclosed spaces with inadequate ventilation. In some of these cases, the infected person was breathing heavily while singing or exercising, for instance.

"When you have a large concentration of patients who are confirmed positive, staying in hospitals, getting invasive treatments for long periods of time, it's important to control the possibility of transmission through the air," Smith told [Political Misfits hosts](#) Michelle Witte and Bob Schlehner.

"So there has always been, in hospitals and in infectious disease wards, ventilation systems - not just for COVID but for all respiratory infections, to ensure that the air gets pulled out of that room and then sort of ejected into the sky outside of the hospital, where it will be defused and where it won't hurt anyone," she explained. "So, in hospital settings, precautions are always taken for any respiratory infection."

"It does seem it will probably affect how people feel about how they carry out daily, day-to-day activities, because we all do spend time with each other indoors," Smith added.

The CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19 may be undergoing frequent changes because there is still a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the virus, she said.

"I think one of the challenges is not so much, within the science community, what's true or not. We're very comfortable with uncertainty; that's how scientific knowledge is built. I think that [in] the interface, between science and policy, that there's a lot of discomfort. We're just not quite sure what to make yet of risk," Smith said.

"The public would love if we could slap a number on exactly how risky it is when you have this many people in a room for that amount of time, and the fact is that we are really just backing into our knowledge about this," she added, noting that one of the two main methods of studying the risk of aerosol transmission is through experiments in lab settings.

"The second way that we're getting this type of information is from case studies," she added, also noting that scientists still think that the virus is most frequently transmitted through close contact.

"We still do think that the main way this is transmitted is through close contact, face to face, from talking to each other, unmasked. We don't think it's as easily transmitted on surfaces," Smith explained.

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Video: Brawl Erupts Aboard US Flight After Traveler Wearing Face Shield Refuses Mask  
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Allegiant Air has confirmed that a passenger who insisted on wearing only a face shield on a Utah-bound flight from Arizona started a physical fight with another passenger while being escorted off the aircraft on October 3.

Allegiant Air Flight 607 from Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport in Mesa, Arizona, to Provo Municipal Airport in Provo, Utah, had a hiccup in its itinerary after one passenger, identified as 52-year-old Rio James Honaker, allegedly refused to wear a face mask.

Rylie Lansford, known on Instagram as bakedbyrylie, [posted her recollection](#) of the altercation and a brief clip of the incident.

"He has a face shield on so he doesn't think he needs to wear an additional mask," she said of Honaker, who refused to wear a face mask.

Soon after, another passenger intervened and yelled, "It's called COVID." Lansford noted that the heckler was distressed because he was on the flight to visit his mother in hospice care.

"You could just feel that something physical was going to start happening," she said.

A number of male passengers can be seen intervening to separate the two men after the older man elbows the heckler in the head.

"While the passenger was being escorted off the plane, he had an altercation with another passenger. Law enforcement was called to assist," said Allegiant Air in an [emailed statement to the Arizona Republic](#).

"Face coverings are required throughout travel, including at the ticket counter and in the gate area, as well as during flight," the airline detailed, also noting that it does not allow face coverings "with exhalation valves, holes (such as lace or mesh), neck gaiters and bandanas. Face shields may be worn in addition to a face covering, but not as an alternative."

This information is also available on the [airline's website](#).

Mesa Police Det. Jason Flam confirmed to the outlet that Mesa Police Department officers responded to the incident and removed Honaker, a resident of American Fork, Utah, from the flight because he became "confrontational with a flight attendant when asked multiple times to put a mask on."

Authorities say that Honaker told the heckling passenger to "mind your own [expletive] business" at one point in their exchange.

Honaker is now facing a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct.

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Dow Plunges 375 Points After Trump Calls Off COVID-19 Stimulus Talks  
by [Evan Craighead](#)

The US stock market took a dive on Tuesday, shortly after US President Donald Trump announced via social media that the "economy is doing very well" and he had ordered an end to stimulus negotiations until after the presidential election.

At closing, the Dow Jones Industrial Average index, which had previously enjoyed a 205-point gain, fell by 375.88 points, or 1.3%, whereas the S&P 500 plummeted 1.4%. The Nasdaq Composite dropped by 1.6%.

The New York Stock Exchange saw the indices instantly take a plunge into red territory after Trump revealed that he'd called on officials to end all COVID-19 stimulus talks.

"I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major Stimulus Bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and Small Business," he said at 2:48 p.m. local time, less than two hours before the day's trading was set to close.

Trump [also detailed](#) that he asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to "focus full time on approving my outstanding nominee to the United States Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett."

"Our Economy is doing very well. The Stock Market is at record levels, JOBS and unemployment ... also coming back in record numbers. We are leading the World in Economic Recovery, and THE BEST IS YET TO COME!"

"Today, once again, President Trump showed his true colors: putting himself first at the expense of the country, with the full complicity of the GOP Members of Congress," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) [said in a statement published 30 minutes](#) before the stock market closed Tuesday.

"Walking away from coronavirus talks demonstrates that President Trump is unwilling to crush the virus, as is required by the Heroes Act."

She contended that the US president “refuses to give real help to poor children, the unemployed and America’s hard working families.”

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Videos: US Couple Indicted After Brandishing, Pointing Firearms at Protesters  
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Mark and Patricia McCloskey, the gun-wielding couple that made national headlines for brandishing their weapons at protesters back in June, were indicted Tuesday by a grand jury on a variety of charges that stemmed from their viral stance against Missouri demonstrators. Appearing in the Carnahan Courthouse in downtown St. Louis, Missouri, the McCloskeys were indicted on separate charges of exhibiting guns at the June 28 protest and tampering with a weapon. At the time, the pair pointed their firearms against St. Louis demonstrators who were marching toward the home of Democratic Mayor Lyda Krewson.

“What you’re witnessing here in this case is just an opportunity for the government, the leftist, Democrat government of the city of St. Louis to persecute us for doing no more than exercising our Second Amendment rights. Every single human being who was in front of my house was a criminal trespasser,” Mark McCloskey said following the hearing, as [reported by Kansas City’s Fox 4](#).

The couple told authorities that protesters broke the iron gate that leads to Portland Place, a private street. They have maintained that the demonstrators forced open the gate at their home prior to the recording of now-viral footage of the confrontation.

Protesters have said otherwise.

“To be very clear, the gate was open. When we came off Kingshighway, the gate was open. As soon as protesters came through the open gate, the man and woman came out of their home. He came out first and was on the balcony,” said ExpectUs organizer Reverend Darryl Gray during a June 29 [interview with local St. Louis outlet KSDK](#).

“We could see the rifle, people began to shout, ‘He has a gun!’ People continued through the gate,” Gray said.

“For them to come out there with their guns drawn, there was absolutely no reason at all,” he added.

Though no shots were fired, the McCloskeys have claimed that they feared for their lives, and two weapons, a semi-automatic .223-caliber rifle and another firearm, have been confiscated from their possession by police.

The couple recently appeared in a [pre-taped address at the Republican National Convention](#), arguing that they were [charged with felonies](#) for defending their home, while “not a single person in the out-of-control mob you saw at our house was charged with a crime.”

The hearing for the McCloskeys’ case has been postponed until October 14.

**This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.**

Biden Says Second Debate With Trump Shouldn't Happen 'If He Still Has COVID'  
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Democratic presidential nominee and former US Vice President Joe Biden appears to have changed his opinion on the slated October 15 debate against US President Donald Trump, telling reporters that the next debate will be contingent on 45's COVID-19 novel coronavirus test results.

"If he still has COVID we shouldn't have a debate," Biden told reporters on the road with him, [as reported by Reuters](#).

The former vice president's Tuesday evening comments appear to conflict with remarks he delivered to reporters before boarding a Florida-bound plane Tuesday morning.

"If the scientists say that it's safe and the distances are safe, then I think that's fine," said Biden to reporters, [according to CBS News](#). "I'll do whatever the experts say is the appropriate thing to do."

Dr. Sean Conley, Trump's personal physician, [detailed on Monday](#) that the US president "may not be entirely out of the woods yet" when it comes to his COVID-19-related illnesses.

Nevertheless, Trump continues to assert that he is in great health and is [up for next week's debate](#) against Biden in Miami, Florida.

Speculation surrounding the president's health has persisted since he [left the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center](#) in Bethesda, Maryland, on Monday.

Despite [Trump's upbeat social media presence](#), many, including local emergency care physician Dr. J. Randall Curtis, speculate Trump likely received the steroid dexamethasone because he had, or still has, pneumonia.

"So I haven't seen his chest X-rays," said Curtis to Seattle, Washington, [outlet KIRO 7](#). "But in general, and for most patients, if they need oxygen, it's because the COVID is in the lungs and causing pneumonia."

"If you look at all patients who have been hospitalized with COVID, the ones who don't need oxygen actually don't seem to benefit from dexamethasone. In fact, there may even be some harm. But if they need oxygen and have pneumonia, then dexamethasone has been shown to have some benefit in improving survival."

The upcoming Wednesday debate between US Vice President Mike Pence and Democratic vice-presidential nominee Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) ran into other health-related concerns on Tuesday, as the vice president's team argued that the addition of plexiglass barriers between the debaters was unnecessary.

Marc Short, Pence's chief of staff, [told the Associated Press](#) that the vice president "will be there," because the debate is "too important for the American people."

Pence's press secretary [released a memo](#) from US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Robert Redfield that noted the vice president "is not a close contact of any known person with COVID-19."

Pence, Biden and Harris have all recently tested negative for the novel coronavirus.

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Blowing Smoke - Political Cartoon

In an attempt to display his supposed personal victory over COVID-19 after contracting the virus, US President Donald Trump recently gave a bizarre salute to the public while seeming barely able to breathe.

In a strange Monday appearance, the still infected and coronavirus-shedding POTUS removed his facemask and stood for a two-minute photo op on the White House balcony. Trump was visibly out of breath after returning from his weekend stay at Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, to receive treatment for COVID-19.

President Trump removes mask & poses for photos upon arrival to The White House  
[pic.twitter.com/wjVzXg1A2g](https://pic.twitter.com/wjVzXg1A2g)

— Breaking911 (@Breaking911) [October 5, 2020](#)

“Don’t let it dominate your lives,” he told Americans about COVID-19 in a [video he posted to Twitter on Monday](#) after finishing a VIP round of experimental antibody treatment for the illness, which most Americans do not have access to.

Does Trump care about infecting his White House staff? This seems like a great way to establish a new coronavirus hotspot.