

**Monday 10/26/20**

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Dow Nosedives 650 Points Amid Surging US COVID-19 Cases, Dwindling Stimulus Hopes  
by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

US stocks fell sharply on Monday as markets reacted to the massive surge in new COVID-19 cases across the nation amid an ongoing stalemate between politicians regarding economic relief for out-of-work Americans and struggling businesses.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted by 650.19 points, completely wiping away the index's monthly gains. The S&P 500 fell by 64.42 points, and the Nasdaq Composite dipped into red territory with a 189.35-point decline.

As has been the case for many months, travel and leisure stocks are experiencing the hardest hits amid the pandemic and are presently leading the market's dip. Cruise line company Royal Caribbean Group saw its stock devalued by at least 12%, while United Airlines Holdings fell by about 8%.

Elsewhere, European and Asian markets have not fared any better, with many indices closing in the red as a result of new COVID-19 cases and resurging fears of an economic shutdown. Oil prices have also taken a hit due to rising fears regarding a dip in energy demands.

The steep fall into the red territory came after the US documented more than 83,000 new coronavirus cases on both Friday and Saturday, with another 60,789 cases on Sunday, [according to data from Johns Hopkins University](#).

New cases are [spiking in a number of US states](#), including Illinois, Texas, Wisconsin, Tennessee and California. Globally, France, India, Italy and the United Kingdom are reporting massive spikes in case counts.

Frank Rybinski, chief macro strategist at investment firm Aegon Asset Management, [told CNBC](#) that "until we get some eradication of the virus, it's going to be like a gray cloud" over the market.

"To me, this is Phase 2 of the pandemic," he noted.

Pandemic concerns have also been heightened by prolonged, fruitless talks between US politicians over a new economic relief package. Larry Kudlow, White House economic adviser, told the outlet's morning business talk show "Squawk Box" on Monday that negotiations had slowed but are still ongoing.

Earlier this month, hopes that a [\\$2 trillion relief package](#) would be cleared by the Trump administration helped to lift the stock market somewhat; however, optimism began to dim last week as politicians appeared to hit a stalemate on the matter.

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## Spunky Goldendoodle Moves Playpen by Hopping - Video Club

Indigo, a clever goldendoodle from Vail, Colorado, recently proved that nothing will ever hold her back from chow time, even if it means using creative methods to move her playpen closer to the kitchen.

Video shared on Instagram captures the pup's pal Koa munching on some kibble as the ever-playful Indigo is seen hopping inside her playpen so as to move the evil contraption closer to the food.

[In a separate post](#), Chris, Koa's human, explained that the hilarious incident unfolded while the pair were "dog sitting" Indigo, who apparently has to be placed inside the playpen because she eats Koa's food.

Watch out guys, nothing is holding this girl back, especially since she's been [perfecting her hopping skills](#).

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New Photos of US Marine Corps Aircraft Show Extent of Damage Caused by F-35 Collision, Crash Landing  
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

New photos have emerged of the US Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules aircraft that collided with an F-35 fighter jet before crash-landing in a California field last month. The aircraft has had most of its damaged parts removed, leaving a dented, stripped-down hulk.

On Saturday, [The Drive published new photos of what remains](#) of the KC-130J that survived a mid-air collision with an F-35 Lightning II stealth aircraft late last month. Even though much of the plane's nose, wings, propellers and empennage have been removed, the parts that remain are dented, battered and gashed from the violent collision and subsequent crash-landing in which all the crew survived.

According to the outlet, the plane has been transported to Jacqueline Cochran Airport in Thermal, California - [the airfield the Hercules was attempting to limp to on September 29](#) when it belly-landed in a carrot field south of town - and remains chained to the trailer used to haul it there.

Some of the notable damages visible in the photos are the long dent on the plane's starboard side just behind the cockpit, where the airframe began to buckle, likely due to the stress of landing, and the wide gash further back on the same side that likely came from one or more of the propeller blades snapping off and striking the aircraft.

In all, for a plane carrying 60,000 pounds of jet fuel, the Hercules is remarkably intact. The credit for the survival of both plane and crew of four Marines surely goes to the pilots, who kept their cool throughout the episode, [as radio recordings show](#). Here is how the plane appeared in the moments after the landing:

"It was an impressive maneuver bringing it down safely by force," 1st Lt. Brett Vannier, a spokesman at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, from which the aircraft flew, [told the Associated Press on September 30](#). "His skills kind of speak to itself just in the fact that everyone survived." "I think the KC-130 crew did a masterful job of airmanship to get that baby down," retired Marine Corps Col. Pete Field, a former director of the Naval Test Pilot School, told AP. The F-35 pilot also survived, although his plane did not. Locals captured the jet's final moments after the pilot ejected as it plummeted to the ground, exploding in a huge fireball. Little else is known about the incident, such as exactly how the collision occurred, since the Marine Corps is still investigating. Nor is it clear what the KC-130J's fate will be, if it will be rebuilt or scrapped.

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Su-27 Fighter Intercepts French Bombers Over Black Sea - Russian MoD  
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The Russian Ministry of Defense announced on Monday that a Russian Air Force Su-27 fighter had intercepted several French attack aircraft in international airspace over the Black Sea. The Defense Ministry's National Center for Defense Management of the Russian Federation told reporters on Monday that a Russian Su-27 fighter, NATO reporting name "Flanker," had intercepted two French Mirage 2000 bombers as they approached Russian airspace over the Black Sea.

"The crew of the Russian fighter identified the air targets as two Mirage-2000 fighter-bombers of the French Air Force, after which they escorted them over the Black Sea. After the foreign military aircraft turned away from the state border of the Russian Federation, the Russian fighter safely returned to the home base," the center said in a statement.

The small delta-wing multirole Mirage 2000 was introduced by France's Dassault Aviation in 1984 and can carry a variety of bombs, air-to-surface missiles and air-to-air missiles. The Soviet Union introduced the Su-27 the following year, primarily as a supermaneuverable interceptor. The Russian Defense Ministry [also said on Monday another Su-27 had intercepted](#) a German patrol aircraft and a US spy plane over the Baltic Sea.

Earlier this month, [another Russian Su-27 met four British aircraft](#) over the Black Sea, including two Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets, an RC-135W spy plane, and a KS-3 aerial refueling aircraft, and escorted them away from Russian airspace.

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Photos: Donald Trump's Gold-Trimmed Helicopter Goes on Sale  
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The iconic helicopter with “TRUMP” emblazoned on the tail that was once featured in the opening sequence of US President Donald Trump’s hit show “The Apprentice” has now gone on sale, complete with gold-trimmed interior but absent the lettering.

If you ever wanted to own that luxurious, leather-seated, gold and African mahogany-trimmed helicopter belonging to Trump, now is your chance: the aircraft is now on sale for a negotiable price.

Most readers will likely remember the chopper from “The Apprentice,” the hit reality TV show in which contenders rushed to prove themselves able business assets for one of Trump’s many companies. [The helicopter featured regularly in the program](#), including in its opening credits: [The seller’s page on Controller.com was posted](#) by Jet Edge Partners and Aero Asset and says the helicopter is hangared in New Jersey. The aircraft is a Sikorsky S-76B built in 1989 - a common civilian helicopter used by the world’s elites, including the late American basketball star Kobe Bryant, [whose S-76B plummeted from the skies over California](#) earlier this year, killing all aboard.

The aircraft features all the Trump classics, including six leather seats, plenty of African mahogany veneers and gold trim everywhere you look, from the doors to the seat belt fittings. What else would you expect from a chopper that featured in CNBC’s “Secret Lives of the Super Rich” [in a section titled “Pimp My Chopper”?](#)

However, one major feature has been removed: the big “TRUMP” logo painted on the chopper’s tail section.

According to the ad, the aircraft has logged roughly 6,259 hours of flight time.

A price is not listed in the ad, which says to call for a price or to make an offer. However, [the New York Times reported in April 2016](#), as Trump’s campaign for president was gaining real steam, that the helicopter was worth \$875,000. The outlet noted Trump owned two other choppers of the same make.

Trump also used the chopper as part of his campaign, [giving kids helicopter rides at the 2015 Iowa State Fair](#), a major venue for presidential candidates during the primary races where they are expected to make stump speeches to small crowds, press the flesh with would-be voters and do generally endearing things [like downing corn dogs for a scrutinizing mainstream media](#).

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US State Department OKs Possible Sale to Taiwan for 100 Harpoon Defense Systems Amid China Tensions  
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The US State Department has approved the possible sale to Taiwan of 100 Harpoon Coastal Defense Systems and their associated anti-ship missiles - a deal that would cost an estimated \$2.37 billion.

In what could potentially be another massive weapons sale to Taiwan, the US State Department has given its approval to a potential deal to sell Taipei 100 Harpoon Coastal Defense Systems,

400 RGM-84L-4 Harpoon Block II surface-launched anti-ship missiles, four exercise missiles, 25 radar trucks and a host of other related equipment.

According to the Monday [announcement by the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency](#), the deal could cost \$2.37 billion.

The administration of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing Wen [noted its interest in the Harpoon missile systems in May](#). The Republic of China Armed Forces already use the air-launched version of the Harpoon, the AGM-84.

While the RGM-84 is designed to be launched from surface warships, the missile is also capable of being fired from land-based installations or even trucks; however, only the Royal Danish Navy has been known to operate such a system, which was retired in 2003.

On October 21, [the US State Department approved two other massive sales to Taiwan](#): \$436 million in High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) and their missiles and \$1 billion in AGM-84H Standoff Land Attack Missile Expanded Response (SLAM-ER) weapons and related equipment. The SLAM-ER is a land attack derivative of the Harpoon.

Since US President Donald Trump took office in 2017, the US has furnished Taiwan with more than \$15 billion in weapons, including advanced F-16V "Viper" interceptors.

The Chinese government [has strongly protested US weapons sales to Taiwan](#). Beijing views Taiwan as a wayward province in rebellion and part of its sovereign territory, and thus sees US aid to the Taiwanese government as meddling in China's internal affairs. Both Taipei and Beijing claim to be the sole legitimate representatives of the Chinese people, but since the US has officially recognized Beijing in that capacity since 1978 and not Taipei, its aid to Taiwan is seen as a violation of that agreement.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry [has vowed to issue economic sanctions against US defense contractors](#) such as Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Boeing, the latter of which manufactures the Harpoon and associated missiles, for their sales of weapons to Taiwan.

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US Scientists Ignored Soviet Union's Discovery of Water on Moon Decades Ago  
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

On Monday, the US space agency NASA announced its scientists had "for the first time" discovered water on the sunlit surface of the moon. However, the Soviet Union's Luna 24 probe made the discovery in 1976 - a find totally ignored by Western scientists.

According to NASA, scientists at the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) detected water molecules (H<sub>2</sub>O) in Clavius Crater, on the moon's southern hemisphere. The report notes the concentration to be roughly 100 to 412 parts per million, or the equivalent of a 12-ounce water bottle in a cubic meter of soil. That's 100 times less moisture than can be found in the Sahara Desert.

"We had indications that H<sub>2</sub>O – the familiar water we know – might be present on the sunlit side of the Moon," Paul Hertz, director of the Astrophysics Division in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters, [said in the news release](#). "Now we know it is there. This

discovery challenges our understanding of the lunar surface and raises intriguing questions about resources relevant for deep space exploration.”

However, if NASA scientists had read a bit more work from their Soviet colleagues, they might have realized that the Soviet Union’s Luna 24 probe made this discovery in 1976. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) [dispatched dozens of probes to various objects in outer space](#), including the moon and Venus, making major contributions to humanity’s knowledge of the solar system. However, their work was often ill-read by Western scientists.

One paper published in 1978 in *Geokhimiia* (Geochemistry), the monthly scientific journal of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, pretty definitively declared it had discovered water on the lunar surface in the Mare Crisium crater. While it’s titled “[Possible Water in Luna 24 Regolith from the Sea of Crises](#)” in the English edition of the publication, the article by M.V. Akhmanova, B.V. Dementyev & M.N. Markov makes definitive claims about having discovered water.

[According to Arlin Crotts, who was an astronomy professor](#) at Columbia University until his death in 2015, the trio tested soil samples brought from the moon back to Earth by the Luna 24 probe. That probe had drilled two meters down into Mare Crisium and extracted 170 grams of lunar soil. By using infrared absorption spectroscopy, they proved the lunar soil was composed of roughly 0.1% water by mass, with more water appearing further below the surface you went. The Soviet scientists went to great lengths to protect their samples from contamination once they returned to Earth - far more than the United States’ Apollo astronauts - but nonetheless, the Soviet trio “were not willing to stake their reputations on an absolute statement that terrestrial contamination was completely avoided,” though they noted they took “every possible precaution” to protect it, Crotts wrote in 2012.

Despite this, according to Crotts, by 2012 their work had not been cited a single time. In NASA’s news release on Monday, the US government space agency makes clear that when they refer to previous “indications” water might be present on the sunlit side of the moon, they are referring to US efforts in the 1990s, such as the 1994 Clementine spacecraft and 1998 Lunar Prospector orbiter, not to any Soviet finding.

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Amy Coney Barrett Sworn in as Supreme Court Justice  
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The US Senate has confirmed the appointment of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill the seat previously held by the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg as an associate justice on the US Supreme Court.

By a vote of 52 to 48, the Republican-controlled US Senate approved US President Donald Trump’s appointment of the 48-year-old Barrett, a federal appeals court judge from Indiana, to become the newest US Supreme Court justice.

Just one Republican dissented from the majority: Sen. Susan Collins of Maine.

The decision gives conservatives on the court a decisive 6-3 majority.

Just over an hour later Barrett was sworn in as Supreme Court Justice in a ceremony at the White House.

Barrett's appointment, just over a week before the US presidential election on November 3, was strongly opposed by Democrats, who argued in Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell's \(R-KY\) own words from 2016](#) that "the American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president."

"This is something to be really proud of and feel good about," [McConnell said on Sunday, scoffing at fears](#) of a growing politicization of the judicial branch that "they won't be able to do much about this for a long time to come."

The September 26 event in the White House Rose Garden at which Trump announced his nomination of Barrett to fill the vacancy left by Ginsburg, who died on September 18 from colon cancer, [became a "super-spreader" event after several attendees with COVID-19](#) passed the disease to at least 34 White House staffers and attendees, [according to a memo obtained by ABC News](#).

With just 53 seats in the 100-person Senate, Republicans would have struggled to push through Barrett's confirmation without winning over several of their Democratic colleagues if McConnell had not engineered a rule change in April 2017 that made passing nominees require a simple 50-person majority instead of the 60-person majority previously mandated.

The so-called ["nuclear option" was used to end a Democratic filibuster](#) blocking confirmation of Trump's first Supreme Court appointee, Justice Neil Gorsuch.

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'Significant Surge': US States Struggle to Contain COVID-19 as New Cases Spike

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Monday reported that the US has recorded a total of more than 8.6 million cases of COVID-19, and the virus continues to ravage the nation.

According to the [CDC](#), there have been more than 224,000 deaths in the US due to COVID-19. A tally by the [New York Times](#) shows that at least 339 new coronavirus deaths and over 59,000 new cases were reported in the United States on October 25.

Over the last week, there has been an average of around 69,814 cases per day in the US, which marks a 32% increase compared to two weeks earlier. In the last week alone, there have been more than 481,000 new COVID-19 cases in the US, according to a [USA Today tally](#), setting a record for the most cases reported in one week since the pandemic started.

Several states, including Illinois, Tennessee, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Nebraska and Utah, have seen record numbers of cases in the last week. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the [state's case activity is very high](#). Despite this, a three-judge panel in Wisconsin's Third District ruled 2-1 on Friday to reinstate a temporary injunction blocking an order Governor Tony Evers issued earlier this month to reduce public interaction in an attempt to curb the virus' spread, [the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported](#).

The state has also opened a field hospital at State Fair Park, which admitted its second patient on Friday. With an average of more than 3,000 cases each day just in the last week in Wisconsin, contact tracers are struggling to keep up, [USA Today reported](#).

New Mexico is also seeing a record number of infections and has recorded more than 41,000 total cases of the [virus as of Monday](#).

Dr. David Pitcher, executive physician for the University of New Mexico Health System, warned residents over the surging cases.

"We are in the middle of a relatively significant surge of patients," Pitcher noted, [KRQE reported](#).

"Now more than ever we need to double down on simple measures to help make a difference."

As of Monday afternoon, the Dow Jones Industrial Average index was down by more than 800 points amid the surge in COVID-19 cases in the US and ongoing stalemate between politicians regarding a stimulus package to aid Americans and struggling businesses.

"There continue to be wide swaths of the US economy which simply cannot get back to normal in a worsening pandemic, including travel, leisure, entertainment, restaurants and bricks-and-mortar retailing," David Kelly, chief global strategist at JP Morgan Funds, [told NPR on Monday](#).

Despite the increase in cases, congressional lawmakers and the White House remain at odds on another economic stimulus bill.

"The failure of Congress and the administration to agree on a further stimulus package before the election will likely result in more small-business closures and state and local layoffs in the fourth quarter, along with some slowing in consumer spending on the basics," Kelly noted.

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Video: US Cops Confiscate, Then Return PPE Dispensed to New York City Voters  
Pixabay/CC0

Officers with the New York Police Department (NYPD) stunned locals from New York City's Brooklyn borough over the weekend after they confiscated and then returned personal protective equipment (PPE) handed out to voters at a polling site.

According to [ABC7](#), community activists were handing out PPE, hand sanitizer, COVID-19-focused flyers and voter information to voters Saturday at a polling site at the Miccio Center in Brooklyn's Red Hook neighborhood.

The [department revealed on Twitter](#) that its law enforcement officials confiscated the items "at the request of election officials" after officers asked the community activists to "comply with election rules."

"After refusing to comply their property was removed. Upon further discussion, they agreed to relocate to an appropriate area, and their property was returned," the NYPD said in a tweet.

The NYPD later revealed to the outlet that the community activists were confronted by officers because the group handing out the equipment was "blaring loud music within ten feet of the door and refused the request of New York Election Officials to move an appropriate distance."

"Police were asked to assist and did," the authorities added in their statement.

New York City Council Member Carlos Menchaca - who represents Red Hook and other parts of Brooklyn - community leaders and community activists held a news conference Sunday in Red Hook to discuss the incident, with activists involved requesting assurances from the NYPD that a similar incident won't occur again, ABC7 reported.

"We need election protection and under no circumstances allow voter suppression or intimidation by police actions," Menchaca told ABC7.

"The incident, captured on camera, has brought to light the need for immediate action, clarity and new training during this tense election season. New Yorkers have the right to film enforcement interactions," Menchaca added.

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'Political Instrument': Erdogan Using French Row to Present Himself as 'Major Leader of Sunni Islam'

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has urged Turks to boycott French goods after French President Emmanuel Macron called for a tougher stance on radical Islam. Gilbert Mercier, editor-in-chief of News Junkie Post, joined Radio Sputnik's Political Misfits to discuss how Erdogan is using Islam as a "political instrument."

In a televised speech on Monday, Erdogan urged citizens not to buy French-labeled goods, stating that Muslims are now "subjected to a lynch campaign similar to that against Jews in Europe before World War II," [BBC reported](#).

Over the weekend, Erdogan also said that Macron needs a mental health check after Macron said that state secularism is imperative to France's national identity and vowed that the country would not give up political caricatures and cartoons last week.

He also announced that the government would introduce a bill in December to fortify a 1905 law that separates religion from the state.

According to Mercier, the rift between Ankara and Paris began after the [October 16 beheading of Samuel Paty](#), a teacher who had shown cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad to his students. Depictions of the prophet are considered blasphemous by many followers of Islam.

Paty was killed in the Conflans-Sainte-Honorine suburb of Paris by Abdoullakh Abouyedovich Anzorov, an 18-year-old Muslim refugee. Anzorov was shot and killed by police minutes after killing Paty.

"Of course as you mentioned, a trigger was the beheading of a French history teacher that was a couple of weeks ago. He had shown a caricature of Prophet Muhammad in his classroom to illustrate the importance of free speech," Mercier [told show hosts Bob Schiehuber and Michelle Witte on Monday](#).

"The call to boycott French products is also mixed with various invectives against Macron," Mercier added.

"It seems to me that what needs to be done on all sides is to defuse a potentially explosive situation and that is not happening ... Needless to say, Erdogan's comments on Macron's

supposed mental illness, that's not helping," he continued, adding that Erdogan has supported Qatar and Saudi Arabia in advocating Sunni Islam.

"Erdogan is trying to use the religion and this diplomatic skirmish for his own political benefit ... he is presenting himself as the major leader of Sunni Islam. In fact, Erdogan is catering to Turks' nostalgia for the Ottoman Empire," Mercier explained.

"He's using Islam as a political instrument. That's what he's doing," he added.

In a statement Sunday, the French Foreign Ministry called the proposed boycotts against French products in the Middle East "baseless."

"These calls for boycott are baseless and should stop immediately, as well as all attacks against our country, which are being pushed by a radical minority," the statement said, [France24 reported](#).

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Photo: US Navy Veteran Captures Image of 'Opaque' UFO Over North Carolina Mountainside by [Evan Craighead](#)

An 88-year-old US Navy veteran says fellow seasoned pilots have been unable to explain the "huge kite with a tail" he spotted above the North Carolina mountains earlier this year.

"It was hard to tell the size," Charles Cobb, a pilot with 45 years of experience, expressed to the Charlotte Observer.

The US veteran explained that he was checking on his 1940 Piper Cub plane at the Silver Creek Airport in Morganton, North Carolina, on June 12 when he spotted the object dropping to approximately 15,000 feet before then shooting up to some 30,000 feet.

"The fact that it could zoom up almost out of sight," showed that it was something out of the ordinary, he said.

To the best of his recollection, Cobb assessed the foreign object to be "a huge kite with a tail." He also noted the presumed craft had an "opaque" center.

Unfortunately, only one of the photos produced by the 88-year-old was made available by the Charlotte Observer. It's unclear if he captured video footage of the object, but he claims to have watched it for 15 to 20 minutes.

The photograph was taken at 11:18 a.m. local time.

Bernard Arghiere, board advisor with the Astronomy Club of Asheville, confirmed to the Charlotte Observer that there is no known astronomical event that occurred on that date.

"There is no reported astronomical object, certainly not a comet, in the sky that would appear that bright on that June 12, 2020, date," Arghiere said in an email. "There were no comets then that would be that bright, so they would be visible in the daytime sky."

At the same time, the expert expressed doubt in the object belonging to aliens.

"It really looks to me more like sunlight reflected off a distant jet and its related condensation trail; typically, that would disappear from sight in less than 20 minutes," he explained. "Good luck getting a definitive answer on this one."

Cobb disagreed with Arghiere's assessment.

“No reflection off a jet,” he said. “This object while zooming to incredible heights, and coming back down, was always heading in a northerly direction as the photos show, yet it remained in the general area that I was viewing.”

“A plane of any sort passing through my viewing area would have been out of sight in a matter of a few minutes,” Cobb asserted.

He added that none of his “flying friends,” including a retired American Airlines and US Air Force pilot who flew F-4 Phantoms, “have any idea as to what it was.”

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Lawmakers, Telecom Operators Warn Trump Administration Against Nationalized 5G Network by [Evan Craighead](#)

US President Donald Trump’s administration is receiving bipartisan, industrial and internal pushback amid whispers that Mark Meadows, his chief of staff, is spearheading a campaign to fast-track a communications technology firm’s possible government partnership in a nationalized 5G network.

October 19 concluded the Pentagon’s [one-month request for information](#) (RFI) on the acceleration of spectrum sharing and 5G deployment.

“DOD’s partnership with industry is imperative in this extremely technical and competitive field. What we learn in this effort has potential to benefit the entire nation and keep the US as the global leader of 5G technology for many years to come,” read the US Department of Defense [news release issued in mid-September](#).

[The Hill reported October 26](#) that Meadows is heading a campaign on behalf of Rivada Networks, which is allegedly the White House’s favored candidate.

Rumors of the chief of staff’s push to fast-track Rivada into a request for proposal (RFP) regarding nationalized 5G have reportedly left some Trump administration officials concerned. However, the Pentagon has not yet decided on whether to issue an RFP on the matter.

“We hope the RFI provides great insight into the art of the possible. Once the RFI submissions are collected we will analyze the concepts and evaluate the potential solutions for feasibility. At this time it is too early to tell if an RFP will follow anytime in the future,” a Pentagon spokesperson told The Hill.

Nevertheless, [several 5G-related warnings](#) have been issued by various lawmakers and entities.

“Such an action would be at odds with more than a century of private sector led innovation and investment in communications networks, have a chilling effect on the entire broadband sector, and jeopardize American leadership in the global digital economy,” [read a joint letter](#) to the White House authored by the NCTA-The Internet & Television Association and a collection of other cable and telecom broadband operator groups.

Likewise, a letter from Sen. John [Thune \(R-SD\) argued](#), “Nationalizing 5G and experimenting with untested models for 5G deployment is not the way the United States will win the 5G race.”

"We strongly urge you to remain on the free-market path you have articulated, a path that will enable the United States to win the global 5G race," said the letter, which was signed by Thune and 18 other Republican senators.

Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), who sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, also responded to the idea of a nationalized 5G network owned and operated by the US government, [calling it a](#) "very bad idea that raises serious legal concerns."

"Instead, we should be reinforcing our support for policies that allow American innovators to move communications technology forward," she suggested.

Rivada has denied that it is vying for an RFP regarding a nationalized network.

"For the vast majority of its needs, DoD does not need to own or operate 5G networks itself in order to use and benefit from them. As long as DoD can access the capacity it needs when and where it needs it, and can pre-empt commercial access to the spectrum when needed, it does not need to own or operate a nationwide network itself. And in fact, owning a nationwide network would have numerous disadvantages for DoD," the company, which retains former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove as a lobbyist, [said in an RFI excerpt released](#) October 19.

"The superior alternative is a network built to commercial scale and with private capital, while being shared with commercial users who are subject to pre-emption by DoD."

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US Appeals Court Upholds Injunction Blocking WeChat Ban  
by [Evan Craighead](#)

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected a US Department of Justice (DoJ) request to overturn a September 20 ruling that found the federal government's ban on WeChat violates free speech.

The three-judge panel moved Monday to uphold US Magistrate Laurel Beeler's Friday ruling in favor of a collection of WeChat users. The referenced ruling blocked the Trump-ordered, immediate ban on the popular social media app in the US web stores of Apple Inc. and Alphabet Inc.

The US judges wrote that the federal government failed to demonstrate it would "suffer an imminent, irreparable injury during the pendency of this appeal, which is being expedited," as [reported by Reuters](#).

This comes days after Beeler's October 23 assertion that the DoJ did not supply new evidence to support its allegations regarding national security and the app.

Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings Ltd., which owns WeChat, has [disputed the national security concerns](#) raised by US officials, claiming it "incorporates the highest standards of user privacy and data security."

**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.**

Democrats Push 'Expand the Court' Message on Twitter Following Justice Barrett's Confirmation

by [Evan Craighead](#)

Democratic lawmakers are responding to Judge Amy Coney Barrett's partisan Senate confirmation and lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court of the US (SCOTUS) with calls to "expand the court."

Ahead of Barrett's swearing-in ceremony on Monday, several US lawmakers, including Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN), called on Americans to vote in the ongoing US presidential election and hold out hope for the election of Democratic nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden and a Democratic majority in the Senate.

Such calls have been issued after weeks of coverage surrounding the political leanings of the SCOTUS and conservative reports claiming Biden will "pack the court" if elected.

"I will ask them to, over 180 days, come back to me with recommendations as to how to reform the court system, because it's getting out of whack," Biden recently [told CBS News' Norah O'Donnell](#) on "60 Minutes."

Barrett's confirmation on Monday comes as the first partisan appointment of a SCOTUS justice in modern times. Conservatives now have a 6-3 majority in the high court.

"A lot of what we've done over the last four years will be undone, sooner or later, by the next election," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) on Sunday, [as reported by NBC News](#).

"But they won't be able to do much about this for a long time to come."

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Tropical Storm Zeta Develops Into Hurricane, Heads Toward Mexico's Yucatan Before US  
by [Victoria Teets](#)

Tropical Storm Zeta has now strengthened into a hurricane as it moves towards Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and is projected to hit the storm-battered US Gulf Coast later this week. Hurricane Zeta is currently located about 45 miles southeast of Cozumel, with maximum winds of 80 mph, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) [said in a public advisory Monday evening](#). The storm system is moving northwest at about 12 mph and is projected to drop up to 8 inches of rain on Mexico and parts of the western Caribbean before hitting the US.

[Forecasters stated they anticipate the storm](#) will likely get stronger before moving through the northern Yucatan Peninsula. Due to the high amount of rainfall and dangerous storm surges, severe flash flooding may occur Tuesday across the Yucatan, the Cayman Islands and central to western Cuba, particularly in urban areas.

They are also urging residents located from Louisiana to the Florida panhandle to monitor the storm's progress, as it is currently projected to make landfall within that coastal area on Wednesday. The NHC warns of life-threatening hurricane conditions, telling residents of at-risk areas to follow directions from their local authorities.

A hurricane warning is already in effect for parts of the Yucatan. Major rainfall and flooding are expected between Tuesday and Thursday in portions of the central Gulf Coast into the southern Appalachians and Mid-Atlantic US states.

Zeta is the 11th hurricane of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season and the 27th named storm of the season. The World Meteorological Association had to begin using the Greek alphabet to name cyclones after running out of letters in the English alphabet due to the high number of storms this season.