



Fabrics at Materials for the Arts, which processes six million pounds of donated art materials a year, in Long Island City, Queens.

Lethal Recipe: Older Copters, Inexpert Pilots

By KATE KELLY

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army for years put inexperienced pilots in aging helicopters and flew them over the nation's capital.

And even though the airspace above Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington is one of the most complex in the country, Army aviators operated there in a way that suggested they were unfamiliar with some of its dangers, The New York Times found.

That combination of risks had worried others flying the same skies, a situation of such concern that a safety summit was held nearly four years ago among local



KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Assessing the wreckage in the Potomac after a midair crash.

military and law enforcement pilots.

Now, those continuing problems are being re-examined after an Army helicopter crew from the 12th Aviation Battalion in Northern Virginia flew a dated model Black Hawk helicopter into a commercial jet at a perilous juncture in the Washington airspace on Jan. 29. The collision killed everyone on board both aircraft — a total of 67 people.

It was the deadliest Army accident ever to occur on U.S. soil. And it happened against a backdrop of safety concerns about Army aviation, which has seen catastrophic episodes rise in recent years.

Multiple factors contributed to the tragedy in January: A poorly designed set of air routes that allowed for helicopters to fly just under passenger jets as they landed. An air traffic controller who was juggling a double workload for the shift. Nighttime conditions that marred visibility.

Still, last Wednesday, the government accepted legal liability

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Troops and A.I. Need Batteries Made in China

This article is by Hiroko Tabuchi, Brad Plumer and Harry Stevens.

In Northern Virginia's Data Center Alley, windowless buildings the size of aircraft hangars are powering America's artificial intelligence industry, which is locked in a race against China.

POWER MOVES

U.S. Scramble for Replacements

Yet, these data centers are increasingly reliant on China, America's geopolitical rival, for a vital technology: batteries.

These facilities can use as much electricity as a small city, straining local power grids. Even flickers can have cascading effects, corrupting sensitive A.I. computer coding.

To cope, tech giants are looking to buy billions of dollars of large lithium-ion batteries, a field in which "China is leading in almost every industrial component," said Dan Wang, an expert on China's technology sector at Stanford's Hoover Institution. "They're ahead, both technologically and in terms of scale."

A short drive from the data centers, at the Pentagon, military officials are sounding similar warnings, for different reasons. Military strategists, watching as modern warfare is reinvented in Ukraine, say the armed forces will need millions of batteries to power drones, lasers and countless other weapons of the future.

Many of those batteries, too, come from China.

Chinese battery dominance has long been a problem for industries like auto manufacturing, but now is increasingly being viewed as a national security threat. Currently, the U.S. military relies on Chinese supply chains for some 6,000 individual battery components across weapons programs, according to Govini, a defense analytics firm.

"The reality is very stark," Tara Murphy Dougherty, Govini's chief executive, told a recent gathering of top defense and industry officials in California. "There are foreign parts in 100 percent of our weapon systems and military platforms."

China understands the importance of these batteries. On Oct. 9, amid growing trade disputes, China threatened to limit exports

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As Artists Flee Expensive City, A Core Identity Could Be Lost

By ELIZA SHAPIRO

New York is a city of trade-offs. For as long as the rent has been too high, the subways perpetually delayed and the rats abundant, New York's singular arts scene has brought people to the city and kept them there.

The arts have helped define New York's image and buoyed its economy, creating jobs in advertising, television, publishing and architecture that helped solidify the middle class.

Until now.

Over the past five years, after decades of growth, New York's creative sector has shrunk as the cost of living has soared, according to a report released on Monday by the Center for an Urban Future, a think tank.

Today, there are fewer dancers and fashion designers, video editors and graphic designers than there were in 2019, the report found. New York's share of people working in creative industries compared with the rest of the United States declined during the same period.

Of course, New York has never exactly been a cheap place to make art, and creative workers have always come and gone. But something different is happening.

The number of artists living in the city grew by about 35 percent

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NADIA SHIRA COHEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

No Crib for a Bed, but Visitors Aplenty, Including Trump

The president has joined the celebrity figurines often included in Italian Nativity scenes. Page A7.

'60 Minutes' Report Held From Air Found a Way Online Anyway

By MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM

One of this season's most-talked-about "60 Minutes" investigations may be one that never made it to air.

CBS News caused a controversy after it pulled a report from Sunday's episode of the long-running news program that featured the stories of Venezuelan men

who were deported by the Trump administration to a brutal prison in El Salvador. But the 13-minute segment, as originally edited by "60 Minutes" staff members, soon surfaced online in full.

The last-minute change had already set off a political firestorm. Bari Weiss, the network's editor in chief, said she postponed the segment because its reporting was

Epstein Files Often Mention The President

New Release Also Puts Focus on Ex-Prince

This article is by Matthew Goldstein, Jessica Silver-Greenberg, Steve Eder and Michael Levenson.

The Justice Department has released nearly 30,000 more pages of files related to investigations of the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, a mix of documents that includes hundreds of references to President Trump, along with mentions of other prominent people who were once in Mr. Epstein's orbit.

Many of the references to Mr. Trump are brief mentions in news reports or other materials, but some are focused on the president, including an email from a federal prosecutor discussing Mr. Trump's trips on Mr. Epstein's private jet in the mid-1990s.

The department released the documents late Monday under a law passed by Congress last month, after months of resistance from Republican leaders and Mr. Trump, who reversed course amid pressure from his own supporters. The department has published roughly 130,000 pages online since Friday, with more expected to be released over the next several weeks.

Todd Blanche, the deputy attorney general, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that department lawyers were examining close to a million documents. Many of those pages, he said, had victim information that needed to be redacted.

In a statement on social media on Monday, the Justice Department, whose independence Mr. Trump has eroded, asserted that some of the documents contained "untrue and sensationalist claims made against President Trump that were submitted to the F.B.I. right before the 2020 election."

The statement did not point to any claims in particular. Mr. Trump has never been charged with wrongdoing in connection with Mr. Epstein.

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NEARLY 30 ENVOYS RECALLED TO U.S. BY WHITE HOUSE

NO EXPLANATION GIVEN

Career Diplomats Told to Leave Posts Are All Biden Picks

By EDWARD WONG

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has ordered nearly 30 ambassadors in embassies around the world to return to the United States within weeks, a move that would leave a large gap in the American diplomatic corps even as President Trump has said he wants to resolve conflicts through diplomacy.

Many of the ambassadors were told in recent days to leave their posts by mid-January. They are all Foreign Service officers who were appointed to their positions by the Biden administration and confirmed by the Senate. A standard tour is three to four years.

The union representing career diplomats said this was the first time that such a mass recall had taken place of career diplomats serving as ambassadors or chiefs of mission.

"Those affected report being notified abruptly, typically by phone, with no explanation provided," said Nikki Gamer, a spokeswoman for the union that represents career diplomats, the American Foreign Service Association. "That method is highly irregular."

"The lack of transparency and process breaks sharply with longstanding norms," she added.

Ms. Gamer said that after checking its archives, the union "can say definitively that such a mass recall has never happened since the founding of the Foreign Service as we know it."

Candidates for ambassador are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate. There are two types of ambassadors: career diplomats and political appointees. The latter are often donors or friends of the president, and they are expected to offer their resignations at the start of a new administration. That was the case when Mr. Trump took office in January, and he immediately accepted the resignations.

However, that is not the norm for career diplomats, who often serve for years into a new administration. The Trump administration did not give a reason for the recalls and has not publicly announced them.

"This is a standard process in any administration," the State Department said in a statement, when asked about the recalls. "An ambassador is a personal representative of the president, and it is the president's right to ensure that he has individuals in these countries who advance the America First agenda."

Ms. Gamer said that the union did not have an exact count of the number of ambassadors to be recalled and that it was trying to piece together the full picture. Politico reported on the recalls on Friday.

An unofficial list circulated among diplomats on Monday. It showed ambassadors being recalled from every part of the

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INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Moving 120,000 Works of Art

The Pompidou Center in Paris, now under renovations, has put its astonishing collection into storage. PAGE A4

Snickers, Wrapped in Cyrillic

Russian-labeled candy bars in London are a reminder of how hard it is to sever a nation from the flow of goods. PAGE A6

NATIONAL A9-16

Two Dead in Rest Home Fire

The explosion at the Bristol Health and Rehab Center in Bristol, Pa., caused a fire and partial collapse of the building, the authorities said. PAGE A12

Justices Block a Deployment

A Supreme Court preliminary order blocks the sending of Guard troops to Chicago, casting doubt on the viability of deployments in other cities. PAGE A12

Threat of Execution Revived

At least four of the 37 men who received commutations from President Joseph R. Biden Jr. last year could face the death penalty at the state level. PAGE A13



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Theft Proves Troupe's Value

A scrappy ballet company got a validation of its mission to take the art form to places it wouldn't otherwise go. PAGE C1

Best Songs of 2025

From sources as diverse as Drake and "KPop Demon Hunters," the tracks that grabbed our attention this year. PAGE C4

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U.S. Economy Remains Robust

Gross domestic product grew at a 4.3 percent annual rate, outperforming the bearish expectations of some experts only months before. PAGE B1

SPORTS B6-9

Inside a Coach's Downfall

Five women contacted by The Athletic said that they had uncomfortable online exchanges with Sherrone Moore, who was fired by Michigan. PAGE B6

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Ezra Klein

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FOOD D1-8

On Menus, a New Gilded Age

Truffle shavings, flights of Wagyu and seafood towers — ever-pricier dishes and luxury upgrades meet the demand from affluent diners. PAGE D1

