

5-day

GUAM DAILY POST • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

President to nominate former energy lobbyist to head Interior

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump said on Monday he would nominate David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be secretary of the interior, the department that oversees U.S. public lands.

Bernhardt, currently the acting secretary at the Interior Department, is widely expected to continue pushing the Trump administration's plan to boost domestic fossil fuels production by opening more U.S. public lands to drilling and mining.

"David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed," Trump said on Twitter.

Bernhardt would replace Ryan Zinke, who was under a cloud of ethics investigations and announced his resignation in December.

The Interior Department, which employs more than 70,000 people and oversees more than 20 percent of the U.S. land surface, has been central to Trump's "energy dominance" policy of boosting energy production.

As Zinke's deputy, Bernhardt has played a role in efforts to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, ease Obama-era protections on a bird called the greater sage grouse to boost drilling and mining across the West, and open federal lands to leases for coal mining.

Ann Navaro, a former Department of Interior official who served in the Obama and Trump administrations and worked closely with Bernhardt, said he is a rare "lawyer's lawyer" who prepares thoroughly for meetings, often being the only one in a room to have read full environmental assessments of projects and plans.

Congress braces for Trump to divert military funds for wall

By Erica Werner and Karoun Demirjian
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - Congress is bracing for President Donald Trump to target the nation's military construction budget to build his U.S.-Mexico border wall, including money aimed at bolstering European defenses overseas against Russian aggression.

This money would become available to Trump if he declares a national emergency to circumvent a gridlocked Congress and use the military to build his wall. An emergency declaration, which the president has hinted at repeatedly in recent days, would give him authority to tap some \$20 billion from a wide array of military construction projects approved by Congress but not yet under way.

Hundreds of projects could be at risk of losing their funding to Trump's wall - including a \$60 million aircraft maintenance hangar at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina, a \$105 million command and control facility at Fort Shafter in Hawaii and a \$32 million vehicle maintenance shop at Fort Campbell in Kentucky.

Lawmakers have begun raising alarms about their home-state projects getting targeted. In a news release Monday, Democratic New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney complained about the potential for projects at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, including a \$95 million engineering center, to end up on Trump's hit list.

"It doesn't matter if you support building a wall or not," Maloney said. "We can't steal funding from the next



NATIONAL EMERGENCY: Lawmakers are preparing for President Donald Trump to declare a national emergency so he can get money to build a wall on the southern border.

Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post

generation of military leaders to do it."

This type of domestic blowback, which could surface in numerous states, including some critical to Trump's 2020 re-election prospects, has led to expectations among congressional aides in both parties that Trump could go after overseas construction projects first. A significant portion of that money is dedicated to projects that are part of the European Deterrence Initiative, an effort to help U.S. allies in Europe shore up their defenses against Russia.

The military construction budget dedicates about \$800 million in the 2019 budget year toward the initiative, which was created after Russia's invasion of Ukraine to bolster the U.S. presence in Eastern Europe. The money pays for projects such as staging areas, refueling stations and other efforts aimed at helping NATO allies defend against encroaching Russian threats, and it is considered a crucial part of the security alliance that Trump has often jeered as he suggests partner

nations have not contributed enough to cooperative defense.

"For him to suggest that a border wall, where there is not an emergency, not a crisis, is more important to fund - and steal money from an account where there is certainly a crisis, because Russian aggression in Europe has been absolutely over the top - it just shows how dramatically out of touch the president is," said Democratic Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who chairs the House Appropriations subcommittee that deals with military construction. "He has no understanding or interest in our national security interests."

Any move by Trump to dip into those overseas funds or domestic spending in the military construction budget is sure to get a hard look from Congress, lawmakers said Monday.

Trump is pushing Congress to give him \$5.7 billion to build more than 200 new miles of walls along the southern border - U.S. taxpayer funds - despite his repeated promise that Mexico would pay for the wall. Democrats oppose his request, a dispute that led to a 35-day partial government shutdown that ended Jan. 25 when Trump signed a short-term spending bill containing no money for his wall.

The stopgap bill expires Feb. 15, leaving Congress less than two weeks to come up with a solution that could satisfy both the president and his Democratic antagonists. A bipartisan committee of House and Senate lawmakers is working behind the scenes toward that goal, but it's unclear whether it'll be able to reach agreement.

Senate breaks from president with Syria troop vote

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Republican-led U.S. Senate backed largely symbolic legislation on Monday that broke with President Donald Trump by opposing plans for any abrupt withdrawal of troops from Syria and Afghanistan.

The Senate voted 70-26 in favor of a nonbinding amendment, drafted by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, saying it was the sense of the Senate that Islamist militant groups in both countries still pose a "serious threat" to the United States.

The amendment acknowledged progress against Islamic State and Al-Qaida in Syria and Afghanistan but warned that "a precipitous withdrawal" could destabilize the region and create a vacuum that could be filled by Iran or Russia.

It called on the Trump administration to certify conditions had been met for

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the groups' "enduring defeat" before any significant withdrawal from Syria or Afghanistan.

Before the vote, McConnell said he introduced the bill so the Senate could "speak clearly and directly about the importance" of the missions in Afghanistan and Syria.

Passage was expected, after the Senate voted to advance it in a procedural vote last week. After concerns from some Democrats, the Senate approved a change to the bill making it

clear the amendment was not intended to be a declaration of war or authorization to use military force.

The vote added the amendment to a broader Middle East security bill making its way through Congress. The Senate voted 72-24 to advance the broader bill in a procedural vote on Monday after the amendment vote.

To become law, however, the bill would need to pass the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, where it is unlikely to move without significant changes because of concerns about a provision addressing the "Boycott, Divest and Sanction" movement concerned with Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

The votes marked the second time in two months that the Senate supported a measure contradicting Trump's foreign policy, although legislation to change his policies has yet to become law.

GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Regular Board Meeting,
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 4:00 PM
at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority
Board Room, 850 Carlos G. Camacho Road,
Tamuning, Guam.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

2-day

GUAM DAILY POST • MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

US-backed Syrian force battles ISIS

QAMISHLI, Syria (Reuters) - The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces began an assault against the final Islamic State enclave in eastern Syria on Saturday, aiming to wipe out the last vestige of the jihadist group's "caliphate" in the SDF's area of operations.

President Donald Trump, who is planning to pull U.S. forces out of Syria, said on Wednesday he expected an announcement as early as next week that the U.S.-led coalition operating

in support of the SDF had reclaimed all the territory previously held by the jihadist group.

The enclave is close to the Iraqi border and comprises two villages, though IS also still has territory in the part of Syria that is mostly under the control of the Russian- and Iranian-backed Syrian government.

SDF official Mustafa Bali, speaking to Reuters, described the assault as "the last battle." He later wrote on

Twitter that the attack had started and the enclave would "be cleared soon."

The SDF had handled the last 10 days "patiently" as more than 20,000 civilians were evacuated from the besieged ISIS enclave, Bali said.

Senior SDF official Redur Xelil told Reuters the force hoped to capture the area by the end of February, but cautioned that IS would continue to pose "great and serious" security threats even after that.

IS redrew the map of the Middle East in 2014 when it declared a caliphate across large areas of Syria and Iraq. But the group steadily lost ground and its two main prizes - the Syrian city of Raqqa and Iraq's Mosul - fell in 2017.

Two U.S. security sources said the U.S. government's top experts strongly believe IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is still alive and possibly hiding in Iraq.

US neglect sours Japan-SKorea ties

ANALYSIS

By Simon Denyer
The Washington Post

TOKYO - Leaders have turned their backs on each other. They have traded barbs. Military and business ties are fraying, and the media is up in arms.

Relations between Japan and South Korea, the most important U.S. allies in the Asia-Pacific region, are unraveling fast.

And while the leaders of both countries share the blame, the Trump administration has taken its eye off the ball, experts say. This has allowed spats to grow that could undermine U.S. efforts to sustain a coalition of Asian democracies and contain China.

Japan ruled over South Korea from the beginning of the 20th century until the end of World War II, and Seoul and Tokyo's complicated history has always loomed large in the background.

But the rancor that has soured relations lately is among the worst in generations.

"The relationship between South Korea and Japan is suffering a compound fracture unprecedented in the five decades since the two coun-



Moon Jae-in

Shinzo Abe

tries established diplomatic relations," said Shin Kak-soo, a former South Korean ambassador to Japan.

He added, "The Trump administration did not pay attention to the alliance."

The rift came after a South Korean Supreme Court decision in October ordering a Japanese steel producer to compensate Korean workers forced into manual labor during Japanese colonial rule, but the root of the crisis runs much deeper and its effects have reverberated in all directions since.

In November, South Korea shut down a foundation established to help care for the Korean women - more commonly known as "comfort women" - forced into sexual slavery during World War II in Japanese military brothels. The foundation was funded by Japan as part of a 2015 deal

intended to put the issue to rest.

Then Tokyo went public with accusations that a South Korean warship had locked its fire-control radar onto a Japanese patrol plane, a move seen as a precursor to actually firing.

Seoul denied the accusation and countered with the charge that the Japanese plane had been flying dangerously low.

Japan's conservative Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in come from opposite ends of the ideological spectrum.

In South Korea, Abe is an unpopular figure, seen as reluctant to express genuine remorse for Japan's behavior during its colonial rule over the peninsula.

In Japan, Moon is seen as the latest in a long line of South Korean leaders who have exploited popular resentment of Japan to shore up their own flagging popularity and reneged on agreements reached by previous governments.

Tokyo says the Supreme Court decision violates a 1965 deal establishing diplomatic relations, under which Japan gave South Korea much-needed economic aid as compensation for forced labor.

Sacked cardinal's manifesto criticizes Pope Francis

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - A cardinal who was sacked from a senior Vatican post by Pope Francis has written his own "Manifesto of Faith," in the latest attack on the pontiff's authority by a leading member of the church's conservative wing.

Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, 71, a German who was the Vatican's doctrinal chief until 2017, issued the four-page manifesto on Friday via conservative Catholic media outlets.

He said "many bishops, priests, religious and lay people" had requested it. He did not say how many and why he was issuing it now.

However, conservatives balked this week when Francis made the first trip by a pope to the Arabian peninsula and signed a "Document on Human Fraternity" with a Muslim faith leader.

Ultraconservative Catholics are opposed to dialogue with Islam, with some saying its ultimate goal is to destroy the West.

The manifesto was dated Feb. 10, the sixth anniversary of the eve of former Pope Benedict's announcement of his resignation. Benedict, 91, remains an icon for conservative Catholics.

Mueller said he wrote it "in the face of growing confusion about the doctrine of the faith."

He said some Church leaders "have abandoned the people entrusted to them, unsettling them and severely damaging their faith." He warned against "the fraud of (the) anti-Christ."


Mueller, who did not mention the pope, is one of a handful of conservative cardinals who have openly accused Francis of sowing confusion.

They say he is weakening Catholic rules on moral issues such as homosexuality and divorce while focusing excessively on social problems such as climate change and economic inequality.

Their leader is Raymond Leo Burke, 70, an American who was demoted from a senior Vatican position in 2014.

Mueller has ramped up his criticism of the pope since Francis removed him as head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2017.

Committee On Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice



SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE
Mina'trental Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan
35th Guam Legislature

PUBLIC HEARING • 8:30 a.m. • Monday, February 18, 2019

Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña

AGENDA:

- Confirmation Hearing for Linda DeNorcey to serve as Director of Department of Public Health & Social Services

If you require any special accommodations or for further information, please contact the Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586. Testimonies may be submitted to our office at Ade Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Asprawl Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, to the Guam Congress Building, or via email at senatorterlaje@guam.gov.gu. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4 and stream online via Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm. This ad is paid for with government funds.

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