



PROPHETIC TIMES

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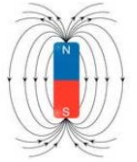
Weekly World News Briefs

January 12, 2019

Earth's magnetic pole is on the move, fast. And we don't know why

January 11, 2019 news.com.au reported: "Earth's magnetic field is what allows us to exist. It deflects harmful radiation. It keeps our water and atmosphere in place. But now it's acting up — and nobody knows why."

Planet Earth is alive. Deep beneath its skin, its life blood — rivers of molten iron — pulse around its core. And this mobile iron is what generates the magnetic field that causes auroras — and keeps us alive. But, according to the science journal *Nature*, something strange is going on deep down below. It's causing the magnetic North Pole to 'skitter' away from Canada, towards Siberia.



*Magnetic Pole*²

"The magnetic pole is moving so quickly that it has forced the world's geomagnetism experts into a rare move," *Nature* reports. On January 30 (delayed due to the US Government shutdown), the World Magnetic Model — which governs modern navigation systems — is due to undergo an urgent update.

This model is a vital component of systems ranging from geopositioning systems used to navigate ships through to smartphone trackers and maps. The current model was expected to be valid until 2020. But the magnetic pole began to shift so quickly, it was realised in 2018 that the model had to be fixed — now.

"They realised that it was so inaccurate that it was about to exceed the acceptable (safe) limit for navigational errors," *Nature* reports." ..."

U.S. moves to speed military space upgrades under pressure from China, Russia

January 10, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "The United States will accelerate its space program to compete with China's, a senior Defense Department official said."

Vice President Mike Pence last year announced the U.S. military would create a sixth branch, the Space Force, by 2020 as part of a renewed focus on space exploration, as well as to meet concerns about the country's ability to defend assets in space.

While the U.S. military already is tasked with a variety of space responsibilities — it operates the widely used GPS system, for example — the Air Force Space Command also has stepped up preparations to defend space with its Space Flag series of exercises.

A major part of pushing forward with these efforts, Pentagon officials say, is to first create a Space Development Agency that will focus on defensive capabilities for space-based assets, as well as better global defenses against missile attacks.

"China is integrating certain new technologies and fielding those capabilities faster than the U.S.," Chris Shank, director of the Defense Department's Strategic Capabilities Office, told a conference of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in San Diego on Tuesday.

"That means we have to be more responsive. China had 39 launches [in 2018], the U.S. had 31, Russia had 20, Europe had eight, and [China] landed a robotic mission on the dark side of the moon -- a first."

He added, though, that the United States achieved a milestone of its own, a reference to NASA's New Horizons probe. The satellite flew toward the planet Pluto in December, and on New Year's Day sent photographs from four billion miles away from the Sun once it reached an asteroid in the Kuiper Belt. It is the farthest object ever explored in space.

Shank said the Defense Department is "committed to creating a Space Development Agency that would be a joint organization to rapidly develop and field the next generation of space capabilities," Shank said.

The department finalized a 15-page report on organizing the Space Development Agency in August...It also proposed a U.S. Space Command, suggested by President Donald Trump in March 2018, "to lead the use of space assets in warfighting and accelerate integration of space capabilities into other warfighting forces." ..."

Navy test-fires low-cost, hypersonic-speed projectiles

January 10, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "The U.S. Navy test-fired high-velocity projectiles using existing guns aboard a destroyer during an exercise last summer."

Twenty projectiles were successfully fired at near-hypersonic speed from the USS Dewey's standard Mk 45, five-inch main deck gun during the 'Rim of the Pacific' exercises off Hawaii, the USNI News reported.

It was an attempt to learn if the 40-year-old gun's utility could include a high-tech, low-cost weapon against cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles. In October, the Congressional Research Service said in a report that the new weapon, called an HPV or hypervelocity projectile, was designed for a railgun, a device using electromagnetic force to launch projectiles by means of a sliding armature.

Shot from the deck gun, the payload can travel as fast as Mach 7.4, or over 2,400 mph at sea level. The system is under consideration, as is a laser guided system and the railgun approach..."

Khamenei: 'Unprecedented' U.S. sanctions are pressuring Iran

January 9, 2019 Reuters reported: "U.S. sanctions are putting unprecedented pressure on Iranians while 'first class idiots' are running Washington's policy, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday."

U.S. President Donald Trump last year pulled out of an international pact on Iran's nuclear program and re-imposed sanctions intended to scupper Tehran's oil exports, curb its missile program and clip its regional influence. The measures have hit Iran's economy hard.

'The sanctions do put pressure on the country and the people,' Khamenei said, according to a transcript on his website of a speech in Tehran to commemorate an event from the 1979 revolution.

'The Americans happily say that these sanctions are unprecedented in history. Yes, they're unprecedented. And the defeat that the Americans will face will be unprecedented, God willing,' he added..."

Egypt acknowledges 'wide range of coordination' with Israel

January 8, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Egypt's president officially acknowledged for the first time that the Egyptian military is cooperating with Israel in the Sinai Peninsula.

Asked in an interview aired Sunday night on the CBS news show '60 Minutes' if this is the 'deepest and closest cooperation' ever with Israel, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi responded: "That is correct. The Air Force sometimes needs to cross to the Israeli side. And that's why we have a wide range of coordination with the Israelis."

Sisi, who came to power in a military coup in 2013, also denied that there are political prisoners in Egypt and rejected claims that hundreds of opposition protesters were killed following the coup..."

Erdogan says only Turkey has power to 'shoulder the heavy burden' of Syria

January 8, 2019 timesofisrael.com reported: "In an op-ed published by The New York Times on Monday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan praised US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw American troops from Syria and said that Turkey 'is the only country with the power and commitment' to protect the interests of Washington, the international community and the Syrian people.



3President

In the opinion piece published ahead of Erdogan's meeting with US national security adviser John Bolton, the Turkish president cautioned that the US pullout 'must be planned carefully and performed in cooperation with the right partners,' before noting that Turkey, with NATO's second largest standing army, was best suited to the task.

'Turkey is committed to defeating the so-called Islamic State and other terrorist groups in Syria,' Erdogan wrote, before clarifying that 'militarily speaking, the so-called Islamic State has been defeated in Syria. Yet we are deeply concerned that some outside powers may use the organization's remnants as an excuse to meddle in Syria's internal affairs.'..."

In space, the U.S. sees a rival in China

January 7, 2019 SpaceDaily.com reported: "During the Cold War, US eyes were riveted on the Soviet Union's rockets and satellites. But in recent years, it has been China's space programs that have most worried US strategists.

China, whose space effort is run by the People's Liberation Army, today launches more rockets into space than any other country — 39 last year, compared to 31 by the United States, 20 by Russia and eight by Europe. On Thursday it landed a space rover on the dark side of the Moon — a first by any country — and plans to build an orbiting space station in the coming decade. In the decade after that, it hopes to put a Chinese 'taikonaut' on the Moon to make the first moonwalk since 1972.

China now spends more on its civil and military space programs than do Russia and Japan. Although opaque, its 2017 budget was estimated at \$8.4 billion by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development..."

Monarch butterfly numbers plummet 86 percent in California

January 7, 2019 usatoday.com reported: "The number of monarch butterflies turning up at California's overwintering sites has dropped by about 86 percent compared with only a year ago, according to the Xerces Society, which organizes a yearly count of the iconic creatures.



4Monarch butterfly

That's bad news for a species whose numbers have already declined an estimated 97 percent since the 1980s. Each year, monarchs in the western United States migrate from inland areas to California's coastline to spend the winter, usually between September and February.

"It's been the worst year we've ever seen," said Emma Pelton, a conservation biologist with the Xerces Society who helps lead the annual Thanksgiving count. "We already know we're dealing with a really small population, and now we have a really bad year and all of a sudden, we're kind of in crisis mode where we have very, very few butterflies left."

Results from the count so far show that the number of monarchs at 97 California overwintering sites has dropped from around 148,000 in 2017 to just over 20,400 this year. Counts for dozens of other sites are still being tabulated, but the outlook is troubling, Pelton said.

What's causing the dramatic drop-off is somewhat of a mystery. Experts believe the decline is spurred by a confluence of unfortunate factors, including late rainy-season storms across California last March, the effects of the state's years-long drought and the seemingly relentless onslaught of wildfires that have burned acres upon acres of habitat and at times choked the air with toxic smoke." ..."

U.S. Navy ship sails in disputed South China Sea amid trade talks with Beijing

January 7, 2019 Reuters reported: "A U.S. guided-missile destroyer sailed near disputed islands in the South China Sea in what China called a 'provocation' as U.S. officials joined talks in Beijing during a truce in a bitter trade war.

The USS McCampbell carried out a 'freedom of navigation' operation, sailing within 12 nautical miles of the Paracel Island chain, 'to challenge excessive maritime claims', Pacific Fleet spokeswoman Rachel McMarr said in an emailed statement. The operation was not about any one country or to make a political statement, McMarr said.

The statement came as trade talks between China and the United States were under way in Beijing, the first round of face-to-face discussions since both sides agreed to a 90-day truce in a trade war that has roiled international markets. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said that the conduct of the U.S. ship had violated China's and international law, and China had lodged 'stern representations'..."