

Holiday chaos as drones shut London’s Gatwick Airport

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — Drones spotted over the runway forced the shutdown of London’s Gatwick Airport today during one of the busiest times of the year, stranding or delaying tens of thousands of Christmas-season travelers and setting off a hunt for the operator of the intruding aircraft.

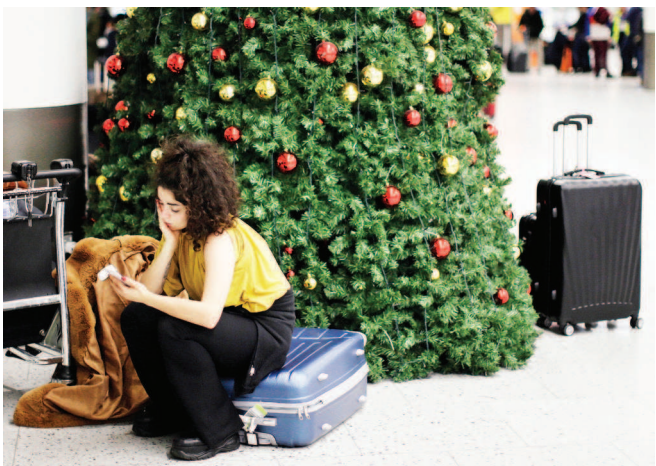
The prospect of a deadly collision between what police called “industrial”-grade drones and an airliner led authorities to stop all flights in and out.

Police said that they had no doubt the intrusion was a deliberate attempt to disrupt operations at the airport during a peak period but that there

were “absolutely no indications to suggest this is terror-related.”

About 20 police units from two forces tried in vain to find the drone operator as soon as the first unmanned aircraft was spotted above Gatwick on Wednesday evening. Police told airport officials it was too risky to try to shoot down the drones — stray bullets might kill someone.

“Each time we believe we get close to the operator, the drone disappears. When we look to reopen the airfield, the drone reappears,” said Sussex Police Superintendent Justin Burtenshaw. He said the newer-generation drones are bigger and have more range, making it harder for police to zero in on the person controlling



AP Photo/Tim Ireland

A woman waits in the departures area at Gatwick airport.

the device.

Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson said the military would be deployed to help police. He said the armed forces would bring “unique capabilities” but

gave no details.

Drones could get sucked into a jet engine or crash through a windshield, incapacitating the pilot.

The crisis at Gatwick had a ripple effect on air

travel in Britain, continental Europe and beyond as incoming flights were sent to other locations and outgoing ones were stopped.

Travelers described freezing conditions overnight at Gatwick as hundreds slept on benches and floors, and passengers and their families complained they weren’t being kept informed about re-routed flights.

“We understand it’s an emergency situation, but the lack of information is really surprising,” said Vanessa Avila, an American based in Britain who works for the U.S. military. Her mother was on a flight from Florida to Gatwick that ended up landing in the northern English city of Manchester. Gatwick — Britain’s

second-busiest airport by passenger numbers — first closed its runway Wednesday evening after two drones were spotted. It reopened briefly at about 3 a.m. Thursday, but shut down 45 minutes later after further sightings.

The airport, about 30 miles south of London, sees more than 43 million passengers a year. About 110,000 had been scheduled to pass through on Thursday.

Police said the drones were of an “industrial specification,” an indication they weren’t small, inexpensive machines. The larger drones are more dangerous to jets in flight and can stay in the air longer than the models sold to amateur enthusiasts.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

N. Korea says it won’t denuclearize unless US removes threat

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said today it will never unilaterally give up its nuclear weapons unless the United States first removes what Pyongyang called a nuclear threat. The surprisingly blunt statement jars with Seoul’s rosier presentation of the North Korean position and could rattle the fragile trilateral diplomacy to defuse a nuclear crisis that last year had many fearing war.

The latest from North Korea comes as the United States and North Korea struggle over the sequencing of the denuclearization that Washington wants and the removal of international sanctions desired by Pyongyang. The statement carried by the North’s official Korean Central News Agency also raises credibility problems for the liberal South Korean government, which has continuously claimed that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is genuinely interested in negotiating away his nuclear weapons as Seoul tries to sustain a positive atmosphere for dialogue.

The North’s comments may also be seen as proof of what outside skeptics have long said: that Kim will never voluntarily relinquish an arsenal he sees as a stronger guarantee of survival than whatever security assurances the United States might provide. The statement suggests North Korea will eventually demand the United States withdraw or significantly reduce the 28,500 American troops stationed in South Korea, a major sticking point in any disarmament deal.

Kim and President Donald Trump met June 12 in Singapore where they agreed on a vague goal for the “complete denuclearization” of the Korean Peninsula without describing when and how it would occur. The leaders are trying to arrange another meeting for early next year.

The United States removed its tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea in the 1990s. Washington and Seoul have not responded to the North Korean statement.

US ally in Syria says pullout will aid extremists

BEIRUT — The United States’ main ally in Syria today categorically rejected President Donald Trump’s claim that Islamic State militants have been defeated, but Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed Trump’s decision to withdraw forces from Syria, saying he agreed a U.S. military presence is no longer needed.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said in a strongly worded statement laced with bitterness that a premature U.S. pullout before IS is defeated would have dangerous repercussions including a resurgence of the extremist group and a destabilizing effect on the entire region.

Trump’s decision to withdraw troops from Syria has rattled Washington’s Kurdish allies, who are its most reliable partner in the country and among the most effective ground forces battling IS. With U.S. air support, the Kurds drove IS from much of northern and eastern Syria in a costly four-year campaign.

The announcement of a pullout is widely seen as an abandonment of a loyal ally.

The announcement came at a particularly tense moment in northern Syria. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly threatened to launch a new offensive against the Kurds but in recent days had stepped up the rhetoric, threatening an assault could begin “at any moment.”

Conservatives warn Trump not to retreat on border wall

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is facing scathing criticism from conservative supporters after backing away from his threat to shut down the government over border wall funding, with some aggressively lobbying the president against signing a short-term deal with no wall dollars.

Trump has not said if he will support a temporary funding measure approved by the Senate, though his White House has made clear it will review whatever can pass Congress. Urging him to veto, Trump’s critics argue he will have even less leverage when Democrats take control of the House on Jan. 3, and they worry that the unfilled pledge for a U.S.-Mexico border wall could hamper his re-election campaign.

As the chorus of discontent echoed on Twitter and Fox News on Wednesday and today, the president seemed to be mounting a defense. He tweeted angrily at Democrats, declaring “I will not sign any of their legislation, including infrastructure, unless it has perfect Border Security.” He also argued that border security is “tight” due to military and law enforcement efforts.

Throughout Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign, “Build the wall!” was a rallying cry for his supporters. Trump supporters sought to remind him of that as they pushed him to veto the short-term plan.

Some within the administration cautioned that it was still possible Trump would change his mind and end up rejecting the stopgap funding bill, prompting a holiday shutdown that could also be politically damaging. Trump had said last week that he would be “proud” to have a shutdown to get Congress to approve a down payment on the wall.

US says asylum-seeking migrants to wait in Mexico

WASHINGTON — Migrants heading to the southwest border to seek asylum in the United States will have to wait in Mexico until their claims are processed, under an agreement between the two countries announced today that will affect tens of thousands of people each month.

Only about 9 percent of people are actually granted asylum. The Trump administration says too many migrants

make false claims.

“They will not be able to disappear into the United States,” Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said on today in remarks before the House Judiciary Committee. “They will have to wait for approval. If they are granted asylum by a U.S. judge, they will be welcomed into America. If they are not, they will be removed to their home countries.”

Discussions on the arrangement have been going on between the two countries for months, well before the new leadership took over in Mexico on Dec. 1. Today, the Mexican foreign ministry said Mexico had agreed to it on a temporary basis for humanitarian reasons, and it would affect those “who entered that country or had been apprehended at border entry points, and who have been interviewed by that country’s immigration authorities and who have received a court date to appear before an immigration judge.”

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt said the plan was illegal. “This plan cannot be done lawfully and will result in countless people in life-threatening situations.”

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THURSDAY EVENING														DECEMBER 20			
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach			
2 KATU	2	KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune	A Charlie Brown Christmas		Baking Show "Semi-Final" (N)		Baking Show "Final" (SF) (N)		News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel				
5 KOMO	4	KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	A Charlie Brown Christmas		Baking Show "Semi-Final" (N)		Baking Show "Final" (SF) (N)		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel				
9 KING	5	NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	Timeless (F) (N)		Timeless (F) (N)		Game of Games "Holiday Spectacular"		KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show				
6 KOIN	3	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight (N)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Big Bang Theory	Murphy B. (SF) (N)	S.W.A.T. "Hunted"		News (N)	(35) Colbert				
9 KIRO	7	KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Big Bang Theory	Murphy B. (SF) (N)	S.W.A.T. "Hunted"		KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Colbert				
8 KGW	3	KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Timeless (F) (N)		Timeless (F) (N)		Game of Games "Holiday Spectacular"		News (N)	(35) Tonight Show				
9 KRCW	3	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Comedy Gala A night of performances from the best comedians today. (N)		News (N)		Friends		Two and a Half					
10 KOPB	10	Family Travel	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Oregon Art Beat	Oregon Guide	Midsomer M.	(50) Midsomer Murders		Masterpiece Classic "Unforgotten"						
12 KPTV	12	6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	A Christmas Story Live! Ralphie Parker wants a specific gift for Christmas.		10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)		Page Six TV					
13 KPDV	12	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Prime News (N)		Prime News (N)		Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game				
8 KCQP	13	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	A Christmas Story Live! Ralphie Parker wants a specific gift for Christmas.		Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	News (N)	The Simpsons				
20 TBS	20	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal	(35) Seinfeld				
9 KZJO	22	Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half				
29 ESPN	29	(5:00) NCAA Football Gasparilla Bowl Marshall at South Florida Site: Raymond James Stadium (N)		Best of Countdown (N)		SportsCenter (N)	Skateboarding	Around the Horn	Interruption	First Take The hottest topics in sports are debated.		SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)				
30 ESPN2	30	ESPN Mag "The 2018 Dominant 20" (N)		Best of Countdown (N)		SportsCenter (N)	Skateboarding	Around the Horn	Interruption	First Take The hottest topics in sports are debated.		SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)				
31 NICK	31	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water ('15) Antonio Banderas.		Friends		Friends	Friends				
32 DISN	32	Raven's Home 3/3	Coop & Cami	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Bizaardvark	Stuck in Middle	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home				
34 FAM	34	(5:35) Santa Claus	(40) **** The Incredibles ('04, Animated) Voices of Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Craig T. Nelson.			(20) ** Ice Age: Continental Drift ('12, Ani) Voices of Denis Leary, John Leguizamo, Ray Romano.				Movie			Movie				
35 FMC	35	(4:40) *** Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials Dylan O'Brien.		(25) *** Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials ('15) Kaya Scodelario, Dylan O'Brien.		(10) *** Gravity (2013, Thriller) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.											
36 LIFE	36	Kristin's Christmas Past ('13, Family) Will Kemp, Elizabeth Mitchell, Shiri Appleby.		My Christmas Inn (2018, Drama) Rob Mayes, Jackie Harry, Tia Mowry-Hardict.		(05) Santa's Boots (2018, Family) Noah Mills, June Squibb, Megan Hilty.											
38 ROOT	38	(5:00) Champions Tennis		Hot Rod Chronicling the life of the great Rod Hundley.		Press Pass (N)	Press Pass	The Fantasy Football Hour (N)		NCAA Basketball Coe/Crei.							
39 FS1	39	(5:00) NCAA Basket. Exhibition Game (L)		PBC Countdown	PBC Countdown	TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.			Fair Game							
43 SPIKE	43	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	** Bad Santa (2003, Comedy) Bernie Mac, John Ritter, Billy Bob Thornton.		A Merry Friggin' Christmas ('14) Lauren Graham, Robin Williams.									
44 COME	44	(15) The Office	(50) The Office "PDA"		(25) The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office 1/2	The Office 2/2	The Daily Show (N) The Office					
45 HIST	45	American Pickers "Superhero Heaven"		American Pickers "Full Speed Ahead"		American Pickers		American Pickers "Picks in Toyland" (N)		(05) Pickers "Big Tennessee Welcome"		(05) Pickers "Pickin' Through the Snow"					
46 A&E	46	The First 48 "A Murder in Mobile"		Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	PD Cam	PD Cam	(05) Live PD: Patrol	(35) Live PD				
47 TLC	47	90 Day Fiance "Backed into a Corner"		90 Day Fiance "Backed into a Corner"		Dr. Pimple Popper "An American Tail"		Dr. Pimple Popper "This is Zit"		Dr. Pimple Popper "The 12 Pops of Christmas" (N)		Crazy Obsession					
48 DISC	48	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced					
49 NGE0	49	Hard Time "Inmates vs. Officers"		Lockdown "Total Control"		Lockdown "First Timers"		Hard Time "Breaking the Cycle" (N)		Lockdown "Inside Maximum Security"		Lockdown "First Timers"					
50 TNT	50	(5:00) NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Miami Heat (L)		NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)		Inside the NBA (L)											
51 AMC	51	(4:30) Charlie & the Chocolate Factory		** The Santa Clause 2 (2002, Family) Elizabeth Mitchell, Eric Lloyd, Tim Allen.		** The Santa Clause 2 (2002, Family) Elizabeth Mitchell, Eric Lloyd, Tim Allen.											
52 USA	52	NCIS "False Witness"		NCIS "Newborn King"		NCIS "You Better Watch Out"		WWE Tribute to the Troops (N)		Miz & Mrs.		Miz & Mrs.					
53 FOOD	53	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Cookie Challenge	Colorful Christmas	Cookie Challenge	Modern Classics	Cookie Challenge "Cookie Pairings"		Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play				
54 HGTV	54	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	FlipFlop ATL (N)	FlipFlop Atlanta	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters				
56 FX	56	** A Very Harold and Kumar Christmas ('11) John Cho, Kal Penn.				** The Night Before ('15) Seth Rogen, Anthony Mackie, Joseph Gordon-Levitt.				** The Night Before ('15) Seth Rogen, Anthony Mackie, Joseph Gordon-Levitt.							
57 CNN	57	Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon					
58 FNC	58	Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle					
61 CNBC	61	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Paid Program	Paid Program				
63 BRAV	63	Below Deck "Check Yourself!"		Top Chef		Top Chef "Bourbon, Barrels and Burgoo"		Top Chef "Naughty and Nice" (N)		Below Deck "Check Yourself!"		Watch What (N)	Vanderpump Rules				
64 TCM	64	Movie		*** You Never Can Tell ('51) Charles Drake, Dick Powell.		(15) ** The Singing Marine (1937, Musical) Doris Weston, Lee Dixon, Dick Powell.		(15) ** Cowboy From Brooklyn ('38) Pat O'Brien.		(15) ** Cowboy From Brooklyn ('38) Pat O'Brien.		(45) Varsity Show					
65 SYFY	65	Movie		(45) ** Limitless (2011, Mystery) Anna Friel, Bradley Cooper.		** 47 Ronin (2013, Action) Hiroyuki Sanada, Tadanobu Asano, Keanu Reeves.											
162 RFD	162	SF Machinery (N)	Small Town (N)	Rural America "Live" (N)		Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Grown	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library					