

WORLD BRIEFLY

U.S. test fires ballistic missile from California coastal base

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — An unarmed missile capable of sending a nuclear bomb across the world was launched Wednesday from a coastal California military base amid rising tensions between the U.S. and North Korea.

The unarmed Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile blasted off from a silo at 12:02 a.m. from Vandenberg Air Force Base and delivered a single re-entry vehicle to a target about 4,200 miles away at Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, the Air Force Global Strike Command said.

The test took 10 months to plan. It was the latest aimed at checking the readiness and accuracy of a weapon system that forms part of the U.S. nuclear force. The U.S. has about 450 of the missiles. Each can travel about 8,000 miles.

It was the second such launch in seven days from the base in central California on the coast between Los

Angeles and San Francisco. Last week's launch had been delayed from the fall.

The launches came amid U.S. expressions of concern about North Korea's nuclear capability.

New missile tests by North Korea and its progress toward developing a nuclear weapon capable of hitting the United States have made the isolated communist dictatorship one of the top U.S. national security concerns.

Prince Philip, 95, keeps calm but won't carry on royal duty

LONDON (AP) — For decades, he has stood loyally at the side of Queen Elizabeth II and made thousands of solo appearances as well. He calls himself the world's most experienced unveiler of plaques.

He has been eligible for a government pension since June 10, 1986, yet still soldiered on.

Now, at age 95, Prince Philip says he is retiring from royal duties.

The queen's husband said Thursday he will carry out scheduled engagements for the next few months but won't take on new ones starting in the fall.

His retirement announcement followed a night of frenzied speculation caused by news reports about an "emergency" palace meeting Thursday.

Hacking arrest, fake news in tense French presidential race

ALBI, France (AP) — Allegations of fake news and hacking attempts dominated France's tense presidential campaign on Thursday, with just two days left for independent Emmanuel Macron and his far-right rival Marine Le Pen to win over voters before this weekend's high-stakes runoff.

Paris prosecutors launched a preliminary investigation into whether fake news is being used to influence Sunday's vote, as front-runner Macron and populist Le Pen rallied thousands at their last

big campaign events — in opposite parts of the divided country.

There has been intense anxiety in France over the possibility that viral misinformation or hackers could influence the presidential vote, as in the U.S. election last year. Those fears have largely failed to materialize.

Then on Thursday, Macron's campaign filed suit against an unknown source "X" after Le Pen suggested during their only one-on-one debate that the former banker could have an offshore account.

"I hope we won't find out you have an offshore account in the Bahamas," Le Pen said during the tense prime-time showdown Wednesday night.

Venezuelans again take to streets as death toll jumps to 37

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Students held demonstrations across Caracas Thursday as a two-month-old protest movement

that shows no signs of letting up claimed more lives.

At the Central University of Venezuela, soldiers bathed hundreds of student protesters in tear gas. Many of the protesters stayed put, and medics in gas masks attended to others with bloodied faces and limbs.

Students from another university marched peacefully to deliver a petition to the office of the country's Catholic bishops, asking the pope to speak out against the violence and the government's steps toward authoritarianism.

Gunfire erupted at a student gathering in El Tigre, a city southeast of Caracas, leaving Juan Lopez, 33, dead and three others injured, according to the chief prosecutor's office. According to preliminary reports, an assailant fired at Lopez toward the end of the meeting and then fled on a motorcycle. Lopez was the president of a university federation.

The student leader's death brought to at least 37 the number killed in Venezuela's ongoing political turmoil.

PARENTS TALK BACK Learning to distinguish blessings from privilege

A white woman checked my privilege recently, and I'm glad she did.

She was presenting at an education writers conference at Stanford, where top experts discussed research on the academic achievement gaps between various

groups of students. I asked her if there were aspects of the second-generation immigrant experience that could be valuable to helping lower-income students improve their academic outcomes.

I asked this as a child of working-class immigrants who came to America with very little, and who worked hard to raise six high-achieving children. We grew up on the outskirts of an upper-middle-class, mostly white suburb, where I frequently felt like an outsider.

The presenter asked me a few pointed questions:

• Even though my mother didn't speak English, had she been educated in her native country? Yes.

• Even though we qualified for reduced-price lunches growing up, did we ever worry about our next meal? No.

• Did my parents model the behaviors one needs to succeed in middle-class society? Yes.

• Did we attend high-quality public schools? Yes.

In fact, our house was filled with books and high expectations, even though we were a working-class minority by race, ethnicity and religion. I certainly didn't feel "privileged" in comparison to the wealthy white Christian families I grew up around, but looking back, I see that I was far more privileged than poor children in failing schools.

She helped me clarify my own assumptions: that it was primarily our hard work and learned values that got my siblings and me where we are. Those played an important role, of course, but there were unearned advantages that we benefited from, and it was naive for me to suggest that our experience could be compared to that of far more disadvantaged students.

It was after this conversation that I decided to approach the topic with my own middle-schoolers. We've always talked to them about the responsibilities that come with blessings and the importance of gratitude, but this was a different conversation. I wanted to help them see the difference between societal privilege, enjoyed by certain groups, and a blessing, a spiritual favor that can be bestowed upon anyone.

I also didn't want my children to buy into the false narrative about their identity as American Muslims — that they were either villains or victims, as so often portrayed in the media.

We talked about how power works in society. They are already aware that certain



AISHA SULTAN Parents Talk Back

people are treated differently based on factors outside their control. So, there may be situations when they'll be singled out while traveling based on their names or religious background. But there will also be times when they will benefit from certain characteristics —

whether it's their gender, their socio-economic background, their skin color, their lack of disabilities or their sexual orientation.

We talked about what it means to use that privilege to work toward a more just society.

Nicole Hudson, the director of racial equity and priority initiatives for St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson, has taken a different approach with her own children, who are several years younger than mine. She will point out scenarios in which people in the same situation are treated differently — by the police or the courts, for example — and let them form their own conclusions.

Privilege is often about who gets the benefit of the doubt and who gets second chances, she said. Parents can explain to minority children that their white friends may not get in trouble (or to the same degree) for the same mistakes as them — a reality borne out by history and years of data.

"Some people get a larger margin of error," she said.

But she tries to avoid using the word "privilege" at all when talking about issues related to race or inequality.

"It's a trigger word," she said. "It so quickly shuts down the conversation" with some people, who see it as an attack. They assume they are being told they don't deserve something or that their work didn't matter. Or that they should feel guilty for something they couldn't control.

"It becomes a debate about what they did or didn't do, instead of helping them see a recurring systemic issue," she said.

That defensiveness is learned, which is why I want my own children to recognize the ways in which they benefit from society's power structures and the ways they don't. More importantly, I want them to think about what they can do to listen to and lift up the voices of people who deal with challenges they won't experience.

It was embarrassing to me that, as an adult, I failed to take into account the advantages in my upbringing before implying there were lessons in it for those less fortunate.

"You don't see it because it was there for you," Hudson said.

I had failed to separate the privilege from the blessings.

Aisha Sultan is a St. Louis-based journalist who studies parenting in the digital age while trying to keep up with her tech-savvy children. Find her on Twitter: @AishaS.

Friday Morning

Table with 12 columns (Station, Time, Program) for Friday Morning. Includes stations like KFFX, KPTV, KEPR, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEU, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

AFTERNOON

Table with 12 columns (Station, Time, Program) for Afternoon. Includes stations like KFFX, KPTV, KEPR, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEU, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

EVENING

Table with 12 columns (Station, Time, Program) for Evening. Includes stations like KFFX, KPTV, KEPR, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEU, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

Table with 12 columns (Station, Time, Program) for Night Owl. Includes stations like A&E, AMC, ANPL, CMT, CNBC, CNN, DISC, DISN, ESPN, ESPN2, FNC, FOOD, FREE, FX, GOLDF, GSN, HALL, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, NICK, ROOT, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, UNI, USA, WE, WGN, STZ ENC, HBO, HBO2, HBO3, MAX, SHOW, STARZ.

NIGHT OWL

Table with 12 columns (Station, Time, Program) for Night Owl. Includes stations like KFFX, KPTV, KEPR, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEU, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

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