

## NASA's Perseverance Rover Gives High-Definition Panoramic View of Landing Site

NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover got its first high-definition look around its new home in Jezero Crater on Feb. 21, after rotating its mast, or "head," 360 degrees, allowing the rover's Mastcam-Z instrument to capture its first panorama after touching down on the Red Planet on Feb. 18. It was the rover's second panorama ever, as the rover's Navigation Cameras, or Navcams, also located on the mast, captured a 360-degree view on Feb. 20.

Mastcam-Z is a dual-camera system equipped with a zoom function, allowing the cameras to zoom in, focus, and take high-definition video, as well as panoramic color and 3D images of the Martian surface. With this capability, the robotic astrobiologist can provide a detailed examination of both close and distant objects.

The cameras will help scientists assess the geologic history and atmospheric conditions of Jezero Crater and will assist in identifying rocks and sediment worthy of a closer look by the rover's other instruments. The cameras also will help the mission team

determine which rocks the rover should sample and collect for eventual return to Earth in the future.

Stitched together from 142 images, the newly released panorama reveals the crater rim and cliff face of an ancient river delta in the distance. The camera system can reveal details as small as 0.1 to 0.2 inches (3 to 5 millimeters) across near the rover and 6.5 to 10 feet (2 to 3 meters) across in the distant slopes along the horizon.

The detailed composite image shows a Martian surface that appears similar to images captured by previous NASA rover missions.

### More About the Mission

A key objective of Perseverance's mission on Mars is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life. The rover will characterize the planet's geology and past climate, pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet, and be the first mission to collect and cache Martian rock and regolith (broken rock and dust).



*This is the first 360-degree panorama taken by Mastcam-Z, a zoomable pair of cameras aboard NASA's Perseverance Mars rover. The panorama was stitched together on Earth from 142 individual images taken on Sol 3, the third Martian day of the mission (Feb. 21, 2021). (Credits: NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS/ASU)*

Subsequent NASA missions, in cooperation with ESA (European Space Agency), would send spacecraft to Mars to collect these sealed samples from the surface and return them to Earth for in-depth analysis.

The Mars 2020 Perseverance mission is part of NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach, which includes Artemis missions to the Moon that will help prepare for human exploration of the Red Planet.

JPL, which is managed for NASA by Caltech in Pasadena, California, built and manages operations of the Perseverance rover. For more about Perseverance, go to: <https://www.nasa.gov/perseverance>

## President Duterte to certify as urgent bills fast tracking COVID-19 vaccine negotiations, deliveries



*President Rodrigo Roa Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) core members at the Arcadia Active Lifestyle Center in Matina, Davao City on February 15, 2021. ALBERTO ALCAIN/ PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO*

MANILA -- On February 15, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte expressed his readiness to certify as urgent the passage of bills creating an indemnification agreement and advance market commitment to speed up coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine negotiations and deliveries.

In his report to President Duterte, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said the country is finalizing the preparations for the massive vaccination program, noting that stakeholders are just awaiting the signing of an indemnification clause as well as advance market commitment. An indemnification clause refers to the agreement reached between stakeholders identifying the party that would take responsibility in case those receiving the jabs experienced adverse side effects.

Apart from the indemnification agreement, Galvez said they are also waiting for local government units' (LGUs) approval of the Gavi COVAX advance market commitment (AMC), an investment mechanism supporting low-income countries get access to COVID-19 vaccines.

## TSA seeks to hire over 6,000 airport security screening officers

WASHINGTON -- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is launching recruitment efforts nationwide to fill over 6,000 Transportation Security Officer (TSO) positions by summer 2021.

"TSOs are a critical first line defense in securing our nation's commercial air transportation system," said Melanie Harvey, acting Executive Assistant Administrator for TSA's Security Operations. Based on anticipated seasonal travel trends in the months ahead and the progress of COVID-19 vaccinations for the general public, TSA has launched national efforts to recruit new employees in support of screening operations at approximately 430 airports nationwide.

## TIGER WOODS BEGINS HIS RECOVERY PROCESS

Early Tuesday on February 23, Tiger Woods figured in a single car accident in California that resulted in significant leg injuries and required an extraction from his vehicle by first responders. Tiger Woods was brought to Harbor - UCLA Medical Center and was transferred to Cedars Sinai Medical Center, another hospital in the area, to begin the long recovery process.

Dr. Anish Mahajan, the chief medical officer and interim CEO at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, stated: "On behalf of our staff, it was an honor to provide orthopedic trauma care to one of our generation's greatest athletes." Woods' injuries include "comminuted open fractures affecting both the upper and lower portions of the tibia and fibula bones," Mahajan said, meaning the bones broke into more than two pieces and pierced the skin. A rod was inserted into the tibia to stabilize the leg. Additional injuries to the bones of the foot and ankle were stabilized with a combination of screws and pins.

Fellow pro golfers all over the world continue to express their support for the successful recovery of Tiger Woods.



## CBP WARNS RESIDENTS OF PHONE SCAM

GRAND FORKS N.D. — A new type of telephone scam is targeting residents nationwide in an attempt to gain banking information from unsuspecting residents.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents and officers nationwide are continuing to receive numerous calls from residents concerned about unsolicited calls from scammers posing as U.S. Border Patrol agents and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers. Residents are reporting the calls are a pre-recorded message stating, "a box of drugs and money being shipped has your (callers) name on it and it has been intercepted." The caller is then instructed to press #1 to speak with a CBP Officer/Agent, which then attempts to get the callers banking information.

These calls are phone scams/phishing attempts and residents are urged to not provide the caller with any information. The Department of Homeland Security and CBP does not solicit money over the phone.

If such calls are received, people should make a note of the number and any other pertinent details about the call and immediately hang up, and report the incident if possible. Phone scams can be reported to the Federal Trade Commission online at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>.

## News Breakers

### Wife of 'El Chapo' arrested on international drug trafficking charges

The wife of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera, leader of a Mexican drug trafficking organization known as the Sinaloa Cartel, was arrested on Feb. 24 in Virginia on charges related to her alleged involvement in international drug trafficking.

Emma Coronel Aispuro, 31, a dual U.S.-Mexican citizen, of Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico, was arrested today at Dulles International Airport. She is scheduled to make her initial appearance in federal court tomorrow in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia via video conference. According to court documents, Aispuro is charged with participating in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana for importation into the U.S.

### Nearly \$3M of fake jewelry & watches seized by Cincinnati CBP

CINCINNATI—On February 11-12, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Cincinnati seized two shipments of jewelry and watches deemed to be counterfeit by CBP's Centers of Excellence and Expertise.

The first shipment originated from Quezon City, Philippines, and was headed to a private residence in Aurora, Illinois. Although it had a declared value of \$50, the package held 237 items of jewelry or watches labeled as Hermes, Chanel, Cartier, Gucci, Tiffany, Louis Vuitton, Van Cleef, Bvlgari, and Rolex. Had the items been genuine, the cumulative Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) would have been \$783,495.

The second shipment came from China and was addressed to an individual in New York, New York. This shipment contained 87 counterfeit Rolex, Cartier, Audemars Piguet, and Panerai watches with a total MSRP of \$2,186,500, had they been real.

### HUD awards \$5.5 billion in grants to local communities

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$5.5 billion in funding to local programs throughout the country that provide affordable housing, community development and economic opportunity, and support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

"These core programs provide our local partners the funding they need to provide homes and vital services to some of our neighbors in need," said Acting Secretary Matt Ammon.

"This funding comes at a critical time for our country, when these bedrock programs have never been more important," said James Arthur Jemison, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.



# American Red Cross

## COVID-19: Consider Wearing Two Masks for Better Protection

The latest guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asks all of us to tighten our masks or consider wearing two masks to better protect us from the coronavirus. The guidance reports you can wear a cloth mask over a disposable surgical mask or improve the fit of a single surgical mask by knotting the ear loops and tucking in the sides close to your face to get a closer fit.

Both of these suggestions reduce your risk of being exposed to infection by as much as 96.5%.

The CDC also warns that wearing a mask around people you don't live with, or when someone in your home is sick, is even more important now because of the new, more contagious variants of the coronavirus.

Even though the average number of

new coronavirus cases in the United States is down 36 percent from two weeks ago, now is not the time to let down your guard in the fight against the virus. As new variants of the virus spread, they could threaten any progress made in the country's battle against COVID-19.

### HOW TO WEAR YOUR MASK CORRECTLY

When wearing a mask, make sure you can see and breathe easily. Here are some steps you can take to make sure you are wearing your mask correctly:

- Not all masks provide the same protection. When choosing a mask, look at how well it fits, how well it filters the air, and how many layers it has.
- Wear layers of material. Either use a cloth mask with multiple layers of fabric or



wear a disposable mask under a cloth mask. The second mask should push the edges of the inner mask against your face.

- Make sure your mask fits snugly against your face. Gaps can let air with respiratory droplets leak in and out around the edges of the mask.
- Choose a mask with a nose wire, a metal strip along the top of the mask. Bend the nose wire over your nose to fit close to

your face.

- Check that the mask is snug over your nose, mouth, and chin. Check for gaps by cupping your hands around the outside edges of the mask. Make sure no air is flowing from the area near your eyes or from the sides of the mask. If the mask has a good fit, you will feel warm air come through the front of the mask and may be able to see the mask material move in and out with each breath.

- Knot and tuck ear loops of a 3-ply mask.
- Don't combine two disposable masks.
- Don't combine a KN95 mask with any other mask.

### TRAVELERS MUST WEAR MASKS

The CDC has issued an order requiring face masks be worn by all travelers and operators while on public transportation. Masks must cover both the mouth and nose while awaiting, boarding, disembarking, or traveling on airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares as they travel. People must also wear masks while at places such as airports, bus or ferry terminals, train and subway stations, seaports and other locations where people board public transportation. The only people exempt from this new order are children under age 2, people with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or people for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to their workplace safety.

## RED CROSS STATEMENT ON LIVES LOST TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

"Our hearts go out to the families, friends and loved ones of those who have lost their lives due to the coronavirus pandemic. As we near the one-year anniversary of this global pandemic, and as we mark the tragic loss of more than 500,000 lives in the U.S., we share in this collective heartbreak, and recommit to our tireless endeavors to deliver our humanitarian mission to alleviate suffering for those in need.

Even in our grief, we must take care of one another. To battle this pandemic and protect vulnerable members of our communities, it's important we continue to adhere to safety measures to prevent further spread of this deadly virus: wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet apart, avoid crowds, wash your hands, and get a COVID-19 vaccine when able.

Together, we can turn from indifference and despair toward healing and hope. In this dark moment, we remember those we have lost, we care for those in our communities and we look to a brighter tomorrow for our nation."

## Red Cross, USAA and EANGUS We Care for America Foundation support National Guard members and families financially affected by COVID-19

WASHINGTON, DC - With thousands of National Guard members and their families facing financial hardships as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the United Services Automobile Association (USAA), the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) We Care for America Foundation and the American Red Cross are teaming up to help National Guard members and families in need.

As part of USAA's Military Family Relief Initiative, a historic philanthropic commitment made in August 2020, the American Red Cross received \$3.4 million to assist National Guard members and their families during these challenging economic times. The Red Cross is assisting EANGUS We Care for America Foundation with disbursing interest-free loans to National Guard personnel through the Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces' Hero Care Center's electronic fund distribution process. The donation will be distributed to National Guard members and families that have a verified financial need due to hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Loans are available in amounts from \$500 to \$2,000 and repayment terms are based on the loan amount.



## Follow these Safety Steps as winter storms hit your community

### SAFETY STEPS FROM AMERICAN RED CROSS

#### IF THE POWER IS OUT

- Use flashlights in the dark — not candles.
- If you must go out during a winter storm, use public transportation if possible. Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic lights will be out and roads will be congested.
- Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment.
- Turn off or disconnect any appliances and electronics that you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment.
- Leave one light on, so you'll know when power is restored.
- During a prolonged outage, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to protect your food.

- First, use perishable food from the refrigerator. Perishables are safe to eat when they have a temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below. Then, use food from the freezer.
- If the power outage will continue beyond a day, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items. Keep food in a dry, cool spot and cover it at all times.

#### STAY SAFE OUTSIDE

- Wear layered clothing, mittens or gloves, and a hat. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from severely cold air. Avoid taking deep breaths; minimize talking.
- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat.
- Stretch before you go out. If you

go out to shovel snow, do a few stretching exercises first to reduce your chances of muscle injury.

- Avoid overexertion, such as shoveling heavy snow, pushing a vehicle, or walking in deep snow. The strain may cause a heart attack. Sweating could lead to a chill and hypothermia.
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy sidewalks. Slips and falls occur frequently in winter weather, resulting in painful and sometimes disabling injuries.

- Get out of the cold immediately if the signs of hypothermia and frostbite appear. Signs of frostbite include lack of feeling in the affected area or skin that appears waxy, is cold to the touch, or is discolored (flushed, white or gray, yellow or blue)

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## AUSTRIA WELCOMES TWO OF ITS NEWEST CITIZENS



Noah and Jordan, accompanied by their mother Susan S., with Ambassador Martin Weiss in the Consular Section of the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

On January 25, 2021, Ambassador Martin Weiss congratulated Noah and his brother Jordan on becoming new citizens of Austria in memory of their late grandfather, the Vienna-born quantum physicist Dr. Fritz Rohrlach.

The two brothers acquired Austrian citizenship under a new law for descendants of victims of National Socialism, which entered into force last September. Since then, almost 4,000 U.S. citizens have contacted the Austrian consulates in the U.S. to express serious interest in acquiring dual citizenship under the new law, and more than 1,200 have already filed the official citizenship declaration.

**BACKGROUND:** In September 2019, the Austrian Parliament unanimously adopted an amendment to the Austrian Nationality Act (sec 58c) in recognition of Austria's historical responsibility and as a further gesture in its efforts to achieve reconciliation with the victims of National Socialism and their descendants.

Eligible descendants of victims of the National Socialist regime can claim Austrian citizenship since September 1, 2020 by means of a simple declaration. The victims were already eligible to reclaim Austrian citizenship before. There exists no time limit to file the declaration for citizenship.

## Technology solutions for future proofing fruit cultivation

Imagine thousands of acres of fruit orchards filled with trees equally shaped and orderly planted in rows to enable the business owner to grow and harvest large numbers of high-quality fruit in an efficient way all year round.

To realize this ambition, a collaboration is being set up between the Washington State Department of Agriculture, the Dutch government, several private parties and universities from both Washington State, California, and the Netherlands.

The parties announced this collaboration in a joint statement on February 3. As part of a larger AgFoodTech Collaboration between California, Washington State, and the Dutch, initiated by the governments on all sides, this collaboration is focusing on one of the five innovation themes identified in the agreement — fruit orchard automation and robotization.

"This is a good time to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity. To re-think our food systems. And to develop new infrastructures for sustainably produced healthy food," said Dutch Ambassador André Haspels. "Together, we can build food systems that are smart, sustainable, and efficient."

To keep pace with the higher demands regarding sustainability, environment and food safety in the fruit sector, combined with the declining availability of workforce, both regions have to speed up innovations to maintain and secure a sustainable future proof and resilient fruit food sector.

This automatization process makes fruit available year around for the majority of our increasing population.

This collaboration contributes to the acceleration of these processes to realize these shared goals by combining the excellent technology know how and specified sector knowledge available in both our ecosystems.

"Both Washington State and the Netherlands specialize in growing crops that require highly skilled and innovative technology solutions," Ambassador Haspels said.

Making fruit cultivation more efficient, intelligent, sustainable, and future proof requires us to be able to monitor, manage, and make decisions at the level of individual trees. Smart technology will enable getting the most out of an orchard through the targeted, efficient use of crop protection agents, plant hormones and fertilizers, while saving on labour and minimizing food waste.



## Peace Corps celebrates 60 years of global volunteerism

President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, to promote world peace and friendship with countries around the globe by sending Americans to volunteer their services in developing countries.

Over six decades, it has sent 250,000 volunteers — mostly

young Americans — to more than 140 countries around the world. Though the Peace Corps suspended its operations and recalled volunteers for the first time in its history in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization plans to put volunteers in the field as soon as mid- to late-2021



Peace Corps Rural Aquaculture Promotion volunteers Adam Greenberg and Lianne Bronzo demonstrate how to make fish feed for new fish farmers in Zambia in 2018. (Peace Corps)



Volunteer Rick Ranalli works with students on transplanting plants into a garden in Mexico in 2012. (Peace Corps)



Peace Corps volunteer Megan Pipe serving in the health sector, measures a baby in Rwanda in 2018 (Peace Corps)

## TOURISM CHIEF : PHLONE WITH ASEAN IN RESPONDING TO COVID CRISIS

MANILA, Philippines — Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat reaffirmed the country's commitment to the regional tourism cooperation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"More than ever, we are banking on the unity of the tourism industry to ensure that we will together endure and overcome these trying times," said Secretary Puyat.

The tourism chief made the assertion during the Special ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting held recently. Puyat was among the 12 leaders who attended the meeting held via tele-conference.

## Sophie Wilmès presents Belgian priorities in Human Rights Council

On February 22, the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council started in Geneva and will continue until March 23. On this occasion, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sophie addressed the ministerial part of the session.

She presented the priorities of the Belgian government and shared some reflections on the current challenges in the field of human rights.

The promotion and protection of human rights is a cornerstone of Belgium's foreign policy. This is particularly reflected in Belgium's commitment on the multilateral level. Our country has just completed a two-year term as chair of the Security Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

Belgium's regular mandates within the Human Rights Council, for example on the universal abolition of the death penalty, are another example of that commitment.

For Belgium, the Human Rights Council is first and foremost a forum for dialogue and frank exchanges, committed to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the universal level, in all regions and all societies, regardless of their political system.

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

– Helen Keller

The Gilman-Israel Scholarship, a partnership between the Embassy of Israel to the United States and the Gilman Scholarship Program, will support more American undergraduate students to study or intern abroad in Israel, including the study of the Hebrew language.



The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).



## USAID donates Php16M in learning equipment to support out-of-school children and youth

MANILA — As part of the United States' ongoing commitment to support the Philippine government's Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan during the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) turned over 371 laptop computers worth more than Php16 million (\$333,000) to the Department of Education (DepEd).

At a ceremony held at the DepEd Central Office on February 19, USAID Philippines Office of Education Director Dr. Thomas LeBlanc handed the laptops over to DepEd Assistant Secretary for Alternative Learning System (ALS) G.H. Ambat.

The laptops will support ALS teachers and coordinators in the field who provide education to out-of-school children and

youth. ALS teachers and administrators will use this equipment to continue working with students, updating lesson content, innovating teaching methods, and monitoring learners' progress.

This new donation supplements an October 2020 USAID handover to DepEd of laptops, printers, projectors, and learning materials. USAID also provided five DepEd "e-Skwela Centers" with equipment to expand their outreach to vulnerable out-of-school youth who want to enroll in the ALS.

This assistance is part of USAID's Opportunity 2.0, a five-year, Php1.9-billion (\$37.5 million) project that supports DepEd, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and local governments in their ongoing programs providing relevant education, employability skills, and work experience to out-of-school youth.



USAID Office of Education Chief Thomas LeBlanc ( right ) hands over the USAID -donated laptop computers to Department of Education ( DepEd ) Undersecretary for Alternative Learning System G.H. Ambat during a ceremony at the DepEd Complex in Pasig City on February 19.

### STATEMENT ON THE RISE IN ATTACKS ON ASIAN AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

25 February 2021

We note with concern the rise in attacks on Asian Americans in various parts of the United States.

The Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in the United States appreciate the swift action taken by a number of local authorities to apprehend perpetrators of these attacks. However, we call on federal, state, and local authorities to further ensure the protection of persons of Asian descent, including Filipinos.

Filipinos are advised to exercise utmost caution in view of these incidents. Those who experience attacks are advised to immediately call 911 to report incidents.

###

## Condemning violence, nations call for democracy in Burma

By LEIGH HARTMAN



Health care professionals at the University Hospital protest the military coup February 5 in Rangoon, Burma. (© AP Images)

On February 1, Burmese military officials overthrew their country's democratically elected government. They arrested officials, journalists and other society leaders. They fired rubber bullets and live ammunition at protesters, killing four and injuring at least 40 others.

The United States and a growing number of nations are calling for a return to democracy in Burma and an end to military violence against peaceful protesters.

We "firmly condemn violence committed by Myanmar's security forces against peaceful protests," the Group of Seven (G7) nations said in a February 23 statement. They called for the release of Burma's democratically elected leaders and pledged their leaders would "continue to stand with the people of Myanmar in their quest for democracy and freedom."

The G7 nations are the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom. The High Representative of the European Union also joined the statement.

On February 18, Secretary of State Antony Blinken also urged the international community to send a unified message to promote accountability in Burma.

## World News Updates

### COVID-19 vaccine doses shipped to Ghana

On February 24, Ghana became the first country outside India to receive COVID-19 vaccine doses shipped via the COVAX Facility. This is a historic step towards the World Health Organization's goal to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines globally, in what will be the largest vaccine procurement and supply operation in history. The delivery is part of a first wave of arrivals that will continue in the coming days and weeks. As readiness criteria are met and doses produced, vaccines will be shipped to Facility participants on a rolling basis.

### HRH Crown Prince announces 4 new laws to reform the Kingdom's judicial institutions

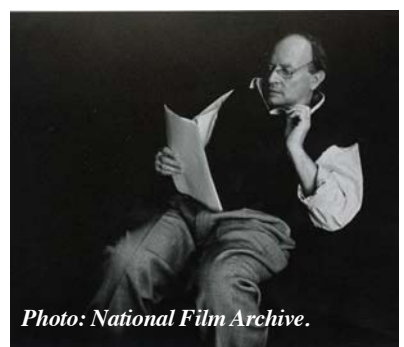
HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced that the Kingdom has taken serious steps towards developing its legislative environment during the past few years, including adopting new laws and reforming existing ones. These laws are meant to preserve rights, bolster the principles of justice, enforce transparency, protect human rights and achieve comprehensive and sustainable development, in a manner to reinforce the Kingdom's global competitiveness based on objective and clearly identified procedural and institutional references.

### Events dedicated to the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between US and Kazakhstan

WASHINGTON D.C., — With the support of the George Washington University's Central Asia Program, a virtual discussion was held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the United States.

On December 16, 2021, Kazakhstan will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Independence. One of the first decisions of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev was the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and the elimination of the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world, which marked a new chapter in the history of sovereign Kazakhstan.

## IVAN PASSER'S LEGACY PRESERVED



The Czech Embassy is proud to have played an important role in returning a national treasure - the estate of Czech-American director Ivan Passer - to the Czech Republic.

Ivan Passer was a prominent Czech-American filmmaker and screenwriter. His estate which the National Film Institute returned to the Czech Republic included screenplays, film production documents, videos, personal diaries, family and work-related photographs, personal finances, correspondence, and even cooking recipes.

Heartwarming, among the items acquired by the National Film Archive is Ivan Passer's Crystal Globe trophy for his lifetime contribution to world cinema, which he received at the prestigious Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in 2008.

## IMMIGRATION UPDATE



HOSTED BY AWEE ABAYARI



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INM  
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## INM Book Choice

### Never Enough: A Navy SEAL Commander on Living a Life of Excellence, Agility, and Meaning

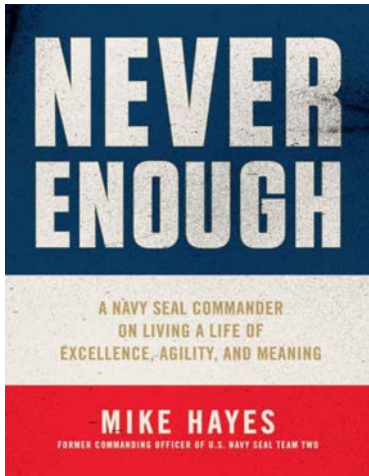
by MIKE HAYES

In *Never Enough*, Mike Hayes—former Commander of SEAL Team TWO—helps readers apply high-stakes lessons about excellence, agility, and meaning across their personal and professional lives.

Mike Hayes has lived a lifetime of once-in-a-lifetime experiences. He has been held at gunpoint and threatened with execution. He's jumped out of a building rigged to explode, helped amputate a teammate's leg, and made countless split-second life-and-death decisions.

He's written countless emails to his family, telling them how much he loves them, just in case those were the last words of his they'd ever read. Outside of the SEALs, he's run meetings in the White House Situation Room, negotiated international arms treaties, and developed high-impact corporate strategies.

Over his many years of leadership, he has always strived to be better, to contribute more, and to put others first. That's what makes him an effective leader, and it's the quality that he's



identified in all of the great leaders he's encountered. That continual striving to lift those around him has filled Mike's life with meaning and purpose, has made him secure in the knowledge that he brings his best to everything he does, and has made him someone others can rely on.

In *Never Enough*, Mike Hayes recounts dramatic stories and offers battle- and boardroom-tested advice that will motivate readers to do work of value, live lives of purpose, and stretch themselves to reach their highest potential.

### Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth

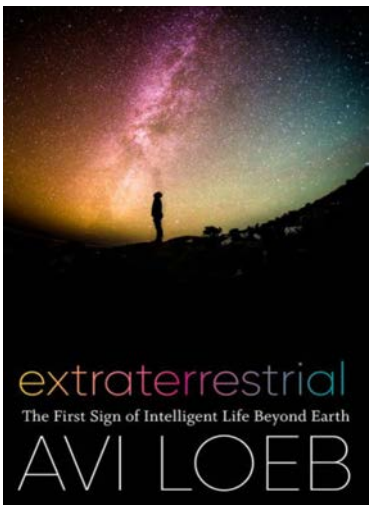
By AVI LOEB

INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES  
BESTSELLER

Harvard's top astronomer lays out his controversial theory that our solar system was recently visited by advanced alien technology from a distant star.

In late 2017, scientists at a Hawaiian observatory glimpsed an object soaring through our inner solar system, moving so quickly that it could only have come from another star. Avi Loeb, Harvard's top astronomer, showed it was not an asteroid; it was moving too fast along a strange orbit, and left no trail of gas or debris in its wake. There was only one conceivable explanation: the object was a piece of advanced technology created by a distant alien civilization.

In *Extraterrestrial*, Loeb takes readers inside the thrilling story of the first interstellar visitor to be spotted in our solar system. He outlines his controversial theory and its profound implications: for



science, for religion, and for the future of our species and our planet. A mind-bending journey through the furthest reaches of science, space-time, and the human imagination, *Extraterrestrial* challenges readers to aim for the stars—and to think critically about what's out there, no matter how strange it seems.

## New Etiquette Rules in a COVID-19 World

### • Handshakes and greetings

Myka Meier, author of *Business*

*Etiquette Made Easy*, notes that few people are likely to be shaking hands at a time when staying 6 feet apart is the norm.

Even something like an elbow bump means making contact with another person and might not be appropriate in more formal settings like business meetings.

Instead, Meier recommends two totally contactless greetings: what she calls "the grasp and greet" — clapping your hands together and putting them over your heart as you approach someone — and the "stop, drop and nod" — standing still, dropping your hands and putting them behind your back (so you're not tempted to reach out for a handshake), then nodding to say hello.

### • Invitations, events and RSVPs

Many large-scale gatherings and events have already been cancelled, but if you've RSVP'd "yes" to something that's still

scheduled to happen, international etiquette expert Sharon Schweitzer says the rules around declining have become a bit more flexible.

"Long-standing etiquette and social graces have always dictated that if you accepted the RSVP and said you would attend, you must," she says. "However, in light of the coronavirus, you can change your RSVP to decline if you cannot attend."

In the case of events like weddings, she says, be sure to send a gift anyway — and change your response promptly out of respect for the host (you might also want to write a personal note expressing how much you regret having to decline).

When it comes to saying no to casual invitations, like neighbors asking you to join them 6 feet apart in their backyard, the experts recommend having a go-to script to politely decline. Smith recommends something like: "I'm so thrilled that you invited me,

but I'm just not ready yet."

### • Masks (and more) in public

With health officials now advising that everyone wear a mask or face covering while out in public, Smith says that fashionable face coverings may become the norm as people start looking to wear masks that coordinate with their clothing. Of course, interacting with others with half of your face covered means losing some of the nonverbal ways we rely on to express ourselves, like smiling. That's where gestures come in, since something as simple as a thumbs up or a mock salute can help you express yourself in public in the way a smile once would have.

### • Safety at home

We might also start to see some changes in our homes, Schweitzer says, like asking guests to remove their shoes upon entering, something that she notes is already the norm in many other cultures.

And, she says, there's really no reason to go back to touching our glasses during a toast or blowing out birthday candles on a cake that is then served to many guests (instead, she foresees alternatives like blowing out an individual candle on your very own cupcake).

### • Looking to the future

Eventually, however, experts predict that most of our long-standing rituals and habits will reemerge as restrictions on our daily lives are eased.

"We will return to shaking hands," she says. "It may not be until 2025, but eventually we will." -- AARP.gov

## Good Manners



## Health Updates

### Advances spark record-breaking drop in U.S. cancer death rate

By LAUREN MONSEN

Thanks in part to new treatments, the U.S. death rate from cancer dropped 2.4 percent in a recent year, the biggest annual drop ever recorded, according to a new report by the American Cancer Society.

The declining cancer death rate in the U.S. for the most recent year available (2017–2018) is part of a trend that began some 25 years ago. Oncologists say the decline in mortality is largely driven by a decrease in smoking and by advances in detecting and treating lung cancer and skin cancer (melanoma).

With regard to fighting melanoma, the new report cites the development of drugs that strike at the molecular roots of tumors, as well as therapies that harness a patient's own immune system. Immunotherapies, along with targeted treatments that take aim

at specific genetic mutations or proteins, play a role in declining death rates.

And the emergence of sophisticated therapies is expected to accelerate. The \$123-billion, worldwide cancer drugs market is among the pharmaceutical industry's largest and fastest-growing segments, spurring companies to invest in the development of new cancer-fighting drugs.

### Lives saved

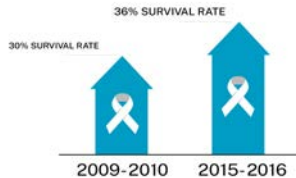
Cancer is still a major public health problem worldwide and the second-leading cause of death in the U.S. (behind heart disease), according to the American Cancer Society.

Challenges remain, but progress is significant. After increasing for most of the 20th century, the cancer death rate has fallen 31

percent from its peak in 1991 through 2018, a drop that translates to 3.2 million fewer cancer deaths during that time period.

Survival rates for lung cancer have improved at every stage of the disease. And deaths from female breast cancer, prostate cancer and colorectal cancer have all dropped significantly in recent years. - ShareAmerica

### IMPROVED SURVIVAL RATES FOR LUNG CANCER



SOURCE: American Cancer Society

Source : American Cancer Society  
State Department ( Frank Carter )

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

### CAPITALS OF THE WORLD :

United States: Washington, DC.	El Salvador: San Salvador	Philippines: Manila
Spain: Madrid	Finland: Helsinki	Poland: Warsaw
Austria: Vienna	Germany: Berlin	Portugal: Lisbon
Australia: Canberra	Greece: Athens	Sweden: Stockholm
Belgium: Brussels	Hungary: Budapest	Switzerland: Bern
Canada: Ottawa	Ireland: Dublin	Thailand: Bangkok
Chile: Santiago	India: New Delhi	Uganda: Kampala
Colombia: Bogota	Italy: Rome	Vatican City ( Holy See):
Denmark: Copenhagen	Japan: Tokyo	Vatican City
Egypt: Cairo	Norway: Oslo	Vietnam: Hanoi
	Peru: Lima	



Models give an emotional salute at a Boston fashion show hosted by The Verma Foundation, a nonprofit that makes custom wigs for cancer patients suffering from hair loss. (© Joseph Prezioso/AFP/Getty Images)



At the National Institutes of Health in Maryland, Dr. Christian Hinrichs shows patient Fred Janick a scan of cancerous tumors (right) and a clean scan after treatment (left). (© Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty Images)





With the support of our generous partners, the Feeding America network is meeting the needs of families across the country and helping them find the strength to move forward and flourish.



## TAX TIME GUIDE: HOW TO DO TAXES FOR FREE AND GET REFUNDS FAST

WASHINGTON — During this tax season when many people are trying to stay safe at home, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers about ways to do their taxes for free online or with help from volunteers.

Free File is easy, fast, safe and secure

Taxpayers who want to prepare and file their tax returns electronically can use IRS Free File. IRS Free File offers brand-name tax software for taxpayers with an income of \$72,000 or less in 2020. Taxpayers who earned more can use Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms. Taxpay-

ers can get started at [IRS.gov/FreeFile](https://www.irs.gov/FreeFile). IRS Free File also lets taxpayers get an automatic extension of time to file if they need it.

Free File is also a way to get a refund fast. Filing electronically and using direct deposit is the fastest and most accurate way to file and get a refund. The IRS issues nine out of 10 refunds in 21 days or less. Taxpayers filing on paper can also choose direct deposit, but paper returns take longer to process.

Free File and e-file also help taxpayers who owe. When filing electronically, taxpayers can pay with electronic funds withdrawal for free. Another option is to pay with their bank account using Direct Pay. In addition to paying online, taxpayers who owe taxes can pay using the IRS2Go mobile app on a smartphone or other mobile device. Information about all payment options is available at [IRS.gov/payments](https://www.irs.gov/payments).

Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground".

– Theodore Roosevelt, former U.S. President

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AMERICA IS MODERN DAY SLAVERY

FORCED LABOR | SEX TRAFFICKING | DOMESTIC SERVITUDE



IT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

### GET INFORMED

[DHS.GOV/BLUECAMPAIGN](https://dhs.gov/bluecampaign)



One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking.

REPORT SUSPECTED TRAFFICKING

**1-866-DHS-2-ICE**

1-866-347-2423

VICTIM SUPPORT CALL

**1-888-373-7888**

INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733)

TEXT

**INFO or HELP**

to BeFree (233733)


## YOUR DONATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Many people in Manila are suffering from hunger because they are not working. WSF Philippines and Hospital on Wheels ( HOW ) joined to feed the hungry via Healthy Lugaw ( HELOW ) feeding project. We will also distribute hygiene kits. People can send donations to : WSF, P.O. Box 1006, Camp Hill, Pa. 17001 or go to our website to use [PayPal worldsurgicalfoundation.org/donate](https://www.paypal.com/worldsurgicalfoundation.org/donate) or use Smile,Amazon.com when ordering online. Thank you.

Dr. Domingo T. Alvear  
World Surgical Foundation

**OUR MISSION:** The Foundation organizes volunteer teams of surgeons to participate in surgical missions around the world to provide healthcare to the world's poor and medically underserved nations regardless of color, religion or creed.

**OUR PROGRAMS:** The Foundation performs medical and surgical missions to developing countries, the Foundation performs medical and surgical missions to developing countries that do not have adequate healthcare. The Foundation's missions included trips to the Philippines and Honduras.



### Online Dating Scams

Has an online love interest asked you for money?

☒ That's a scam.



Scammers know millions of people use online dating sites. They are there, too, hiding behind fake profiles.

### Signs of a Scam

- Professes love quickly. Claims to be overseas for business or military service.
- Asks for money, and lures you off the dating site.
- Claims to need money — for emergencies, hospital bills, or travel. Plans to visit, but can't because of an emergency.

### COSTLIEST SCAM

REPORTED TO THE FTC IN 2019

**\$201 million lost**





REPORTED MONEY LOSSES INCREASED 6X SINCE 2015

### What to do

- Slow down — and talk to someone you trust. Don't let a scammer rush you.
- Never transfer money from your bank account, buy gift cards, or wire money to an online love interest. You won't get it back.
- Contact your bank right away if you think you've sent money to a scammer.
- Report your experience to:
  - The online dating site
  - Federal Trade Commission: [ftc.gov/complaint](https://ftc.gov/complaint)
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation: [ic3.gov](https://ic3.gov)

Learn more at [ftc.gov/imposters](https://ftc.gov/imposters) and [aba.com/engagement](https://aba.com/engagement)




## Help Change Lives

There are more people becoming homeless for the first time now than any time in Los Angeles' history. LOS ANGELES MISSION is on the front lines of providing meals, hot showers, safe shelter and other life-giving support to people in need. Help change a life. Donate now.

THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

- 53,195 People in Los Angeles County are experiencing homelessness
- 22% Increase in people aged 62 and older who are experiencing homelessness
- 3 out of 4 People experiencing homelessness remain unsheltered
- 6% Of people experiencing homelessness are currently fleeing violence
- 9,322 People over the past year are experiencing homelessness for the first time



## Driving & Auto



## Winter Driving Tips

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for travelers. Winter storms, bad weather and sloppy road conditions are a factor in nearly half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter, according to research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Drivers should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies. AAA urges drivers to be cautious while driving in adverse weather.

AAA recommends the following tips while driving in snowy and icy conditions:

### Cold Weather Driving Tips

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

### Tips for Driving in the Snow

- Stay home. Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- Drive slowly. Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Increase your following distance to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

- AAA



## THE KENNEDY CENTER HONORS *A Unique Event For This Season*



DEBBIE ALLEN



JOAN BAEZ



MIDORI



GARTH BROOKS



DICK VAN DYKE

The 2020 Kennedy Center Honors, which traditionally is held in early December each year, was postponed until May 2021 due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients to be honored at the 43rd annual national celebration of the arts are: multi-disciplinary artist, choreographer, and actress Debbie Allen; singer-songwriter and activist Joan Baez; country singer-songwriter Garth Brooks; violinist Midori; and actor Dick Van Dyke.

### More About the Honors

The Honors recipients, recognized for their contributions to American culture through the performing arts, are confirmed

by the Executive Committee of the Center's Board of Trustees. Whether in music, dance, theater, opera, motion pictures, or television, the primary criterion in the selection process is excellence. The Honors are not designated by art form or category of artistic achievement; the selection process, over the years, has produced balance among the various arts and artistic disciplines.

## Resorts World Las Vegas partners with Fred Segal to unveil new retail experience

LAS VEGAS -- Resorts World Las Vegas today announced its partnership with iconic Los Angeles-based experiential retailer, Fred Segal, to bring a multi-store destination to the Strip's newest integrated resort opening this summer. The new location will go beyond retail and bring LA style, food and pop-culture together for a truly interactive shopping experience.

"We are thrilled to join forces with Fred Segal to offer our guests this unique and luxurious Southern California-style shopping experience," said Scott Sibella, President of Resorts World Las Vegas. "It's exciting to be able to bring such an iconic brand with a renowned global presence to our Resorts World Las Vegas retail portfolio. Through this collaboration, we will offer guests the only Fred Segal experience in Las Vegas and look forward to bringing a taste of LA culture and style to the Strip this summer."

Two mini flagship Fred Segal locations, a women's and men's shop, will be located in the heart of the resort's 70,000-square-foot retail district. Fred Segal is a pioneer of the shop-in-shop concept so both stores will bring one-of-a-kind pieces and unique brand activations and feature a highly curated collection of fashion apparel, accessories, beauty, gifts and jewelry from brands including Libertine, MadeWorn, DANIELLE GUIZIO, John Elliott, On Running and more -- some of which will feature exclusive offerings available only at Resorts World Las Vegas.

## TobyMac 'Hits Deep' tour gives back to The Salvation Army

ALEXANDRIA, Va. -- Awakening Events has teamed up with The Salvation Army to support individuals and families in need through TobyMac's Hits Deep 2021 Tour. Awakening Events' generous donation will support the organization's ongoing efforts to serve vulnerable Americans, particularly those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Salvation Army is so grateful for supporters like Awakening Events," said Commissioner Kenneth G. Hodder, national commander of The Salvation Army. "There is still a tsunami of need across America, so Awakening Events' gift is important for our continued local effort to provide hope and help to individuals and families who will face the effects of the pandemic for years to come."

During the 2020 holiday season, The Salvation Army saw an increase in service requests that greatly surpassed previous years, with many first-time individuals and families needing assistance. As the need for support remains greater than ever for the country's most vulnerable, The Salvation Army remains committed to providing hope and healing to those in need.

"We're inspired by the Salvation Army's commitment to meeting human need, and in 2021 Awakening Events, Awakening Foundation, and Altru Healthshare are committed to giving over \$200,000 to local communities around the United States to provide aid and relief," said Dan Fife, president and founder of Awakening Events.

"We're honored for the chance to support their continued efforts, providing basic necessities to those left displaced as a result of the pandemic."

With a presence in nearly every zip code in the United States, The Salvation Army is uniquely positioned to meet the needs of those most vulnerable.

Thanks to supporters like Awakening Events, since last March, The Salvation Army has provided:

- 150 million meals
- 1.6 million nights of shelter
- 865,000 instances of emotional and spiritual care



## Respecting Elders



## Public Affairs with AWEE ABAYARI



### TOPICS :

- Public Service • Education • Culture •
- International Affairs • Law and Justice • Environment •
- Housing • Employment • Health • Social Services •
- Transportation • Politics • Communications, etc. •

For questions:

radiotvanchor1@gmail.com • www.youtube.com/Awee Abayari



INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

## Spiritual Corner

*Faith* IS NOT KNOWING  
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,  
BUT KNOWING  
*who holds the future.*

"Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will not fear no evil, for you  
are with me..."

Psalms 23:4

Trust in the LORD  
with all your heart  
and lean not on your own  
understanding.

Proverbs 3:5

DRAW NEAR  
TO GOD,  
&  
HE WILL  
DRAW NEAR  
TO YOU.

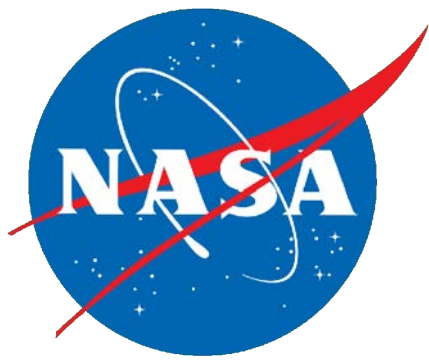


TESLA

SPACEX

RETURNING  
HUMAN SPACE  
TO THE  
UNITED STATES





# JET PROPULSION LABORATORY California Institute of Technology

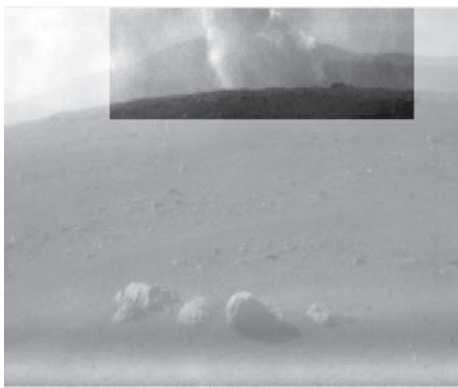
## NASA's Perseverance Rover Gives HD Panoramic View of Landing Site



MASTCAM-Z's first 360 - degree panorama



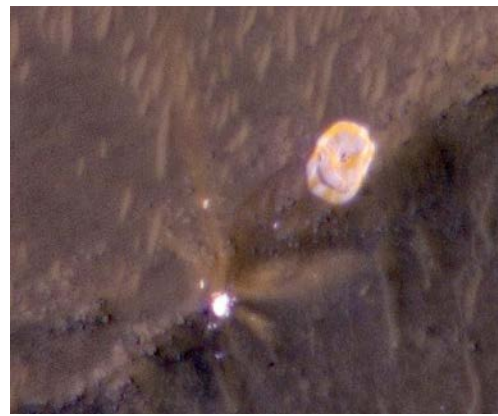
Mars Perseverance Team Pre- Landing



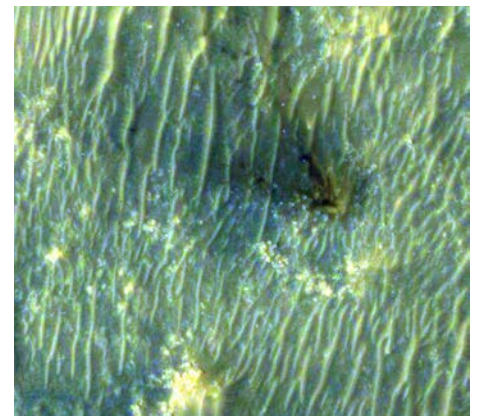
Black and white: Smoke plume from Perseverance's Descent Stage



MARS DECODER RING



Close-up of Perseverance parachute on the Martian surface



Close-up of Perseverance descent stage on the Martian surface



NAVCAM view of Perseverance's rover deck



Perseverance's first full-color look at Mars



Great anticipation as Perseverance lands



High - resolution still image of Perseverance's landing



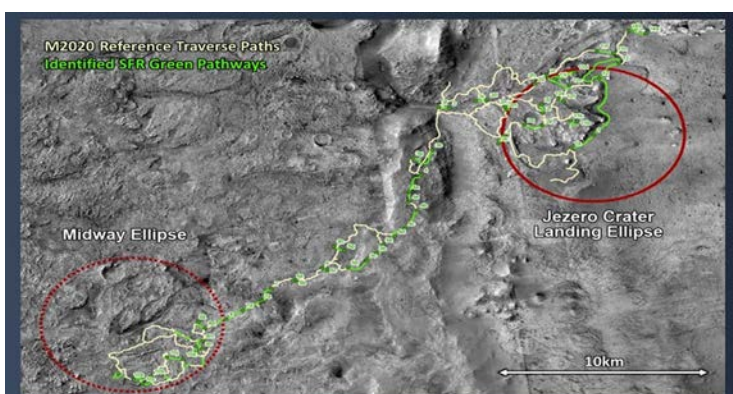
Cheers for a successful Mars landing



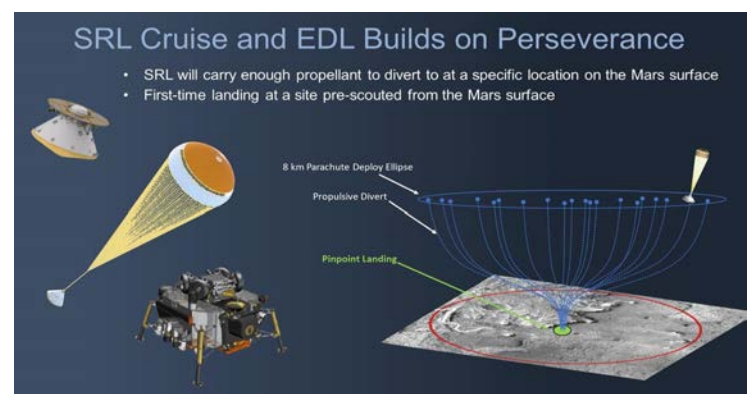
Perseverance Rover's first image from Mars



Animation: How Perseverance's supercam works



Fetching Mars samples



Mars sample return lander's divert maneuver

### MORE ABOUT THE MISSION

A key objective of Perseverance's mission on Mars is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life. The rover will characterize the planet's geology and past climate, pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet, and be the first mission to collect and cache Martian rock and regolith (broken rock and dust).

Subsequent NASA missions, in cooperation with ESA (European Space Agency), would send spacecraft to

Mars to collect these sealed samples from the surface and return them to Earth for in-depth analysis.

The Mars 2020 Perseverance mission is part of NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach, which includes Artemis missions to the Moon that will help prepare for human exploration of the Red Planet.

JPL, which is managed for NASA by Caltech in Pasadena, California, built and manages operations of the Perseverance rover. For more about Perseverance, go to: <https://www.nasa.gov/perseverance>