

CUTS TO U.S. AID
IMPAIR RESPONSE
TO EARTHQUAKE
DISASTER IN MYANMAR

Global Rivals Rushing In
to Assist in America’s
Striking Absence

By HANNAH BEECH
and EDWARD WONG

China, Russia and Vietnam have dispatched emergency teams and supplies to earthquake-ravaged Myanmar. So have Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

The United States, the richest country in the world and once its most generous provider of foreign aid, has sent nothing.

Even as President Trump was dismantling the U.S. Agency for International Development, he said that American help was on its way to Myanmar, where a 7.7-magnitude earthquake ripped through the country’s heavily populated center on Friday. More than 1,700 people were killed, according to Myanmar’s military government, with the death toll expected to climb steeply as more bodies are uncovered in the rubble and rescue teams reach remote villages.

But a three-person U.S.A.I.D. assessment team is not expected to arrive until Wednesday, people with knowledge of the deployment efforts said. The overall American response has been slower than under normal circumstances, people who have worked on earlier disaster relief efforts as well as on aid to Myanmar said.

Chinese search-and-rescue teams, complete with dogs trained to sniff out trapped people, are already on the ground in Mandalay, Myanmar’s second-largest city and one of the places most deeply affected by the quake. China has pledged \$14 million for Myanmar quake relief, sending 126 rescue workers and six dogs, along with medical kits, drones and earthquake detectors.

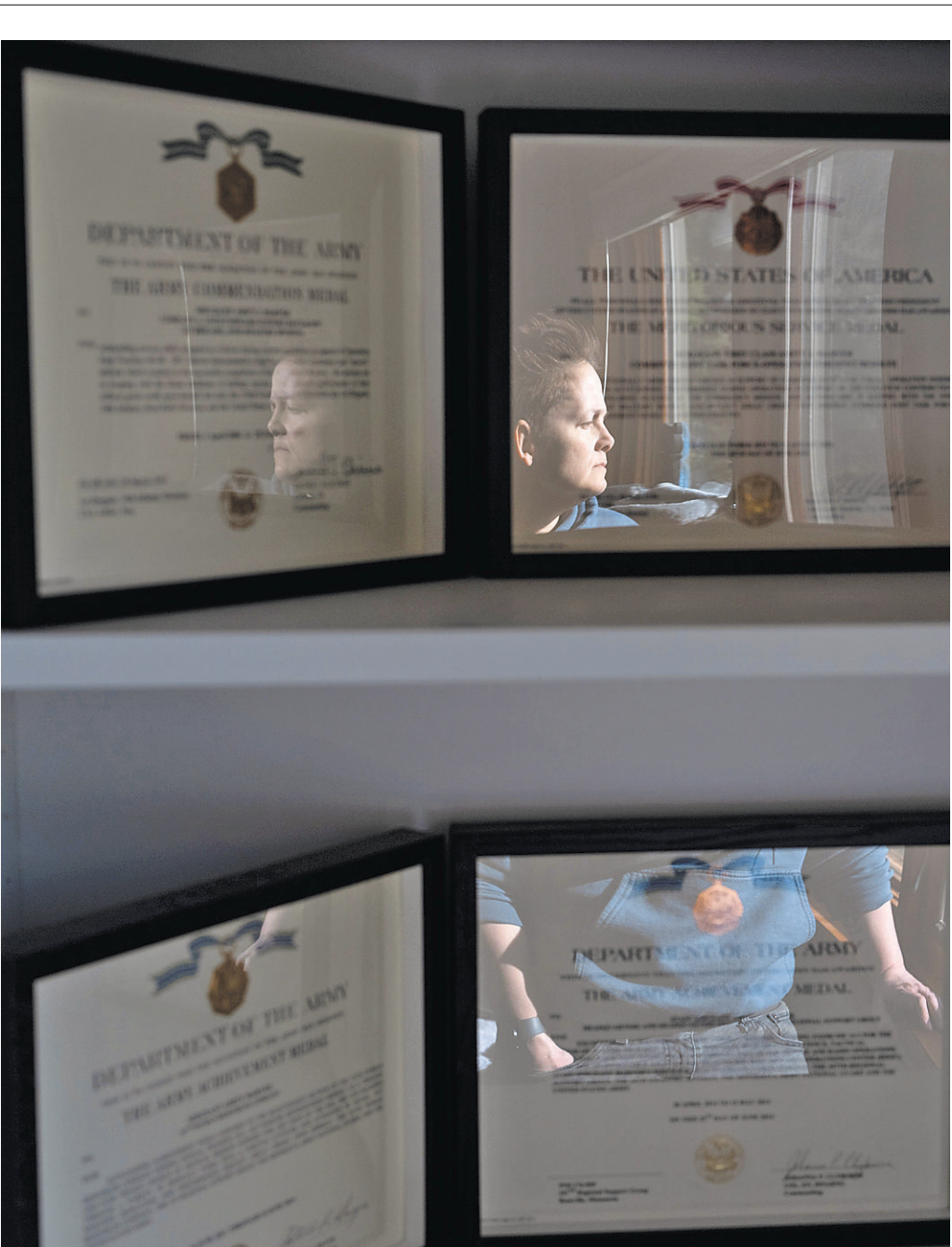
“Being charitable and being seen as charitable serves American foreign policy,” said Michael Schiffer, the assistant administrator of the U.S.A.I.D. bureau for Asia from 2022 until earlier this year. “If we don’t show up and China shows up, that sends a pretty strong message.”

On Sunday, the U.S. Embassy in Myanmar announced on its website that the United States would provide up to \$2 million in aid, disbursed through humanitarian groups based in Myanmar. But many of the systems needed to funnel American aid to Myanmar have been shattered.

On Friday, as some employees in Washington in U.S.A.I.D.’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance were preparing a response to the

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DREAD IN BANGKOK The collapse of a tall building has shaken confidence in Thailand. PAGE A8



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIN SCHAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Clockwise from above: Joy Marver and her military service awards; her National Guard medal; and a piece of the rocket that caused her traumatic brain injury.



Devoted to Serving Her Country,
Discarded by Her Government

By ELI SASLOW

It had been six days since Joy Marver was locked out of her office at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, five days since she checked herself into a hospital for emergency psychiatric care, and two days since she sent a letter to her supervisors: “Please, I’m so confused. Can you help me understand?”

Now, she followed her wife into the storage room of their house outside Minneapolis, searching for answers no one would give her. A half-dozen bins held the remnants of 22 years spent in service to the U.S. government — first as a sergeant first class in Iraq, then as a disabled veteran and finally as a V.A. support specialist in lo-

gistics. She had devoted her career to a system that had always made sense to her, but now nobody seemed to know whether she had officially been laid off, or for how long, or why.

“Are you sure you never got an email?” asked her wife, Miki Jo Carlson, 49.

“How would I know?” asked Marver, 45. “They deleted my account.”

“Maybe it’s because you were still probationary?”

“My boss said I was exempt,” Marver said. “I was supposed to be essential.”

In the last few months, more than 30,000 people across the country were fired by President

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A Wonder Chicken Gives Hope
To Struggling African Farmers

By PATRICIA COHEN

PETAUKE, Zambia — “How old do you think these chickens are?” Levy Phiri asked the crowd, after scooping four multicolored birds out of a crate and setting them down in the courtyard outside the primary school in Kambumbe, a village in Zambia’s rural Eastern Province.

The roughly 200 people who came out in the midafternoon heat for this presentation, held by the country’s largest chicken hatchery and processor, craned their

necks for a better look. A year, someone called out. Fourteen months, another suggested.

Mr. Phiri, a field representative for the company, Hybrid Poultry Farm, paused a moment for suspense. They are just six weeks, he revealed. Surprise rippled through the gathering.

These are not just any chickens. They are Zambo chickens, birds specifically bred to thrive in the

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BRIAN OTIENO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Village chickens in Petauke, Zambia. An initiative aims to replace them with the Zambo chicken, bred to be climate-resilient.

In Iron Range,
Trump’s Tariffs
Cast a Shadow

‘Joined at the Hip’ to a
Remaking of Policy

By CHARLES HOMANS
and JENN ACKERMAN

CHISHOLM, Minn. — Once a week, most weeks, the ground in Chisholm, Minn., shudders underfoot.

“When they blast over here, we can feel it in town over there,” Jed Holewa, a City Council member, explained as he looked out over the pit of the Hibbing Taconite mine, a machine-made canyon of flint-colored earth extending to the hills just southwest of town.

The low rumble of controlled explosions is reassuring in an area where few livelihoods are more than a couple of degrees removed from the mines. But this month the ground beneath the Iron Range has begun to shift in a very different way.

The sedimentary rock known as taconite, found in abundance in northern Minnesota, yields most of the United States’ iron ore, which in turn is made into steel used by the American auto industry. Thus the seismic effects of President Trump’s March 26 announcement of a 25 percent tariff on all cars and auto parts imported into the United States. The measure is meant to benefit the domestic auto industry, and has earned praise from labor leaders. But analysts predict it will most likely throw that industry into near-term turmoil, and several domestic automakers saw their stock fall last week after Mr. Trump’s announcement.

The tariff announcement comes amid a brewing trade war between the United States and Canada prompted by Mr. Trump’s earlier threats to impose broad tariffs on America’s northern neighbor and its longstanding ally and trading partner. Canada has responded with its own tariffs.

At the same time, Cleveland-Cliffs, the steel conglomerate that controls Hibbing Taconite and other nearby mines, has announced plans to idle production lines and lay off more than 600 mine workers in the region, citing a softening of demand for cars. Mr. Holewa, a diesel mechanic at Hibbing Taconite, was among those waiting to hear his fate.

The son and grandson of miners, Mr. Holewa is well acquainted with both the fortunes and misfortunes of the industry, in which substantial union salaries go hand in hand with risk and uncertainty. His maternal grandfather was killed on the job, crushed by a haul truck. His father was laid off from a mine in Eveleth, Minn., in the 1980s, during the industry’s darkest period. The high points of its uneven recovery were memorialized in the model years of the Fords his family bought when he was growing up: a 1988 Tempo, a 1994 F-150.

Mr. Holewa, a Republican, is also indicative of the shifting politics of the Iron Range, where Mr.

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TRUMP IS MAKING
EXCEPTION TO BAN
OF MOST REFUGEES

‘MISSION SOUTH AFRICA’

Program Aimed at White
Afrikaners Is Being
Called Racist

By ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS
and HAMED ALEAZIZ

WASHINGTON — Almost immediately after taking office, President Trump began shutting down refugee resettlement programs, slashing billions of dollars in funding and making it all but impossible for people from scores of countries to seek haven in the United States.

With one exception. The Trump administration has thrown open the doors to white Afrikaners from South Africa, establishing a program called “Mission South Africa” to help them come to the United States as refugees, according to documents obtained by The New York Times.

Under Phase One of the program, the United States has deployed multiple teams to convert commercial office space in Pretoria, the capital of South Africa, into ad hoc refugee centers, according to the documents. The teams are studying more than



JOAO SILVA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Rallying for President Trump in South Africa last month.

8,200 requests expressing interest in resettling to the United States and have already identified 100 Afrikaners who could be approved for refugee status. The government officials have been directed to focus particularly on screening white Afrikaner farmers.

The administration has also provided security escorts to officials conducting the interviews of potential refugees.

By mid-April, U.S. officials on the ground in South Africa will “propose long-term solutions, to ensure the successful implementation of the president’s vision for the dignified resettlement of eligible Afrikaner applicants,” according to one memo sent from the embassy in Pretoria to the State Department in Washington this month.

The administration’s focus on white Afrikaners comes as it effectively bans the entry of other refugees — including about 20,000

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Sacramento Roots, Roots, Roots
For Home Team With No Home

By LAUREL ROSENHALL

SACRAMENTO — As early as the 19th-century Gold Rush, when miners arrived on riverboats to stock up with supplies before heading into the mountains, Sacramento’s reputation has been more way station than destination.

It’s the place for a bathroom break on the way to Lake Tahoe. It’s a career stop, for ambitious politicians, on the way to Washington. And for millions of Californians, it’s a civics-lesson pit stop on

the way to the rest of their lives: The last time they came to Sacramento was for that fourth-grade field trip to the State Capitol.

So it’s fitting that as the Sacramento area finally gets a Major League Baseball team, it’s only as a temporary home for a club that is on the way to somewhere else. When the Athletics had a messy breakup with Oakland after 57 years and set their sights on Las Vegas, they needed a landing spot

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OBITUARIES A21, 24

Eyeglass Frames Pioneer

Gai Gherardi, 78, opened a boutique that turned something ordinary into a bold, artistic accessory. PAGE A21

Actor With Shifting Appeal

Richard Chamberlain, who starred as Dr. Kildare, became a leading man of mini-series. He was 90. PAGE A24



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Sex Education in France

For 25 years, the country has said schools must teach the subject. Now the government is at last putting a curriculum in place. PAGE A4

Renewed Cease-Fire Talks

Hamas said it had accepted a proposal in which some hostages would be released. Details were elusive. PAGE A10

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Succeeding Through Sadness

Ilya Malinin, who lost fellow figure skaters in a plane crash, won his second consecutive world title. PAGE D1

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A Taste of No Transit

A strike forced an 18-day shutdown of buses and trains in San Jose, Calif., and commuters were left to scramble. Was it a harbinger? PAGE A12

Religion on the Docket

The Supreme Court, which has been receptive to claims from faith-based groups, particularly Christian ones, will hear three major cases soon. PAGE A16

Hope in Heart Attack Fight

An experimental Eli Lilly drug caused a major drop in the blood levels of a mysterious particle associated with the risk of a cardiac event. PAGE A15

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Return of a Native Treasure

Taken from a First Nation community in Canada, an Indigenous shrine is taking a 3,000-mile trip home. PAGE C1

A Conductor Who Connects

Joana Mallwitz, a rising star in Germany, makes her Met Opera debut in “The Marriage of Figaro.” PAGE C1



BUSINESS B1-6

Challenge for Big Law Firms

The president’s attack threatens to erode the right of Americans to sue the government. News Analysis. PAGE B1

Speeding Up Plans to Buy Cars

Shoppers are looking to beat tariffs, but dealers said that economic concerns may deter some people. PAGE B1

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Amy Odell

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