

LAS VEGAS SUN

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CHRIS CARLSON / ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE (2012)

Visitors crowd Terminal 3 at Harry Reid International Airport, formerly known as McCarran International, in Las Vegas.

MILITARY

From rockets to ball bearings, Pentagon struggles to feed war machine

By ERIC LIPTON
The New York Times Company

WASHINGTON — The Navy admiral had a blunt message for the military contractors building precision-guided missiles for his warships, submarines and planes at a moment when the United States is dispatching arms to Ukraine and preparing for the possibility of conflict with China.

“Look at me. I am not forgiving the fact you’re not delivering the ordnance we need. OK?” Adm. Daryl Caudle, who is in charge of delivering weapons to most of the Navy’s East Coast-based fleet, warned contractors during an industry gathering in January. “We’re talking about war-fighting, national security, and going against a competitor here and a potential adversary that is like nothing we’ve ever seen. And we can’t dillydally around with these deliveries.”

His open frustration reflects a problem that has become worryingly apparent as the Pentagon dispatches its own stocks of weapons to help Ukraine hold off Russia and Washington warily watches for signs that China might provoke a new conflict by invading Taiwan: The United States lacks the capacity to produce the arms that the nation and its allies need at a time

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BUSINESS

Second airport may be needed to accommodate continued tourism growth

By KATIE ANN MCCARVER
This story was posted on lasvegassun.com at 2 a.m. today.

Since its inception more than two decades ago, Las Vegas-based Allegiant Air has grown to service hundreds of non-stop routes across the country, including several that fly in and out Nevada.

Allegiant adds stops according to demand from customers, said Kristen Schilling-Gonzales, Allegiant’s vice president of planning. And, she said, that demand often includes one destination: Las Vegas.

Allegiant, which recently added a route to Las Vegas from Lexington, Ky., isn’t the only carrier at Harry Reid International Airport experiencing growth.

A total of 36 domestic markets were added by 10 different airlines to the airport in 2022, and 17 of those were from underserved markets, said Lori Nelson-Kraft, senior vice president of communications at the Las Vegas Convention

and Visitors Authority. Internationally, eight new markets were announced by six different airlines.

“More than anything, we always have to be able to demonstrate and make a business case for Las Vegas’ ability to attract and help these airlines fill the seats,” Nelson-Kraft said. “And so, through our robust research of our visitor trends, we’re able to share that intelligence with the airlines so they can understand the demand and the popularity so that when they’re considering where to expand, we’ve made a good business case for Las Vegas.”

A sampling of the growth: Last month, airport officials announced new service from Canada-based Lynx Air, and Chicago-based United Airlines is reported to be opening a crew base in Las Vegas this spring.

Additionally, the airport in February received \$31 million in bipartisan infrastructure law funding to primarily go toward baggage claim upgrades and meet future growth demands, after the airport saw 52.6 passengers in 2022.

“Las Vegas has been a high-demand destination, especially as we entered recovery from the impacts of COVID and what that did to travel (and) to air travel,” airport spokesperson Joe Rajchel said, adding that the airport is preparing for future growth amid an influx of special events, new entertainment venues and sports teams.

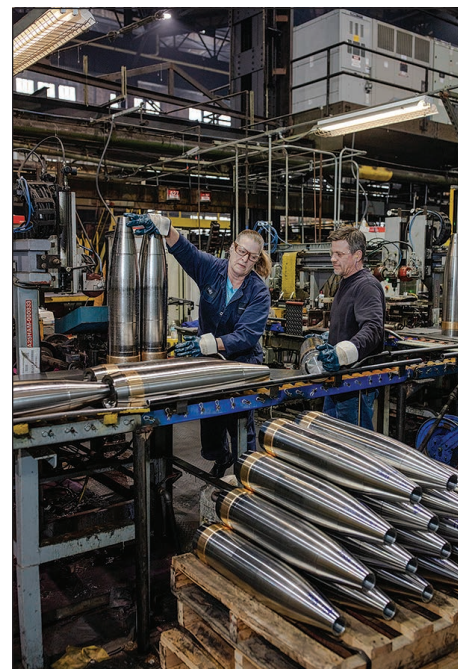
Las Vegas has nearly recovered from pandemic visitation lows, at a quicker rate than other major tourism destinations, Nelson-Kraft said. The city led the U.S. in overall hotel occupancy at 79% in 2022, Nelson-Kraft said, compared with the national average of 63%. She cited four types of travelers to Las Vegas, including leisure, business, sports and international.

Meeting demands of high visitation is what Las Vegas “does best,” she continued. In Las Vegas, the tourism authority has a unique partnership with the airport for air-service development, in which they work closely together to iden-

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“We knew that we were going to get to a place where a second commercial airport was going to be necessary, and the valley has just grown and grown and grown.”

Joe Rajchel, spokesperson for Harry Reid International Airport



NATALIE KEYSAR / THE NEW YORK TIMES

Workers manufacture missile casings at the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant in Scranton, Pa. A shipment of arms to Ukraine has exposed a worrisome lack of production capacity in the United States that has its roots in the end of the Cold War.

HEALTH

‘Food as medicine’ movement changing rural health care



FAST BLACKFEET

Mackenzie Sachs, a registered dietitian who works with FAST Blackfeet’s produce prescription program on the Blackfeet Reservation in northwestern Montana, prepares food during an online cooking class.

By CARLY GRAF
Kaiser Health News

When Mackenzie Sachs, a registered dietitian on the Blackfeet Reservation in northwestern Montana, sees a patient experiencing high blood pressure, diabetes, or another chronic illness, her first thought isn’t necessarily to recommend medication.

Rather, if the patient doesn’t have easy access to fruit and vegetables, she’ll enroll the person in the FAST Blackfeet produce prescription program. FAST, which stands for Food Access and Sustainability Team, provides vouchers to people who are ill or have insecure food access to reduce their cost for healthy foods. Since 2021, Sachs has recommended a fruit-and-vegetable treatment plan to 84 patients. Increased consumption of vitamins, fiber, and minerals has

improved those patients’ health, she said.

“The vouchers help me feel confident that the patients will be able to buy the foods I’m recommending they eat,” she said. “I know other dietitians don’t have that assurance.”

Sachs is one of a growing number of health providers across Montana who now have the option to write a different kind of prescription — not for pills, but for produce.

The Montana Produce Prescription Collaborative, or MTPRx, brings together several nonprofits and health care providers across Montana. Led by the Community Food & Agriculture Coalition, the initiative was recently awarded a federal grant of \$500,000 to support Montana produce prescription programs throughout the state over the next three years, with the goal

of reaching more than 200 people across 14 counties in the first year.

Participating partners screen patients for chronic health conditions and food access. Eligible patients receive prescriptions in the form of vouchers or coupons for fresh fruits and vegetables that can be redeemed at farmers markets, food banks and stores. During the winter months, when many farmers markets close, MTPRx partners rely more heavily on stores, food banks and nonprofit food organizations to get fruits and vegetables to patients.

The irony is that rural areas, where food is often grown, can also be food deserts for their residents. Katie Garfield, a researcher and clinical instructor with Harvard’s Food is Medicine project, said produce prescrip-

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