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Chattanooga Times Free Press

VOL. 156 | NO. 265 | \$2.00

TIMESFREEPRESS.COM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

Hack by China is most invasive to date

Security breach may have netted sensitive info on all Americans

BY ADAM GOLDMAN
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

LONDON — China has hacked into American power grids and companies for decades, stealing sensitive files and intellectual property such as chip designs as it seeks to gain an edge over the United States.

But a sweeping cyberattack by a group known as Salt Typhoon is China's most ambitious yet, experts and officials have concluded after a year of investigating it. It targeted more than 80 countries and may have stolen information from nearly every American, officials said. They see it as evidence that China's capabilities rival those of the United States and its allies.

The Salt Typhoon attack was a yearslong, coordinated assault that infiltrated major telecommunications companies and others, investigators said in a highly unusual joint statement last week. The range of the attack was far greater than originally understood, and security officials warned that the stolen data could allow Chinese intelligence services to exploit global communication networks to track targets including politicians, spies and activists.

Hackers sponsored by the Chinese government “are targeting networks globally, including, but not limited to, telecommunications, government, transportation, lodging, and military infrastructure networks,” the statement said.

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STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Water cannons spray water in an arch June 4 as the first Spirit Airlines plane arrives at the Chattanooga Airport. The airline announced Thursday it would discontinue service in Chattanooga after filing for bankruptcy protection.

Spirit Airlines ending service in Chattanooga

Company entering bankruptcy again. United announces flights from Scenic City to New York area starting Jan. 6

BY DAVID FLOYD
STAFF WRITER

Spirit Airlines will end three nonstop flights from Chattanooga about four months after they launched.

Chattanooga is one of 11 cities where the low-cost carrier plans to discontinue service as it reenters Chapter 11 bankruptcy, according to the aviation magazine Flight Global.

In a statement Thursday, Chattanooga Airport CEO April Cameron said officials were informed this week that service to the Scenic City and other locations will discontinue effective Oct. 4.

“While we are all disappointed with this outcome, we very much appreciated Spirit’s commitment to our market and wish them a speedy financial recovery,” Cameron said in a statement.

In June, Chattanooga leaders heralded Spirit’s first direct flights to Newark, New Jersey, as well as Orlando and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with a ribbon-cutting at the airport.

“While we are all disappointed with this outcome, we very much appreciated Spirit’s commitment to our market and wish them a speedy financial recovery.”

— APRIL CAMERON,
CHATTANOOGA AIRPORT CEO

“Today marks another milestone in the Chattanooga Airport’s mission to grow air service for our community,” Cameron said during the event in June. “These three new flights are not only exciting for leisure travelers but a game changer for the business connectivity in and out of the Scenic City.”

However, Chattanoogaans will still retain a direct flight to Newark. On Thursday, United Airlines announced nonstop service to the city from the Chattanooga Airport, which will begin Jan. 6. It will operate five days a week, excluding Tuesdays and Saturdays.

In a news release, Cameron said New-

ark has long been one of the most sought after destinations for businesses and leisure travelers, offering convenient access to New York City and a broad network of global destinations. Newark has more European destinations than any other U.S. airport, Cameron said. The Newark global hub offers flights to 176 locations across 56 countries, including 40 destinations in Europe.

In an emailed statement, Spirit Airlines spokesperson Michael Lopardi said the company is adjusting its network to focus on its strongest performing markets. Lopardi said that is part of an effort to transform the business and position the airline for long-term success.

As a result, he said, the company decided to discontinue service to Chattanooga; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Birmingham; Boise, Idaho; Columbia, South Carolina; Salt Lake City; Portland, Oregon, as well as Oakland, Sacramento, San Jose and San Diego, California. That will be effective the week of Oct. 2.

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Health head defends CDC shake-up to committee

BY SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
AND MEGAN MINEIRO
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. faced a barrage of questions Thursday during a fiery Senate hearing in which he defiantly defended his vaccine policy, blamed the nation’s public health agency for a rise in chronic disease and repeatedly clashed with Democrats, whom he accused of “making stuff up.”

The three-hour hearing before the Senate Finance Committee revealed that Kennedy was on uncertain ground even with some Republicans who voted to confirm him. When Kennedy courted their votes, he promised, repeatedly and in writing, to do nothing “that



TIERNEY L. CROSS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. testifies Thursday before the Senate Finance Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

makes it difficult or discourages people from taking vaccines.”

On Thursday, he insisted that he had lived up to his word. “I’m not taking vaccines away from anyone,” he said.

But in the seven months since he was sworn in, Kennedy has delivered a lukewarm endorsement of the measles vaccine; dismantled a panel

of experts who make vaccine recommendations to the government; taken steps that will effectively restrict access to COVID-19 vaccines; canceled \$500 million of grants and contracts for the development of mRNA vaccines; and, just last week, forced out the new

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Florida prepares to nix school vaccine mandates

BY JEFF MARTIN,
MIKE SCHNEIDER
AND DANIEL KOZIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the administration of Gov. Ron DeSantis prepares to make Florida the first state to remove school vaccine mandates, deep concern is spreading among doctors, parents and public health workers for the safety of children and others who might be vulnerable in a disease outbreak.

They fear that dreaded diseases, held in check for decades by vaccines, could flare up again if too many people in Florida aren’t immunized. Here’s what to know:

GOVERNOR CALLS IT ‘MEDICAL FREEDOM’

While states traditionally follow federal vaccine guidance, school mandates are set by state health departments.

Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo announced Wednesday that the Health Department would take steps to eliminate these mandates, calling them “immoral” intrusions that hamper parents’ ability to make health decisions for their children.

“We’re going to end it,” Ladapo said, without providing details or a timeline.

The Health Department also did not immediately respond to questions about other vaccine requirements, such as for certain workplaces. Many such requirements are enshrined in state law and would require legislative approval. DeSantis appointed Ladapo and his wife Casey DeSantis to a commission that’s drafting a broader “medical freedom” measure expected to be introduced in the next legislative session.

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