

IRAQ
Clergy rejoice now
that militants gone
from their churches
Page 4



THE BASIC SCHOOL
5 months together defined them.
50 years later, they embrace
each other and their service
Pages 10-11
Online at stripes.com/vietnam50

COLLEGE HOOPS
Year of the freshman:
Depth and star power
mark incoming class
Back page

Report: Troops and veterans smoke and drink more, sleep less » Page 2

STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 75, No. 150 ©SS 2016 MIDEAST EDITION FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016 stripes.com Free to Deployed Areas

‘UNCHARTED TERRITORY’

What will Donald Trump be like as commander in chief?

By **MISSY RYAN**
The Washington Post

This fall, after Iranian naval vessels veered dangerously close to American ships in the Middle East, then-candidate Donald Trump promised a swift response.

“With Iran, when they circle our beautiful destroyers with their little boats, and they make gestures at our people that they shouldn’t be allowed to make, they will be shot out of the water,” the Republican

presidential nominee told supporters in September.

Trump’s vow to escalate a standoff with a significant military power stood in contrast to the Obama administration’s calibrated response to the naval confrontations with Iran, which included using loudspeakers to wave off approaching ships and firing warning shots into the water.

It also raises questions about what the nation can expect from a commander in chief who, as a candidate, vowed to upend

many of the fundamentals of U.S. defense policy and to transform the use of the world’s most powerful military.

“He’s got a fundamental decision now about whether he’s going to continue in the same vein as president,” said Michael O’Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. “If you literally implement his [campaign’s] security policy, you’re probably risking war in multiple theaters simultaneously.”

SEE COMMANDER ON PAGE 9



Evan Vucci/AP

RETAKE MOSUL

By **ALEX HORTON**
Stars and Stripes

What Iraqi troops can expect from the Islamic State

WHEN the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria raised its black banner a decade ago, it transformed the country into a laboratory of guerrilla war, honing tactics and strategies to counter U.S. and Iraqi troops fighting to quell a violent insurgency. That organization is now the

“The Islamic State has been able to alter the environment to suit it for defense.”

Paul Scharre

director of the future of warfare initiative at the Center for a New American Security

Islamic State group, and it has taken those lessons to Mosul, where the Pentagon estimates 3,500 to 4,000 fighters are entrenched for a protracted fight. Iraqi special forces moved into

the city from the east Nov. 4 after taking villages and towns on its outskirts with the support of Kurdish peshmerga fighters.

SEE EXPECT ON PAGE 6

Iraqi soldiers are seen outside the city of Mosul, Iraq, on Oct. 19.

AP



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"How do you describe that? There were multiple people down, a lot of blood"

— Sharon Keith, manager of a 7-Eleven in Seattle, telling reporters she heard what sounded like firecrackers and told everyone to get down while she went to lock the door. A man opened fire on a crowd outside the convenience store Wednesday night, wounding five people and setting off an intense police search, authorities said.

See story on Page 18

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

- 1. Volunteers wanted for PTSD study of treatment some call a miracle
2. Analysts weigh in on likely Trump pick for defense secretary
3. Free meals and deals for Veterans Day 2016
4. Under Trump, NATO, US military role in Europe could face scrutiny
5. Air Force denies MIA status for airman in Vietnam-era Baron 52 case

COMING SOON

Science and Medicine

Bumblebee skilled at "buzz pollination" soon to be endangered species?



TODAY IN STRIPES

- Business 20
Comics 21
Crossword 21
Faces 19
Opinion 22-23
Sports 24-32
Weather 20

MILITARY

Report: GIs, vets smoke, drink more, sleep less

By NIKKI WENTLING Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — People who have served in the military smoke and drink more and sleep less than the general population, according to a report released Thursday by the United Health Foundation.

The study, based on a survey of approximately 60,000 veterans and servicemembers annually from 2011 through 2014, also found higher rates of coronary heart disease, heart attack and cancer. Researchers said they'll deliver the results to the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs and other health care providers in the hopes that it will help with treatment.

"We owe it to these people to see if anything can be done, if we could identify opportunities to improve," said Richard Migliori, senior adviser to the United Health Foundation, an offspring of insurer United Health Group. "I think we found some meaningful things here."

The findings show 25.2 percent of servicemembers and veterans who are 18 to 39 years old smoke, compared with 20.7 percent of the general population of the same age range. Approximately 20 percent of servicemembers and veterans drink excessively, while

18.1 percent of others do. Drinking excessively was defined by the report as either binge drinking, having five or more drinks in one sitting, or heavy drinking, which means having more than two drinks each day.

Servicemembers and veterans are 39 percent more likely than others not to sleep enough.

"Since we found issues with sleep, smoking and alcohol use, we know we may be dealing with an area of stress — these are all stress-related," Migliori said. "The good things about those findings, those are things that can be immediately worked on. Physicians should be focusing on those particular behaviors as they engage their patients."

Smoking and drinking could be a direct cause of the higher rates of coronary heart disease and cancer in people with military service, Migliori said.

Servicemembers and veterans are 62 percent more likely to have coronary heart disease and 67 percent more likely to have a heart attack, the study found.

Nearly 50 percent of veterans older than 80 years of age have been diagnosed with cancer, compared with about 34 percent of others older than 80. The types of cancers most frequently diagnosed by the VA are prostate,

lung and colorectal cancer, the report states.

Previous studies have linked military service to increased risk for different types of cancer, such as the herbicide Agent Orange causing non-Hodgkin lymphoma in some veterans of the Vietnam War.

Rene Campos, a retired commander in the Navy and leader with the Military Officers Association of America, a nonprofit group that collaborated on the report, said she wanted to "dig into" the cancer statistics, as well as a finding that female servicemembers and veterans experience depression at higher rates. About 25.5 percent of them reported they were told by a health care provider they had a depressive disorder, while 22 percent of other females did.

Though they're at more risk for various health issues, veterans and servicemembers are less likely to tell their doctors about them.

"This data suggests those who have served will underestimate their illness or burden," Migliori said. "Because I know these individuals who have served are less likely to complain about something, physicians should be advised to follow their instincts and maybe lower your threshold for ordering tests and making diagnoses."

There were some positive findings, too.

People with military service are more likely to be physically active and have health insurance. More servicemembers and veterans also see their doctors for cancer screenings, and more get flu vaccines and have regular dental visits.

Campos said the information could help drive policy changes.

"There's a very big topic of discussion on how the VA provides care to veterans," Campos said. "This paints a comparative portrait of those who have served against the civilian population. I think it gives that baseline view of who this population is and gives

INDIVIDUALS AGED 18-39 WHO HAVE SERVED ARE MORE LIKELY TO REPORT INSUFFICIENT SLEEP THAN THEIR PEERS WHO HAVE NOT SERVED



INDIVIDUALS AGED 18-39 WHO HAVE SERVED ARE MORE LIKELY TO SMOKE THAN THEIR PEERS WHO HAVE NOT SERVED



CANCER, CORONARY HEART DISEASE AND HEART ATTACKS

ARE MORE PREVALENT AMONG PEOPLE WHO HAVE SERVED THAN THOSE WHO HAVE NOT



CORONARY HEART DISEASE



HEART ATTACKS



United Health Foundation

us data to work from."

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

Marine jets collide off San Diego coast

SAN DIEGO — One pilot ejected safely after a Wednesday morning midair collision between two jets over water near Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, while the second aviator was able to land safely, Marine officials said.

Search-and-rescue teams received a mayday call at 12:11 p.m. PST, and sailors from the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson recovered the unnamed Marine pilot 30 minutes later, according to a Marine Corps news release.

The Marines said the pair of single-seat F/A-18 Hornets assigned to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing struck each other during a training mission near San Diego.

The second unnamed pilot landed safely at the North Island Naval Air Station in Coronado. Both pilots are in stable condition and are in an undisclosed medical facility.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

From wire reports

Announcing

STARS AND STRIPES BUY A PRINT SERVICE

Unique images of entertainers, servicemembers and DODEA high school sports.

Your choice of amazing images from the past and present, now available as high-quality photo print, framed or unframed. Great for commemorating an occasion or as a gift for that special member of the military community.

Taken by Stars and Stripes photographers, these one-of-a-kind images are easy to order — and available from no other source. To order, visit Archive Photo of the Day or the other galleries on Stripes.com and click on the BUY A PRINT link.

Then choose the size and type of print you want with the confidence that our online ordering process is secure.

All proceeds go to fund Stars and Stripes' mission of providing reliable, credible news to our U.S. military.



MILITARY



PHOTOS BY ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

Japanese troops hit the ground Tuesday after leaving a helicopter during a scenario to retake an island on Tinian in the Northern Marianas.

US, Japanese forces conduct complex exercise on Tinian

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

TINIAN, Northern Marianas — Japan took new steps toward integrating its air, sea and land forces this week during its most complex field exercise with the U.S. military since Tokyo passed laws expanding defense options last year.

Ground troops from the two security allies landed aboard helicopters on the U.S. commonwealth island of Tinian, site of a major 1944 World War II battle where U.S. forces defeated a 9,000-strong Japanese garrison, consolidating their hold on islands within striking distance of the Japanese mainland.

On Tuesday, servicemembers from both sides hiked into a tropical jungle to mop up against a mock opposition force. In one case, they marched just a few feet past pits where the atomic bombs headed to Hiroshima and Nagasaki were loaded onto planes 71 years ago.

Marines, Air Force tactical air controllers and sailors joined the approximately 1,300 Japan Self-Defense Force troops involved in the exercise.

The U.S. military offered its amphibious operations experience throughout the event, which began Nov. 4. However, the U.S. forces on the ground Tuesday mostly asked the Japanese troops questions and followed their lead. "This is definitely a JSDF-planned and -executed exercise," Rear Adm. Marc Dalton, commander of Amphibious Force 7th Fleet, said Tuesday while observing the scenario on Tinian.

Not everything went as planned during the event, which ended Wednesday. The amphibious landing was canceled due to high surf offshore, according to U.S. and Japanese officials.



Japan Self-Defense Force helicopters land Tuesday on a World War II-era runway on Tinian. U.S. forces assisted the Japanese-led event as part of the bilateral Keen Sword exercise.

Troops continued the scenario as if the landing happened successfully. After troops took positions, the plan continued with helicopter assaults, F-2 fighter-jet flyovers and jungle ambushes.

Farther from shore, the helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga led a four-ship force augmented by the landing dock ship USS Comstock and embarked 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit Marines.

Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment based out of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, embarked on the JS Osumi with Japanese ground troops — many of whom had never spent days on a ship.

After a few days of upset stomachs, the Japanese troops generally found their sea legs, officials said. More Japanese troops will go through the same experience as Japan prepares to stand up a Marine Corps-like brigade by early 2018.

Analysts and former Japanese defense officials have told Stars and Stripes that the planned brigade of 2,100 troops represents a significant change in strategy for Japan, which traditionally has focused on land-based strategy centered on protecting the country's north from attack.

Chinese claims on the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands, as

well as other parts of the East and South China seas, have raised security concerns among Japan and its allies in recent years.

The U.S. is obligated to help defend Japan if another country invades its recognized territory under the terms of the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

However, until last year, Japan had no recourse to join the fight under its restrictive self-defense laws if U.S. forces were attacked without Japan being attacked as well.

A government-backed reinterpretation of Japan's post-WWII constitution changed that last year, despite majority public opposition.

The Tinian scenario was part of the Keen Sword exercise, which includes 25,000 Japanese servicemembers and is scheduled to last through Friday.

The allies also held a large-scale missile-defense training scenario near Okinawa as part of the drills, Japanese officials said.

About 11,000 U.S. servicemembers are taking part in the exercise. Most of them are assigned to U.S. Forces Japan, 5th Air Force, Naval Forces Japan, U.S. Army Japan, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force and the 7th Fleet.

slavin.eric@stripes.com
Twitter:@eslavin_stripes

Bergdahl lawyers ask dismissal over McCain comments

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for accused Army deserter Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl have asked a second appellate court to throw out charges against the soldier over comments made by Sen. John McCain that they claim could have unfairly influenced officials to proceed with a court-martial.

The attorneys filed an appeal Wednesday to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces asking the court to overturn military judge Army Col. Jeffery R. Nance's September ruling that statements last year by McCain, R-Ariz., did not unfairly influence Bergdahl's case. The lawyers filed a similar appeal Oct. 6 to the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals seeking to have his charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy dropped over McCain's statements, but they elected to appeal to the higher court after "nothing happened" in the month since filing the initial appeal.

McCain, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee who was re-elected Tuesday, told reporters in October 2015 that the committee would hold a hearing if Bergdahl is not punished. Two months later, the four-star general overseeing the proceedings chose to send the case to a felony-level, general court-martial.

Defense attorneys have maintained McCain's comment, among others that he has made asserting their client's "clear guilt," amounted to "flagrantly illegal interference" by the single most powerful member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. In August, they asked Nance to dismiss the case because Bergdahl's right to due process had been violated.

Nance called McCain's statements "ill-advised," but he ruled they had no influence over anyone directly involved in the case of the former Taliban captive. Nance also ruled "reasonable" members of the public would not doubt Bergdahl's ability to re-

ceive a fair trial simply because of McCain's comments.

The court-martial is scheduled to begin Feb. 6 at Fort Bragg, N.C., but prosecutors have asked Nance to postpone the trial to at least May 1. A decision on the date could be made Monday when Bergdahl is scheduled to return to court.

In their appeal, Bergdahl's attorneys wrote the trial is unlikely to begin for at least six months and a conviction likely would tie up the case in further appeals for years to come. They asked the higher appellate court to consider their petition now to instill public confidence in the military justice system and to avoid a longer-than-necessary trial process.

"The strong interest in fostering public confidence in the administration of justice weighs heavily in favor of grasping this nettle now, rather than two or more years hence," they wrote.

Bergdahl, 30, remains on active duty, serving in a clerical position at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. He faces charges of "misbehavior before the enemy by endangering the safety of a command, unit or place" and "desertion with intent to shirk important or hazardous duty." The more serious misbehavior charge carries a potential life sentence.

The soldier admitted to Army investigators he walked off his post in eastern Afghanistan in June 2009. He has said he had no intention of deserting the Army, but he wanted to cause a disturbance that would place him in front of senior leaders to air complaints about his chain of command.

He was captured by Taliban fighters within hours of leaving Observation Post Mast and spent five years in captivity in Pakistan before he was released in a controversial swap for five senior Taliban leaders who had been held at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter:@CDicksteinDC

Guam boosts strike ability as F-16 squadron arrives

Stars and Stripes

A dozen F-16s from the Maryland-based 121st Fighter Squadron have arrived on Guam for a four-month deployment.

The Fighting Falcons, part of the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 113th Wing out of Joint Base Andrews, Md., are in the process of arriving at Andersen Air Force Base, an Air Force official said.

"The U.S. Air Force routinely deploys aircraft to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region to provide U.S. Pacific Command and Pacific Air Forces with theater security packages, which help maintain a deterrent against threats to regional security and stability," an Air Force statement said.

Such deployments have been ongoing since March 2004.

news@stripes.com

WAR ON TERRORISM



PHOTOS BY CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

Bishop Mosa Al-Shamani, of the Syrian Orthodox Church's diocese in northern Iraq, speaks to a reporter in St. Simoni Church in Bashiqa, Iraq, on Wednesday after the town was retaken from the Islamic State group that had held it for more than two years.

Clerics visit liberated churches

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

BASHIQA, Iraq — For the first time in 2½ years, a group of Syrian Orthodox Church clergy visited churches in two villages near Mosul that only hours earlier had been cleared of Islamic State fighters by Kurdish peshmerga forces.

Two days after entering the town of Bashiqa, peshmerga forces said they had it under control, but it's not yet fully secure.

Still, they escorted the priests and their bishop to St. Simoni Church in Bashiqa and St. George Church in neighboring Bahzani, where the clergy recited prayers in the naves. After each prayer, they rang the church bells as bomb blasts and gunfire echoed nearby.

After an early morning advance into Bashiqa on Monday, Iraqi forces battled Islamic State militants in heavy firefights throughout the next two days. Gen. Jamal Mohammad Omer, chief of staff of the peshmerga, told reporters on the edge of the town Wednesday afternoon. Peshmerga fighters, tanks, Humvees and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected armored personnel carriers lined the road.

The offensive to retake Bashiqa from Islamic State militants is part of a larger operation to rout the group from Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, which it has held since 2014. U.S.-backed Iraqi government and Kurdish forces are advancing on the city from several directions.

Earlier in the week, about 18 hours into the fighting in Bashiqa, Iraqi Brig. Gen. Yethia al-Zubaydi, a military spokesman in Makhmour, a staging area for Iraqi forces, said he was happy to see the Kurds and Iraqis fighting together against the same enemy. "That is a beautiful thing," he said.

Bashiqa was finally retaken about 2 a.m. Wednesday, Omer said. Of an estimated 100 militants, the peshmerga killed more than 60 and captured an undisclosed number of others, he said. A small number of militants remained in the town, including snipers, but he



The Rev. Aphrem Alkhoury Binaymen makes the sign of the cross while praying at St. George Church in Bahzani, Iraq, about 13 miles from central Mosul, on Wednesday.

said they would not be a problem. "We have a plan to clear these villages," he said.

Efforts were expected to begin Thursday to dispose of booby traps, car bombs and other explosive devices expected to be littering the buildings and rubble of Bashiqa and Bahzani.

Later in the afternoon, peshmerga fighters escorted the Syrian Orthodox clergy first to St. Simoni, where the nave was strewn with rubble, glass and fallen chandeliers. Priests picked through the debris in the church sanctuary, salvaging vestments and sacred books from the dusty floor. Some of the men fought back tears.

"We see everything is ... destroyed," said the Rev. Aphrem Alkhoury Binaymen, one of the priests who served in the parish until militants overtook the area

in 2014.

Looking over the ruins, he said the Islamic State intended to send a message: "We want to kill you, we want to destroy you." But, he said, the Christians here "will never feel fear. We are staying in this ground and we will pray in this church."

A short distance away, through blocks of charred and flattened buildings, at St. George, a stone church on a small hill, Binaymen kissed the threshold and post at the gate.

Iraq's Christian community, considered one of the oldest in the world, has seen a sharp decline in numbers since the U.S. invasion in 2003. At the time, there were about 1.5 million Christians in the country, but the ensuing bloody sectarian conflict forced many to flee to other Middle Eastern countries or to Europe. According to current estimates, fewer than 300,000 Christians of all denominations remain in Iraq.

Peshmerga fighters led the way through a large hall at St. George, where militants had left behind camouflage coverings used by snipers. Cocking their rifles, they cleared rooms in the buildings of the church compound.

Here, as at St. Simoni, the clergy picked through the debris for what they could salvage before reciting a prayer.

After the prayer, they and several Kurdish fighters flanking them shouted, "Long live the peshmerga."

Allen Kakonyi contributed to this story. garland.chad@stripes.com Twitter: @chadgarland

US acknowledges 64 civilian deaths

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As many as 64 civilians have been killed in the last 12 months in airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, U.S. Central Command announced Wednesday.

The civilian deaths and eight noncombatant injuries occurred in 24 strikes that were each independently investigated and deemed lawful, said Air Force Col. John Thomas, a spokesman for Central Command. Thirteen of the strikes occurred in Iraq and 11 in Syria.

Thomas said avoiding civilian casualties is a "key tenet" of the Operation Inherent Resolve campaign, and he emphasized the coalition believes it's possible that fewer than 64 noncombatants were killed in the strikes.

"We have teams who work full time to prevent unintended civilian casualties," he said. "... Sometimes civilians bear the brunt of military action, but we do all we can to minimize those occurrences even at the cost of sometimes missing the chance to strike valid targets in real time."

Thomas said the military takes all reports of civilian casualties seriously. He said coalition investigations used internal records alongside reports from news outlets, nongovernmental organizations and other U.S. government department and agencies.

Some outside organizations, including Amnesty International, have accused the U.S. military of inadequate investigations into reports of civilian deaths. In October, Amnesty International accused Operation Inherent Resolve airstrikes in Syria alone of killing more than 300 civilians between September 2014 and June 2016.

Pentagon and Central Command officials have disputed those numbers and touted the military's commitment to transparency when it is accused of killing civilians.

Here are the airstrikes that Central Command said likely killed civilians since November 2015:

■ Nov. 20, 2015, near Dayr-az-Zawr in Syria, against a tactical unit. Five civilians killed and three injured.

■ March 5, near Mosul in Iraq, against a weapons production fa-

cility. Ten civilians killed.

■ March 24, near Qayara in Iraq, against an unspecified militant target. One civilian killed.

■ April 1, near Raqqa in Syria, against a tactical unit. Three civilians killed.

■ April 9, near Mosul, against a tactical unit. One civilian killed.

■ April 30, near Mosul, against Islamic State group military leadership. Five civilians killed.

■ May 25, near Mosul, against a tactical unit. One civilian killed.

■ May 26, near Mosul, against enemy fighters. One civilian killed.

■ May 29, near Mosul, against a weapons system. Six civilians killed.

■ June 15, near Kisk in Iraq, against a weapons storage facility. Six civilians killed.

■ June 15, near Mosul, against unspecified targets. Two civilians injured.

■ June 21, near Raqqa, against a headquarters building. Three civilians killed.

■ June 23, near Raqqa, against a militant-held building. Four civilians killed.

■ June 26, near Mosul, against an unspecified enemy target. One individual injured.

■ June 26, near Mosul, against an unspecified enemy target. One individual injured.

■ July 3, near Manbij in Syria, against a fighting position. Four civilians killed.

■ July 10, near Manbij, against an unspecified enemy target. Two civilians killed.

■ July 14, near Qayara, during a strike on an enemy-held building. One civilian killed.

■ July 31, near Manbij, against enemy fighters. One civilian injured.

■ Aug. 17, near Raqqa, against an enemy target. Two civilians killed.

■ Aug. 20, near Manbij, against an artillery firing position. One civilian killed.

■ Aug. 31, near Ramadi in Iraq, against an unspecified enemy target. Two civilians killed.

■ Sept. 7, near Dayr-az-Zawr, against an oil collection point. One civilian killed.

■ Sept. 10, near Raqqa, against an unspecified enemy target. Five civilians killed.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

Beat the Heat and Stay Sharp.
Heat affects your performance!

Dehydration puts a drain on all systems in your body. Wear the Gellid Products Personal Radiator under your tactical gear and reduce dehydration and loss of performance.

Order today and for a limited time get a free cooling "necktie" with your order.

gellidproducts.com

Read STARS AND STRIPES online at **www.stripes.com**

WAR ON TERRORISM



VADIM SAVITSKY, RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE/AP

The Russian navy destroyer Vice Admiral Kulakov patrols in the eastern Mediterranean Sea in January. The Russian Defense Ministry said it and another destroyer, the Severomorsk, drove away a Dutch submarine that was shadowing the Russian navy carrier group in the eastern Mediterranean on Wednesday.

Russia: Warships drove off Dutch sub shadowing them

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian warships in the eastern Mediterranean Sea on Wednesday drove away a Dutch submarine shadowing the squadron, the military said.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said two Russian navy destroyers spotted the Walrus-class submarine Wednesday while it was some 11 nautical miles away from the Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier and its escorting ships.

The destroyers had tracked the submarine for more than an hour, using anti-submarine helicopters, before forcing it to leave the area, Konashenkov said. He

didn't elaborate on how the warships prompted the submarine to leave.

The spokesman added that such "clumsy" attempts to maneuver close to the Russian squadron could have resulted in an accident.

Konashenkov said the Russian squadron previously had spotted several NATO submarines, including a U.S. Virginia-class nuclear submarine, while en route to eastern Mediterranean waters.

A NATO official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't allowed to discuss the sensitive issue on the record, said the alliance's navies have been monitoring the Russian fleet in recent weeks in a "measured and responsible way, as is customary."

Russia's lone aircraft carrier to try to change the fight in Syria

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF
The Washington Post

With the imminent arrival of its lone aircraft carrier off the coast of Syria, Russia is set to bulk up its military campaign ahead of what probably will be a renewed bombing campaign on the besieged city of Aleppo.

The Admiral Kuznetsov, the Russian Navy's 1,000-foot-long, MiG-carrying flagship, was last seen steaming through the Mediterranean toward the Syrian coast after a mid-sea refueling that was captured by satellite.

It is unclear exactly where the carrier, technically known as a "heavy aviation cruiser," and its accompanying battle group are in relation to its final destination. The small armada, however, looks like it will arrive within days of the Syrian government's plan to close a number of humanitarian corridors running out of eastern Aleppo.

Much has been made of the Kuznetsov's capabilities and the aging Soviet hulk's propensity to break down. But even though the carrier isn't capable of launching the same number of aircraft as,

say, a U.S. supercarrier, it will be able to bring a number of aircraft over the battlefields of Syria, including multi-role fighters and attack helicopters.

For the Russians, just the fact that they can do that is enough, according to Dmitry Gorenburg, a senior research scientist at CNA who focuses on the Russian military. "The Kuznetsov is not necessary for [Russia's operations in Syria] but it's to highlight the fact they have that ability," Gorenburg said.

The Kuznetsov, with its ramped flight deck and lack of a catapult system, can't launch its jet aircraft — a mixture of MiG 29Ks and Su-33s — fully loaded with weapons and fuel, Gorenburg said. But for the Russians, that isn't nearly as important as their military being able to field carrier-capable aircraft and training pilots in the extremely difficult task of taking off and landing from a floating runway in the middle of the ocean.

"This show of force, and great power status, is largely for a domestic audience," said Michael Kofman, a colleague of Gorenburg's who also focuses on Russian military issues.

The shuttering of the humanitarian corridors — escape routes that have been open for roughly a week — probably will pave the way for a fresh round of Syrian and Russian airstrikes, some of which might be carried out from the Kuznetsov. Earlier this week, some of the opposition groups began a counteroffensive of their own, shunning the corridors and a chance to leave, attacking government-held portions of the city. Fighting has been intense, but there have been few breakthroughs.

Russian military support, namely by way of aircraft and artillery, has been essential for Syrian government-aligned ground forces since Russia began airstrikes in Syria in September of last year. In March, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia's military objectives had been met in the country and announced a gradual withdrawal.

According to satellite imagery and news reports, that withdrawal was only in name, as Russia reshuffled some of its attack aircraft from its main air base in northern Syria.



"I care about military family support."

Choose
your Cause
and Give today at
cfcoverseas.org



WAR ON TERRORISM

Expect: Suicide bombs, IEDs, snipers posing threats in Mosul

FROM FRONT PAGE

But the Iraqi military has struggled to advance deeper into the city as they face a seemingly endless stream of suicide car bombs, improvised explosive devices and mortar and sniper rounds.

As the battle continues, here is what Iraqi forces can expect as they move farther into Iraq's second largest city.

Up-close violence

A recent report by CNN gave a terrifying glimpse into the pitched battle for Mosul. Journalist Arwa Damon, embedded with Iraqi special forces Friday, recounted multiple ambushes and Islamic State fighters.

Raw footage of the moving convoys showed armored Humvees lumbering slowly through muddy and narrow streets at a speed that appears no faster than an idle — all while taking fire from insurgents positioned on rooftops.

It's a tradeoff in urban warfare. More armor means less speed against a nimble Islamic State force. Islamic State fighters wielding machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades make it clear what appeared to be at least a platoon of Iraqi soldiers.

"The Islamic State has been able to alter the environment to suit it for defense," said Paul Scharre, a former Army Ranger and director of the future of warfare initiative at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington-based think tank.

"A mined environment takes away the element of speed. You have to move slowly, and it exposes you. You're out in the open whether you're in a vehicle or on foot," Scharre said.

Prepared and reinforced fighting positions with machine gun and RPG teams are undoubtedly ready to take advantage of meandering troops, he said.

The amount of time and care spent on the Islamic State's defense is shown in the sophistication of underground tunnels built near Mosul, Scharre said, which allow militants to ambush units, slip away and regroup in other areas.

This can be done to a great extent in Mosul, Scharre said. An emphasis to clear areas and move on might allow insurgents to circle behind troops as they advance, he said.

"This war has been going on for a long time. The insurgents have a good handle on what Iraqi tactic and procedures are like, how they move, and they will find ways to exploit that," Scharre said.

Car bombs an evolving threat

Militants with explosive-laden vehicles and fortified with Mad Max-style armor plating have slowed Iraqi units to a crawl in the east and south. The Iraqi military has already absorbed 240 attacks from suicide vehicle-bombs during the battle, according to Reuters reporter published Monday citing Iraqi commanders.

The Islamic State group uses suicide vehicles as more than rolling bombs. The fear that they provoke shapes the battlefield by funneling troops into homes to watch for approaching vehicles, slowing advances in front of gates.

In one video captured by the BBC this week, a suicide vehicle targeted Iraqi special forces vehicles as dismounts lingered in a courtyard to plan their next movement. The explosion killed five Iraqi troops, the BBC report said. Gunfire erupted within seconds of the explosion as dust filled the air, obscuring insurgent positions as disoriented troops struggle to triage casualties under fire.

The use of vehicle-borne IEDs has changed since the height of the Iraq insurgency, said Brian Castner, a former Air Force bomb technician and author of *All the Ways We Kill and Die*, a book on the

Iraqis pause to regroup, clear neighborhoods

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi troops fired automatic weapons at positions held by the Islamic State group in and around the northern city of Mosul on Thursday, but did not advance as they regroup and clear neighborhoods once occupied by the jihadists.

In Mosul proper, where troops have a foothold in a sliver of territory in the city's east, the special forces control the Zahra neighborhood, once named after former dictator Saddam Hussein, military officials said.

They have taken at least half of the Aden neighborhood and clashes were still ongoing there, while the regular army's 9th Division is stationed in east Mosul's Intisar neighborhood, they added, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to brief reporters. Skirmishes also continued in the city's southern outskirts.

Col. John Dorrian, a spokesman for the U.S.-led forces operating the key air campaign against the Islamic State, said that advancing troops and aircraft have destroyed some 70 tunnels the jihadists had been using to launch surprise attacks from inside densely populated areas.

"They've set up elaborate defenses, and we have to assume they'll do anything

hunt for bombmakers in Iraq following his two deployments in 2005 and 2006.

Vehicle bombs would typically zero in on soft targets like a market or fixed positions like army checkpoints, Castner said. But the tactical use of using vehicle bombs to assault front lines of pesmherga fighters and attack the flank of troops on the street is a growing problem for Iraqi forces, Castner said.

"Vehicle-borne IEDs are the biggest bang (the Islamic State group) can get for their buck without artillery or an air force," Castner said, calling their prolific use in Iraq an equalizer.

The use of a car bomb was commonly the beginning and end of an attack in the early phases of the Iraqi insurgency, he said, but the incorporation of a suicide vehicle to ambush a platoon-sized element, along with small-arm fire, shows an uncommon degree of sophistication.

Constant threat of IEDs

The hallmark weapon of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan used to kill thousands of troops, the IED, has similarly confounded Iraqi forces during the fight for Mosul. A saturation of homemade bombs halt convoys as they try to launch surprise attacks or diffuse or destroy them.

The first U.S. servicemember killed during the operation, Navy Chief Petty Officer Jason Finan, was an EOD technician with Navy SEALs advising elite Iraqi forces as they advanced into Mosul. He was killed Oct. 20 as he warned Iraqi troops of an IED, the Pentagon said.

There has been a constant shift of various triggers and components used to attack forces in Iraq since the insurgency began 13 years ago, Castner said, as capabilities have become advanced and rudimentary and back again as U.S. forces curtailed ground operations.

Early during the insurgency, militants relied on wireless transmitters, such as garage door openers and two-way radios, to detonate explosives targeting armored vehicles. A wireless signal creates standoff for a bomber, who could exercise greater

control of when to detonate the bomb, and which vehicle to strike, Castner said.

As the Pentagon spent billions of dollars to roll out radio frequency jammers, insurgents scaled back to simple components to set off explosives, such as copper wires and batteries, which are vulnerable to visual identification by Iraqi troops as wires snake from the road leading to enemy positions.

Efforts to set sophisticated jamming technology to the Iraqi military has fallen short, Castner said, and limited access to jamming equipment has made wireless IED detonations more attractive, and potentially more accurate and lethal, for Islamic State militants.

It is not clear whether Iraqi troop carriers, including armored Humvees and mine-resistant vehicles, are commonly equipped with radio frequency jamming antennas. However, a June report on the offensive buildup from IHS Jane's Defense Weekly speculated some special forces vehicles, including U.S.-built Oshkosh M-ATVs, could include radio jamming capability.

Iraqi forces could possess jamming equipment but choose not to use it on the battlefield. The antennas jam and overload a wide spectrum of radio frequencies, including hand-held radios used by infantry units pushing farther into Mosul. Flooding out radio signals would make it difficult for units to support each other during assaults, particularly in a dense urban operation such as Mosul, where platoons are isolated from each other and can quickly become overwhelmed in an ambush.

Houses rigged to explode

Islamic State operations to rig houses with explosives will add additional complexity to the clearing operations as troops push farther into Mosul.

The fundamental mission of clearing cities involves searching entire neighborhoods house by house and flushing out militants or killing them inside. Homes are also the only refuge for troops taking machine-gun and sniper fire while on dismounted missions.

The prevalent use of homes by Iraqi and U.S. troops on the battlefield during the

insurgency led the Islamic State group to change strategy and use a house itself as the bomb, which can kill a squad or more underneath the rubble after an explosion. The blast is typically triggered by a tripwire or pressure plate in a stairwell or entryway as troops enter and clear the building.

U.S. troops operating in Baquba during the 2007 troop surge found more than 40 rigged houses, according to New York Times reporter Michael Gordon's book "The Endgame." One of them killed a group of Iraqi soldiers, Gordon wrote. Four U.S. infantrymen were killed in a similar attack in August 2007, according to The Associated Press.

The specter of wired houses is enough to influence tactical movement, Scharre said, while invoking a classic battlefield strategy. Clusters of houses rigged to explode will slow clearing operations and deny freedom of movement, similar to the operating theory of a minefield, he said. Coupling that strategy with waves of ambushes, and barricading or chaining gates leading to other houses could force Iraqi troops to take cover in buildings wired for detonation.

"The Islamic State has been very good at instilling the fear that everywhere they go is booby-trapped," Castner said, though he cautioned there is a practical limit of how many houses in Mosul could be rigged as civilians remain in large parts of the city.

"Two things are at odds," he said. "Meticulous searching ensures a neighborhood is clear. But it also slows things down. You would want to move quickly to prevent the Islamic State from rigging more houses."

Castner does not see a quick victory on a battlefield teeming with the bombs that he obsessed over following his career in the Air Force. "It's going to be ugly and slow. And I don't know how to make it less ugly and less slow," he said.

Castner does not see a quick victory on a battlefield teeming with the bombs that he obsessed over following his career in the Air Force. "It's going to be ugly and slow. And I don't know how to make it less ugly and less slow," he said.

horton.Alex@stripes.com
Twitter: @AlexHortonTX

Editor's Note: The writer served as an Army infantryman with the 3rd Infantry Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division in 2007, which led the operation to liberate Baquba, the self-proclaimed capital of the forerunner to the Islamic State group.

MARIO DOMONJACOVIC/AP

An Iraqi army soldier holds the country's flag at a checkpoint in Qayara, south of Mosul, Iraq, on Thursday as Iraqi troops consolidated gains in their advance.



CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS INJURED ON THE JOB

The Law Offices of **Gillis, Mermell & Pacheco, P.A.**
extend our heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all our overseas troops
and to all civilian contractors assisting our military
for all the work you do in keeping America safe.



Gillis, Mermell & Pacheco, P.A. is a law firm that represents and fights for civilian contractors from all nationalities who are injured in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, or on any military base across the world.

With over 50 years of combined experience in representing civilian contractors in Defense Base Act cases, our lawyers have the qualifications, the knowledge and the power to fight for civilian contractors injured on the job!

You have protected us, now let us protect you.

**CONTACT US AT**

Gillis, Mermell & Pacheco, P.A.

8603 S. Dixie Highway, Suite 205, Miami, FL 33143

Ph: (305) 595-3350 • Fax: (305) 595-6996

E-mail: Mail@gmpcomplaw.com • Website: www.dbalawyers.com



MILITARY

Globetrotters thrill fans at Ramstein

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The Harlem Globetrotters brought their high-flying hoops performance to Ramstein on Thursday, thrilling hundreds of servicemembers and their families with their basketball tricks and energetic showmanship.

The gym at Southside Fitness Center was packed for the 4 p.m. show, the first of two at Ramstein for the day, and a stop on the team's current U.S. military tour through Europe.

The line for the free show, open to all Defense Department ID cardholders, began forming about two hours before show time. Tickets for the evening show were issued to units.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Scott Halls, followed by Army Sgt. 1st Class Haywood Brevard and his family, were first in line outside the gym. Both had fond memories of seeing the Globetrotters in their youth and were eager to give their kids the same experience. "Awesome," said Sebastian Brevard, about getting to see the Globetrotters a day before turning 8.

"It's an awesome thing for the military, a way to give back to the troops," Haywood Brevard said of the Globetrotters' visit to Ramstein.

The Globetrotters' current 17-game tour kicked off earlier this month at RAF Alconbury in the United Kingdom. Besides the U.K. and Germany, stops were planned in Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain.

The tour was made possible by Navy Entertainment and Armed

Forces Entertainment, organizers said.

The Globetrotters have been dazzling audiences with their acrobatic style of basketball for 90 years. In recent years, they've made military bases a mainstay of their touring schedule, conducting annual shows for the last 15 years, organizers said. They were last in Europe in 2013.

This year's European tour precedes the Globetrotters' 2017 World Tour, which kicks off Dec. 26 and will include more than 250 cities.

On Thursday, the team didn't take long to get the audience clapping and laughing. They stormed onto the court and shed their leisure suits to reveal white vintage uniforms with red, white and blue striped knee socks and shorter-than-regulation shorts.

Their court warm-ups included hoop pull-ups, cartwheels, back flips and lots of dancing. They showed off their ball handling skills by taking turns spinning the ball on their fingertips, rolling it across their backs and down the elbow.

In a game against one of the teams with which they travel, the World All-Stars, the Globetrotters showcased what they called the world's first 4-point line. It's a line located 30 feet from the basket — about 3 inches beyond the top of the NBA's current 3-point line.

Those 4-point shots helped put the Globetrotters up 50-38 at halftime. But the score was almost an afterthought. The goal was to entertain.

"We like to get the crowd involved, go up into the stands and bring some kids out ... and connect with the crowd a little



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Harlem Globetrotter Ant Atkinson goes up for a dunk at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Thursday.

bit more," said TNT Lister, who gave Kids sitting next to the court high-fives.

"We strive to just create memories that will last a lifetime," said Lister, who joined the elite squad in 2011.

Lister is one of three women on the team and the only one on the current tour.

She said servicemembers and their families have so far been an appreciative audience.

"It feels good to be able to come here, give them a little taste of home," she said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com



Harlem Globetrotter TNT Lister, left, laughs with young fans at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Air Force denies MIA status for Vietnam-era airman

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force will not reconsider whether a Vietnam-era airman might have survived or been taken prisoner when his U.S. surveillance aircraft was shot down over Laos in 1973, the airman's family said Wednesday.

The family of Sgt. Joseph Matejov presented four decades of evidence to the Air Force earlier this year in the controversial Baron 52 case — a reference to his plane's call sign — and had hoped to finally convince the service to list him as missing in action instead of killed, a change that could have led to a new accounting of his remains.

The Air Force and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency weighed the possibility of a review for eight months but notified

To read more about this story, please visit:
stripes.com/go/matejov

the family Tuesday that the evidence did not merit another look at whether Matejov was killed in a fiery crash in the Laotian jungle just days before U.S. combat operations ended in Vietnam.

Since 1973, the service had maintained that Matejov and his seven fellow crewmembers were killed at the crash site, although some comingled remains were not recovered until the 1990s.

"The present members of the accounting agency and those staff at the Secretary of the Air Force who have, as of yesterday, decided not to re-open the Baron 52 case should be ashamed of themselves in rendering this decision," John Matejov, the airman's brother and a retired Marine Corps officer, wrote in

an email to Stars and Stripes. "It is a sad day all around for all who wear the uniform, past, present and future."

Matejov said he will now write to President Barack Obama and request that the president make an executive action to change his brother's status to missing in action.

The case has become somewhat famous among families still searching for answers after their loved ones were lost in Vietnam. Many of them remain skeptical that the government has been fully forthcoming with information.

The Matejov family have been deeply skeptical of the official determination that the airman was killed since a media report in the 1970s about a radio intercept picked up by U.S. intelligence agencies that some people believed indicated Americans

were taken captive at the time of the crash.

Some initial Air Force disagreement and conjecture over the circumstances of the crash also stoked questions about the Baron 52 case, which became a subject of a Senate inquiry in 1993 into Vietnam prisoners of war.

At the time, a Defense Intelligence Agency analyst testified the radio intercept was not related to Matejov or the Baron 52 case, and the Senate ultimately determined no POWs had been left behind.

However, the Matejov family has never given up its quest to change the record to show that the airman might have survived the crash, which occurred in a remote stretch of hostile jungle in Laos.

All nine of Matejov's siblings and other relatives gathered in an

Arlington, Va., conference room in February and made their case to the top officials at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, which had been newly reorganized in order to handle the recovery of servicemembers who have been killed and lost around the world.

The agency later turned the case over to the Air Force to consider whether to launch a review.

"In my view, this is nothing more than a silly chess game between [the Defense Department] and POW/MIA families," Matejov wrote Wednesday. "Through much dogged pursuit, our family at least got a chance to present but to no avail."

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

MILITARY

Commander: Some Trump plans could face resistance from military leaders

FROM FRONT PAGE

During a speech on security policy in September, Trump promised his dealings with the world would be based on "diplomacy, not destruction." But many of his sometimes contradictory statements on foreign policy have suggested the opposite, leaving defense experts scrambling after his surprise election victory over Hillary Clinton to evaluate how Trump would shape the United States' military posture.

Brian Katulis, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning think tank, said that Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence had expressed a range of positions "but never offered a full blueprint" on security issues. "America is in uncharted territory on defense policy," he said.

Some of the statements that have created the most consternation among current and former officials included suggestions that the United States could withdraw from NATO, statements of support for allowing new nuclear nations, and a proposal to "take out" families of suspected terrorists. He also said that he would resume imprisonment of terrorist suspects at Guantanamo Bay, which President Barack Obama has struggled for eight years to close, and would renew the use of torture during prisoner interrogations.

As a candidate, Trump has suggested in some cases a more muscular response to events overseas, possibly including to China's land reclamation activities in the South China Sea. The candidate also promised a harder line on the Islamic State but has provided little detail about how he would do so.

Trump could take office with two major U.S.-backed offensives underway in the Syrian city of Raqqa and the Iraqi city of Mosul, providing allied forces an opportunity to deliver a major blow against Islamic State militants and offering the next president a chance to claim a tactical victory.

In other areas, Trump has suggested a more conciliatory approach to U.S. adversaries. Those include Russian President Vladimir Putin, despite his annexation of Crimea in Ukraine, and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, despite the country's spiraling civilian death toll. Trump also signaled less appetite for foreign interventions than his competitor might have favored.

Trump supporters have suggested the president-elect won't deliver on his most inflammatory statements and say that they expect continuity on many central defense issues: commitments to defend NATO members, alliances with South Korea and Japan, even something close to the uneasy status quo with Russia.

Some of Trump's proposals may encounter resistance from military leaders, in-

cluding a suggestion that he would broaden military cooperation with Russia in Syria. A similar Obama administration proposal earlier this year generated intense Pentagon opposition, as military officials worried about giving Russia valuable insight into their operations.

Other proposals from Trump will sit well with the military leadership. He has promised to eliminate congressionally mandated spending caps, for example, and to restore cuts to personnel and equipment that he said have left the military dangerously unprepared. If he can succeed in getting NATO nations to contribute more to shared defense without rupturing the alliance, it would also be a popular move.

O'Hanlon said Trump "could find a way to find a kinder, gentler way to pressure the allies to burden share, and he need not withdraw commitments or he need not do it immediately."

No matter what, Trump may find it harder to execute his defense plans once in office than expected.

"I think he will discover what Mitt Romney would have discovered in 2012, which is that the money has to come from somewhere" to pay for defense priorities, said Christopher Preble, a scholar at the libertarian Cato Institute. While Trump has promised to pay for military spending increases with government savings, a major boost could run afoul of Congress if it required new borrowing or a tax increase.

The defense bureaucracy could prove difficult to rein in, as it has taken place in the past. Pentagon leaders push back against the White House during the policymaking process or publicize information that can sway public opinion about pressing defense issues.

Uniformed leaders, in keeping with the law and military tradition, are certain to fall in line with presidential mandates. The exception would be if those orders break the law, as his proposals to permit torture or to intentionally attack civilians would probably do.

The sheer volume of defense issues facing the next president means that President Trump will need to delegate to his staff.

While little is known about the campaign's personnel plans, retired Maj. Gen. Joseph "Keith" Kellogg Jr., who commanded the storied 82nd Airborne Division in the late 1990s, is one senior adviser expected to steer the military transition. While Trump has distanced himself from the traditional Republican foreign policy establishment, some veterans of the George W. Bush administration are expected to flock to government again. Several Republican leaders, including Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., have been named as a potential defense secretary pick.



LOCKHEED MARTIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The littoral combat ship Pre-Commissioning Unit Milwaukee slides into Lake Michigan during a christening ceremony in Marinette, Wis., in December 2013. President-elect Donald Trump has said he wants to rebuild the military.

Uncertainty shrouds Trump's impact on defense industry

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

How will Donald Trump's administration affect the defense and aerospace industry?

It's hard to say. There are so many uncertainties, particularly when it comes to how he sees the world and how his policies may affect the multibillion-dollar defense industry.

Trump has said he will want to rebuild the military. He has said he wants to increase the size of the Army and the Marine Corps, to build new ships for the Navy, add jets to the Air Force's arsenal and modernize the nuclear arsenal.

Defense stocks jumped Wednesday morning with news of his election. BAE System and Raytheon saw their stock prices go up more than 6 percent by 11 a.m. Wednesday. Lockheed Martin was up more than 5 percent.

"Trump's win is good news for the defense industry, especially when coupled with Republican majorities in the House and Senate," said Loren Thompson, a defense consultant who advises many of the nation's top-tier contractors.

Increasing the size of the military will favor BAE Systems and General Dynamics, jets helicopter makers Boeing and Lockheed Martin, in particular, he said. Northrop Grumman, which is building the Air Force's new bomber, could be a winner, he said, as could General Dynamics and Huntington Ingalls, companies that make submarines.

Trump most likely would focus on weapons systems already in development or production instead of starting new ones, said Mackenzie Eaglen, a defense analyst with the American Enterprise Institute who briefed the Trump campaign three times. That would be good news for programs such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the

Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, the littoral combat ship as well as building new aircraft carriers.

All of that could be costly. Eaglen has calculated that Trump's promises could add up to an additional \$55 billion in defense spending — "and that's conservative," she said.

Trump has called to eliminate the budget caps that control defense spending, while also rooting out waste in the Pentagon's budget, as he plans to disrupt Washington's traditional ways of doing business. Some of the Pentagon's main programs, many of which have suffered years of cost overruns and schedule delays, could be targeted, as well as the large defense corporations behind them.

In a note to investors, Byron Callan, an analyst with Alpha Security Partners, said "A populist president may be less tolerant of cost overruns on major weapons systems, and greater use of fixed-price contracts might entail more risk for the sector."

Eaglen acknowledged that "the major defense contractors are part of the establishment he's railing against." But she said Trump doesn't really have a choice but to stick with them. "If he wants to show results, he's got to live with the contractors he has," she said. "You have to go with the production lines you have open."

Trump's ability to work with Congress also will be a huge factor. While the GOP has majorities in the House and Senate, they are narrow. And conservative Republicans may clash with defense hawks over spending, touching off intraparty budget battles, said Todd Harrison, an analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Many of those Republicans don't support Trump or his policies," he said. "I think it means continued and perhaps even worse gridlock."

WIN YOUR SIGNED COPY!

Stripes Book Club and Putnam, imprint of Penguin Random House, are proud to offer you a chance to win one of 10 signed copies of Clive and Dirk Cussler's *Odessa Sea*. Go to stripesrewards.com/bookclub to enter and win.

Starring in the role of "oceanography's answer to Indiana Jones," Dirk Pitt responds to a mysterious Mayday signal from a deserted ship that will draw him toward a deadly secret leftover from the Cold War arms race.

Read the latest adventure in The New York Times #1 bestselling series.

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

kimmel.kristi@stripes.com

+49 (0) 631-3615-9013

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

kimmel.kristi@stripes.com

+49 (0) 631-3615-9013

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING

YUKO SAITO

CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267



An H-34 helicopter is shown following a rocket attack at Phu Bai airfield in May 1968.

Courtesy of Roger Hunt



'We persevered'

Five months together in 1966 at The Basic School defined their lives. 50 years later, they embrace each other and their service

By **DIANNA CAHN**
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — Most of them took the military road before they knew it was headed to Vietnam. They were high school graduates in 1962 — intelligent but not necessarily wealthy, and for many, ROTC scholarships meant a free ride to a college degree.

By the time they chose to become Marine Corps officers, there was no doubt where they'd be going. The war that would define them was burning on the horizon. It was their calling, and these boys on the verge of manhood were eager to take up the mantle.

For five months in 1966, 184 young men from across the country came together for a brief, defining time here at The Basic School, where newly commissioned Marine Corps officers are trained.

They started in June, in the deadly heat of summer and spent the coming months exhausted and covered in dirt and mosquito and tick bites. By November, they were camping and running in the cold rain, covered in mud.

"I learned to laugh at adversity with these guys," said Mike Wholley, who stayed in the Marine Corps for 30 years, retiring as a brigadier general. "These

200 guys from The Basic School — I love them. We all went through the same things. We laughed, we cried, we ate crappy chow, but we laughed through it all and we persevered."

And then — almost to a man — they went to war.

The Basic School

This year marks a half-century since TBS class of fiscal year 1967 came through this campus. The buildings have all changed, and the technology is new.

The men of B Company, now in their 70s, laughed in amazement at the large size of the modern classrooms, the perks for new officers and the elaborate choices in the chow hall.

But some things never change.

When Marines on the chow line heard who the visitors were, they shook their hands. And the Marine spiel — with its pride and ethos — brought the veterans back to their own young boots.

"This is where we introduce young men and women to what it truly means to be a Marine Officer," Maj. Dan Eagan, protocol officer at The Basic School, told the veterans during a briefing. "To lead, to take charge to make decisions when you are under stress, when the world is crashing down around your ears, and maybe the only thing that can be your



DIANNA CAHN/Stars and Stripes

Retired Brig. Gen. Mike Wholley and his friend Joanne Turrentine participate in a bus tour of Fredericksburg, Va., during the 50th reunion of his classmates at The Basic School in 1966. The five months of Marine Corps officer training bonded the men before they went off to Vietnam.

saving grace is keeping your head on your shoulders, picking up a radio and getting the right support where you need it."

"You all know it because you lived it," he told the silent room.

The veterans had gathered on this autumn weekend to mark then and now, a 50th reunion for men who had been together fleetingly — some before they could grow a full beard. But it was a seminal time, when they learned to take responsibility and were thrust into battle. Their mettle would be tested, and their ability to laugh, when fate would

rightly have them shaking in fear, connected them in irrevocable ways.

For many Marines, service is a calling that bonds them like no other. But as these young lieutenants trained to be officers, they shouldered the added knowledge that they were preparing to take men into battle. For five months, day and night, they ran, jumped and crawled, cursed, fell, got up and did it again. They laughed when it got too hard, or something didn't go right.

SEE PAGE 11



FROM PAGE 10

“What are they going to do, send me to Vietnam?” Oh wait, they are already doing that,” they joked.

They were hurrying and dirty and knew that soon, they’d be at war, and not all of them would come home.

Some kept in contact, becoming lifelong friends. Others put the war behind them — or buried it. Ord Elliott put his manuscript in a drawer for nearly four decades before he published it. Wholley lived in Washington for years before he could bring himself to visit the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial.

“I had this irrational fear I would walk down and see my name. It was not rational. But there were a lot of names of good friends,” he said. Now once a year, at 6 a.m., he heads to the Wall and spends an hour and a half there.

In 1996, 30 years after they graduated, classmate Bob Schmitt reached out to 12 classmates whose contacts he had and organized the first small reunion in California. Time passed, and every five years or so, they had an expanded gathering.

Now, about 50 of them were back where they started so long ago.

They looked around at the young Marines training for new wars in a newfangled world, struck by how much had changed, but also, how much was familiar. Eagan’s words to them struck home.

“As much as we evolve technology-wise, as much as we advance, incorporate new things, these young lieutenants when they graduate have more in common with you gentlemen than they do with their peers out in the civilian world,” Eagan said. “Because the underlying fundamentals of what makes a Marine Corps leader are timeless. That they are going to be men and women of character. That they are going to make the right decision.”

“That’s the institution you passed on to us.”

Ready, set, combat

The class graduated at the end of November 1966. Some went on to flight school, dividing further into fixed wing or helicopters. Others landed ground jobs — riflemen or artillerymen — and were on the front lines by early 1967.

They entered a war in full throttle. The number of American forces in Vietnam had surpassed 550,000, but troops were stretched thin. As American losses multiplied, public support waned.

By the time the first graduates of their class landed in the I Corps tactical zone — the northernmost quadrant of South Vietnam just south of the Demilitarized Zone — they were seeing signs at home of the anti-war sentiment that would puncture their service and return them from war.

Whether they served on the ground or in the air, they came home with the shared experience of combat that cemented their bonds.

“These are the guys that fought with you,” said Elliott, who commanded a rifle platoon through battle along the DMZ. “We can understand even though we had different experiences — the wing and the grunts like me — we can understand what that experience was.

“So when we share stories, it’s wonderful,” he said. “It’s wonderful. It brings back the camaraderie we had as Marines.”



Meet some whose lives were shaped at The Basic School stripes.com/vietnam50

John Sullivan, left, and Robert Lund stand underneath a Huey gunship helicopter on display at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., during the 50th reunion of their class at The Basic School. The two men served in the same squadron in Vietnam, flying Hueys, including the one hanging at the museum.

“It’s about spending time with Marines,” said Bob Lund, a CH-46 helicopter pilot in Vietnam. “My whole life, I’ve been tremendously proud to be a Marine, and I have tremendous respect for other Marines because I know what happened to them. I know what they did.”

A legacy of success

In the years that followed the war, the men of B Company had remarkable and successful lives. Hon Lee survived the ground war on Hill 881 South near Khe Sanh to be recruited by the CIA — first in their technical unit, and later, as a clandestine operative around the world.

Classmate Andy Vaart also worked for the CIA, as an analyst. He was born in Estonia before his mother escaped to the United States during World War II.

Mike Wholley, who joined the Marines so he could go to law school and become a politician, stayed 30 years, becoming a brigadier general and the top lawyer in the Marine Corps.

Hays Parks, a fellow lawyer who commanded a base security unit at 1st Marine Division headquarters near Da Nang, became the pre-eminent scholar on the laws of war, negotiating weapons agreements on behalf of the United

States.

Others went into business or computer technology, or became doctors or surgeons. David Martin served as a U.S. Congressman and John Astle went from flying helicopters to serving two decades as a Maryland state senator.

In 2014, Astle introduced legislation in Maryland that passed unanimously, making March 30 the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in his state.

He said he had been spit on when he returned home and a friend he’d grown up with turned his back on him because of the war. The legislation, for him, was a way to reconcile the pride these Marines felt coming home with the shame many Americans felt about the war they fought.

“I tell people that of all the things I’ve done with my life, the thing about which I am most proud is my service as a Marine,” Astle said.

A reunion of family

Last month, as they walked the campus of The Basic School, Vaart came across a dedication plaque with several names, including one that stopped him in his tracks: Lt. Col. Victor Ohanesian. A Marine Corps major working with

the Navy ROTC at the University of Rochester in 1964, Ohanesian recruited Vaart and Bob Rivers to join the Marines, not the Navy, at the end of their college scholarships.

He was Vaart’s mentor, a Marine he wanted to emulate. It made him proud that Ohanesian had selected him.

Three years later, Vaart was a young lieutenant in Vietnam when he got word that Ohanesian was killed in combat in the DMZ.

Vaart reached out and ran his fingers over the name on the plaque. “He was the first person to see something worthy in me,” he said.

The weekend took them to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, where many of them relived their Vietnam battles. Lee stood on his Hill 881 South, John Sullivan and Lund under a Huey from their squadron — one they’d both flown dozens of times. Roger Hart and Astle walked down a CH-46 ramp, remembering how the Marines helped injured buddies onto a bird.

They rescued a lot of troops. But Astle hasn’t forgotten one kid who died on the back of his helicopter.

Astle’s helicopter had been called in for a rescue in an area where troops had come under heavy fire. But the security gunships were taking too long. He had to choose between risking the lives of himself and his crew to go it alone, or wait. He waited. The copter didn’t end up getting shot at, he said. Maybe it was because they came in with the big guns. Or maybe the bad guys had already fled. Maybe the kid would have survived had he gone in sooner. The memory brings him to tears.

“I wrestled with that for a long time before I came to terms with it,” he said.

For Bob Rivers, the camaraderie comes back the minute he gets into a room with these men.

“We shared something special,” he said, emotion bubbling up as he spoke.

“This is coming home. These are my friends. This is who I am,” he said.

Email: cahn.dianna@stripes.com
Twitter: @diannacahn



The stories don't end in print.

- Flying solo in 1966 with a thousand missions to go: One pilot’s story.
- Vietnam vets describe their most vivid memories.
- “So hot. So wet. So tired”: The war in six words.
- Stories and photos from the Stars and Stripes archives.

stripes.com/vietnam50

ELECTION 2016

Obama: First meeting with Trump is 'excellent'

By Julie Pace
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a cordial beginning to their transfer of power, President Barack Obama and President-elect Donald Trump met at the White House Thursday. Obama called the 90-minute meeting "excellent," and his successor said he looked forward to receiving the outgoing president's "counsel."

At the close of the Oval Office sit-down, Obama said to Trump, "We now are going to want to do everything we can to help you succeed because if you succeed the country succeeds."

The two men, who have been harshly critical of each other for years, were meeting for the first time, Trump said. The Republican called Obama a "very good man" and said he looked forward "to dealing with the president in the future, including counsel."

Obama blasted Trump throughout the campaign as unfit to serve as a commander in chief. Trump spent years challeng-

ing the legitimacy of Obama's presidency, falsely suggesting Obama may have been born outside the United States.

But at least publicly, the two men appeared to put aside their animosity. As the meeting concluded and journalists scrambled out of the Oval Office, Obama smiled at his successor and explained the unfolding scene.

If Trump makes good on his campaign promises, he'll wipe away much of what Obama has done during his eight years in office. The Republican president-elect, who will govern with Congress fully under GOP control, has vowed to repeal Obama's signature health care law and to dismantle the landmark nuclear accord with Iran.

First lady Michelle Obama also met privately in the White House residence with Trump's wife, Melania, while Vice President Joe Biden prepared to see Vice President-elect Mike Pence later Thursday.

From the White House, Trump headed to Capitol Hill for meetings with House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Sen-

ate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky to discuss the GOP legislative agenda. Pence intended to join both meetings.

Trump's scant transition team sprang into action, cutting through personnel lists for top jobs and working through handover plans for government agencies. A person familiar with the transition operations said the personnel process was still in its early stages, but Trump's team was putting a premium on quickly filling key national security posts. The person was not authorized to discuss details by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

According to an organizational chart for the transition obtained by The Associated Press, Trump was relying on experienced hands to help form his administration. National security planning was being led by former Michigan Rep. Mike Rogers, who previously worked for the FBI. Domestic issues were being handled by Ken Blackwell, a former Cincinnati mayor and Ohio secretary of state.

Trump was expected to consider sev-



Blackwell

eral loyal supporters for top jobs, including former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani for attorney general or national security adviser and campaign finance chairman Steve Mnuchin for Treasury secretary. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker were also expected to be under consideration for foreign policy posts.

As president-elect, Trump is entitled to get the same daily intelligence briefing as Obama — one that includes information on U.S. covert operations, information gleaned about world leaders and other data gathered by America's 17 intelligence agencies. The White House said it would organize two exercises involving multiple agencies to help Trump's team learn how to respond to major domestic incidents.

'Not my president.' Protests across US denounce Trump

By Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A day after Donald Trump's election to the presidency, campaign divisions appeared to widen as many thousands of demonstrators — some with signs declaring "NOT MY PRESIDENT" — flooded streets across the country to protest his surprise triumph.

From New England to heartland cities like Kansas City and along the West Coast, demonstrators bore flags and effigies of the president-elect, disrupting traffic and declaring that they refused to accept Trump's victory.

Flames lit up the night sky in California cities Wednesday as thousands of protesters burned a giant paper-mache Trump head in Los Angeles and started fires in Oakland intersections.

Los Angeles demonstrators also beat a Trump pinata and sprayed the Los Angeles Times building and news vans with anti-Trump profanity. One protester outside L.A. City Hall held a sign that simply said "this is very bad."

Vishal Singh, 23, said he was disappointed with voters who supported a man he sees as anti-immigrant and anti-LGBT.

"I expected better of my electorate," he told the Los Angeles Times. "I thought this country was different."

Late in the evening, several hundred people blocked one of the city's busiest freeways, U.S. 101 between downtown and Hollywood.

More than a dozen people were arrested as officers in full riot gear walked the protesters off the freeway. In Orange County, about 10 people were arrested after three police cars were damaged during rallies in Santa Ana.

Late in the north in Oakland, several thousand people clogged intersections and freeway on-ramps.

Nearby in Berkeley, more than 1,000 students walked out of high school classes Wednesday, brandishing anti-Trump signs and Mexican flags. The students twined #NotMyPresident and vowed to unify.

In Chicago, where thousands recently had poured into the streets to celebrate the Chicago Cubs' first World Series victory



MATTHEW HIXTON, THE (BATON ROUGE, LA.) ADVOCATE/AP

A Trump supporter, right, attacks an anti-Trump demonstrator after the demonstrator grabbed his Trump flag from his truck Wednesday in New Orleans. The Trump supporter had made several circles in his vehicle with the flag.

over in circles in his vehicle with the flag. In other cases, several thousand people marched through the Loop. They gathered outside Trump Tower, chanting "Not my president!"

Chicago resident Michael Burke said he believes the president-elect will "divide the country and stir up hatred." He added there was a constitutional duty not to accept that outcome.

Police said that an estimated 1,800 to 2,000 people participated in the Chicago protests. Police reported five arrests, including two for obstructing traffic, but said there were no major incidents.

A similar protest in Manhattan drew about 1,000 people. Outside Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in midtown, police installed barricades to keep the demonstrators at bay.

Hundreds of protesters gathered near Philadelphia's City Hall despite chilly, wet weather. Participants — who included supporters of both Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who lost to Clinton in the primary — expressed anger at both Republicans and



TED S. WARREN/AP

Hundreds of demonstrators march Wednesday in downtown Seattle as they protest the election of President-elect Donald Trump.

Democrats over the election's outcome.

In Boston, thousands of anti-Trump protesters streamed through downtown, chanting "Trump's a racist" and carrying signs that said "Impeach Trump" and "Abolish Electoral College." Clinton appears to be on pace to win the popular vote, despite losing the electoral count that decides the presidential race.

The protesters gathered on Boston Common before marching toward the Massachusetts Statehouse, with beefed-up security including extra police officers.

Hundreds also gathered in Providence, R.I., and Portland, Maine.

Since Tuesday night, there have been protest marches in the Midwest, including, St. Paul, Minn., Omaha, Neb., and Kansas City, Mo.

Marchers protesting Trump's election chanted and carried signs in front of the Trump International Hotel in Washington.

Media outlets broadcast video Wednesday night showing a peaceful crowd in front of the new downtown hotel. Many chanted "No racist USA, no Trump, no KKK."

Another group stood outside the White House. They held candles, listened to speeches and sang songs.

In Richmond, Va., 10 people were arrested after protesters sat in travel lanes of

the Downtown Expressway and refused to leave. Earlier, hundreds had gathered near Monroe Park and blocked the streets near Virginia Commonwealth University with some marchers chanting "No Trump. No KKK. No fascist USA."

Dallas activists gathered by the dozens outside the city's sports arena, the American Airlines Center.

In Oregon, dozens of people blocked traffic in downtown Portland, burned American flags and forced a delay for trains on two light-rail lines.

Hundreds massed in downtown Seattle streets.

Many held anti-Trump and Black Lives Matter signs and chanted slogans, including "Misogyny has to go," and "The people united, will never be defeated."

Five people were shot and injured in an area near the protest, but police said the shootings and the demonstration were unrelated.

Back in New York, several groups of protesters caused massive gridlock as police mobilized to contain them under a light rain.

They held signs that read "Trump Makes America Hate" and chanted "hey, hey, ho, ho Donald Trump has got to go," and "Impeach Trump."

ELECTION 2016

Asia applauds Trump, but frets about change

By PAUL ALEXANDER
Stars and Stripes

Asian allies are heartily congratulating Donald Trump for his election victory while worrying whether his "America first" focus will erode regional security and undercut trade agreements.

No one is quite sure what to expect from the billionaire businessman who has no political experience and is perceived as a hothead who sees the world in terms of profits and losses.

Some of the biggest questions are what will happen to the "Pacific pivot," President Barack Obama's plan to bolster America's military and trade presence in a region that he saw as critical to the future, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the 12-nation trade deal that Trump has derided as contrary to America's best interests.

Trump has sent mixed messages to Asia. He sparked concern across Japan and South Korea when he said during his campaign they need to pay more of the costs of basing U.S. troops in the region and suggested they should start their own nuclear weapons programs to defend themselves from possible attacks by North Korea or China.

"He has said that he is going to increase the military presence in the Asia-Pacific region, but it also signaled that he would draw troops down from Japan and Korea," said James Brown, a defense expert at the United States Studies Centre in Sydney.

"I think whatever form the rebalancing takes, it will certainly have a harder edge. There will be no TPP. And it will be about muscle moves, I think. I think his policy in Asia will look a lot like China's policy in Asia, which is driven by commercial considerations, backed by strong deployments of military force when need be."

'A great deal of fear'

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye both spoke with Trump by telephone Thursday to offer their congratulations on the Republican's stunning upset victory over Hillary Clinton. Spokesmen



Park

for both leaders said Trump made assurances that he hopes to further strength-

Trump presidency to test longstanding U.S.-Korea ties
stars.com/go/skalliance

en their bilateral relationships.

Even with the inauguration two months away, world leaders already are trying to cozy up to Trump and are setting up task forces to engage with his Cabinet once it's formed. Abe is working out plans to meet with Trump on Nov. 17 before the APEC meeting in New York, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

"I think that they made a great start to build a trusting relationship," Suga said.

That would mark a turnaround for Trump.

"Where I think the biggest impact of Trump's security policy in Asia will be felt is on the U.S.-Japan relationship," Brown said. "That's one of the things he's been very consistent about. He doesn't like Japan. He hasn't liked them for 30, 40 years. He sees them as exploitative of the U.S., and so this trend toward a more intensification of Japan's alliance with the U.S. will be halted and potentially reversed.

"I think in Tokyo right now, I would be very nervous," he said. "I think Japanese government officials will be very nervous about what this means to them and what it means to stability in the region."

Brendon O'Connor, an expert on U.S. foreign policy at the United States Studies Centre in Sydney, said an international poll taken before the election showed "an overwhelmingly negative attitude" toward Trump, with only 3 percent support in South Korea, 5 percent in Japan and 15 percent in Australia.

"In the case of Korea and Japan, there is a great deal of fear that Trump will pull back commitments to those two countries," O'Connor said. "His argument that they should consider getting their own nuclear weapons was not something that would be seen positively by either nation. Those, I think, were dangerous and unwise statements to make."

Japan is already in the midst of a transformation of its military that makes many in the region uneasy. Despite majority opposition, Abe has worked to ease the heavy restrictions on its military that are enshrined in the post-World War II constitution. The country now could come to the aid of an ally under attack.

Faced with Chinese aggression over the disputed Senkaku islands, Japan is expanding its capabilities beyond self-defense, participating in military exercises with the U.S. this week on the



DAVID DANALS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Donald Trump tours the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima during Fleet Week New York City in May 2009.



CHRIS HENRY/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visits the USS Ronald Reagan, the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, in October 2015. In a letter to Donald Trump this week, Abe congratulated the United States' new president-elect and called him "a very successful businessman with extraordinary talents."

island on Tinian that are part of its push to develop a Marines-like amphibious capability.

But it's far from ready for a confrontation, so the U.S. troops based in the country — half in Okinawa — will be needed for the foreseeable future.

Many Okinawans bristle against the ongoing U.S. presence, and Gov. Takeshi Onaga won election on an anti-base platform. He said he will visit the U.S. early next year in an effort to persuade Trump to reduce the military presence on the island.

While Japan does foot about 75 percent of the U.S. military's costs here, that still makes up only 1 percent of its budget, which has led to criticism from Trump and others, said Yasushi Watanabe, a professor of American studies at Japan's Keio University.

"In the eyes of the United States, it's not fair," Watanabe said. "It's certain that he (Trump) will demand more burden" be carried by Japan.

South Korea has been uneasy about a Trump presidency, which Lee Junhan, political science professor at South Korea's Incheon National University, said will bring greater "unpredictability and uncertainty."

It is uncertain what his policies toward South Korea, North Korea and Asia are likely to be,

Lee said, adding that he sees worst-case scenarios. "No good scenario is in sight."

Pragmatism over issues

China is waiting to see whether Trump will try to boost trade ties or take a harder line in the South China Sea, where Beijing has built up tiny islands, reefs and shoals and has added airstrips, roads and buildings.

"All we have to go on now is what he focused on during the campaign. And he focused on the trade relationship," said Denny Roy, an Asia expert at the East-West Center in Honolulu. "They don't like what he said about the trade relationship, but the problems they foresee under Trump are easier to deal with than the problems that (they) would've seen under a Clinton presidency."

"If you had to boil it down to one sentence, it would be: The Chinese are less worried about the U.S.-China relationship under Trump than Clinton because they see Trump as a businessman — pragmatic, just wants to make money."

"That's a big part of the Chinese relationship with the United States as well," Roy said. "They think they can make a deal with the guy, whereas Hillary Clinton has some strong views on strategic issues that divide the United States and

China. And China also sees her as a crusader on human rights."

O'Connor said the thinks dealing with China will be one of Trump's biggest challenges "given that he's talked pretty tough on China in regard to trade.

"He talked a lot about building up America's military," O'Connor said. "Those are concerning thoughts. There's been a degree of peace and economic prosperity in building relations with China since the Bill Clinton administration, and to see that disturbed, I think, would be a real mistake."

China is also seen as one of the keys to calming down North Korea, which is splintering the entire party newspaper Rodong Sinmun since showing off the improvements in its nuclear weapons and missile programs. Trump has said he's willing to have talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who is in the midst of an aggressive push to upgrade his nuclear weapons and missiles so they could reach the U.S. mainland.

North Korea warned Thursday that it has no intention of giving up its nuclear weapons program. "Washington's hope for North Korea's denuclearization is an outdated illusion," the official ruling party newspaper Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary. It didn't mention Trump by name but it was published after his election.

One of the more interesting aspects of Trump's presidency is how he will deal with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who some see as being cut from the same cloth as Trump: a maverick who won election with promises of change.

Duterte sent his congratulations to Trump on Thursday too, and talked of military exercises which the U.S., which he recently said would end.

"Looking at the personalities, President Duterte will respect President Trump," said Brown. "He will see some similar characteristics in Trump to himself. But I think that relationship is going to become one driven by pragmatism rather than one that's driven by values."

Stars and Stripes staffers Wyatt Olson, Hana Kusumoto, Chiyoji Sumida and Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.

ELECTION 2016

In Trump they trust

For many supporters, billionaire means hope

By AMY FORLITI
AND CLAIRE GALOFARE
Associated Press

MENOMONIE, Wis. — On election night, when Donald Trump claimed victory in her home state of Wisconsin, Shay Chamberlin was so excited she passed out.

Chamberlain believes Trump is her savior, sent by God to save America from ruin. She owns a women's clothing store; her husband runs a construction company. They have two children and barely get by on \$44,000 a year.

In his victory speech, Trump called people like Chamberlain and her family America's "forgotten men and women" — the blue-collar workers in the manufacturing towns of the Rust Belt and the coalfields of Appalachia who propelled him to victory. They felt left behind by progress, laughed at by the elite, and so put their faith in the billionaire businessman with a sharp tongue and short temper who promised to Make America Great Again.

When Trump first ran, Chamberlain thought to herself, "That's the man everybody has been praying for." She now feels vindicated by his victory.

"This is a movement," she said. "This isn't a candidate anymore. This is a movement."

Not all of Trump's support came from the blue-collar downtrodden. But the Republican's overwhelming backing among whites with less than a college education is at least partly a reflection of how little the economic recovery since the Great Recession has benefited them. Their job opportunities have dwindled, and their incomes have fallen, even as broader measures of the nation's job market show improvement. But they also turned to him to hold back the tide of social change: same-sex marriage, transgender rights, a society growing more racially diverse.



JOE BURBANK, ORLANDO (FLA.) SENTINEL/AP

Trump supporter Tommy Horton, of Orlando, reacts as Fox News announced Florida was too close to call during election night coverage. Trump won the state.

The white working class found an unlikely spokesman in Trump. He promised to build the wall to keep out immigrants. He promised to tear up trade deals that have ushered American factory jobs overseas. He promised to put blue-collar America back to work and restore the country to a time when white workers felt fulfilled.

"I feel like, not just most, but all Trump supporters are true patriots," said 59-year-old Ginger Austin, 59, who owns a graphics company in a tiny town in Jones County, one of the poorest places in North Carolina. "They love this country. But they're taking our country away, and they're changing it. They're just changing everything. All our rights are just slowly being dwindled away."

She's angry at the Republican Party she has supported all her life. She is angry at Barack Obama and the Affordable Care Act. She is angry that America is changing, and worried that her grandchildren are growing up in a world too liberal and too politically correct.

The nation woke up Wednesday to learn just how divided it has grown. Hillary Clin-

ton won the popular vote about 200,000 ballots. But Trump won battleground states that had voted for President Barack Obama twice. Thousands of registered Democrats, including former union workers from the mines and factories, crossed party lines and sided with Trump.

In Dunn County, Obama beat Mitt Romney 53 percent to 46 percent in 2012, and John McCain 57 percent to 42 percent four years earlier. But it flipped to Donald Trump, 52 percent to 41 percent, over Clinton.

The Great Recession wiped out millions of middle-income jobs in manufacturing, office administrative work and construction, and those jobs haven't returned, even as the nation now has 6.5 million more jobs than it did before the recession began. In many parts of the country, they have been replaced with lower-income work in restaurants, hotels, and in home health care.

On Wednesday morning, miners streamed into a convenience store between one West Virginia coal town and another. Manager Mary Jones recognized something she hadn't heard in years: hope.

They talked about jobs returning. They talked about a chance at a brighter future. They talked about Donald Trump.

"I think we sent a message to Washington that we're tired of them sitting up there doing nothing to help the working-class people," said Jones, a native of Wyoming County, where the collapse of the coal industry left behind tumbledown houses and a quarter of families in poverty.

Coal trucks used to barrel by all day and the parking lot stayed full. No trucks come by anymore. The store is for sale. She's not sure she'll have a job much longer and is certain she won't find another.

She considers the ballot she cast for Trump as a protest against Clinton and every other member of the political elite.

But in West Virginia, Jones worries that the working class is too far gone to be saved. "There's some things you can do as a president. And there's something you can't. They all make promises; I just don't know how he can keep all those promises," she said. "I feel more hopeful today than I have in a long time. But I'm still scared for the future."

Veteran votes may have given edge to Republican

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

Swing-state counties with especially high numbers of veterans helped propel Donald Trump to the White House, suggesting that his attacks this summer on a Gold Star family did not dampen support for him in military communities.

In a number of counties in Ohio, North Carolina and Florida, Trump beat Hillary Clinton by wider margins than his Republican predecessors performed against Obama in the last two presidential races. All three swing states have rich military traditions and numerous counties in which thousands or tens of thousands of veterans live.

Exit polls suggest veterans

voted for Trump by about a 2 to 1 margin, reflecting the typical Republican bent of this group of voters. But the numbers also mean that a number of Trump's controversial remarks on veterans and foreign policy did not significantly damage his support among military families.

Trump said during his campaign that Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is not a war hero because he was captured during the Vietnam War, that he knew more about defeating the Islamic State militant group than U.S. generals, and also verbally attacked the parents of Army Capt. Humayun Khan, a U.S. soldier who was killed in Iraq, after they spoke at the Democratic National Convention against Trump.

Numerous veterans said before

the election that they would vote for Trump despite the controversies, with some saying that even if they did not like his actions, they considered him a better option than Clinton. Some expressed anger with the seemingly endless wars that continued from President George W. Bush's term in office through Obama's time in the White House and Clinton's tenure as secretary of state.

In Ohio's Montgomery County, home to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Trump beat Clinton 48.4 percent to 47.1 percent in Ohio's Montgomery County, flipping a jurisdiction that had voted in favor of Obama twice. In 2008, Obama beat John McCain there 52.5 percent to 46.3 percent; in 2012, Obama bested W. Mitt Romney there 50.7 percent to 47.7

percent. Montgomery County has more than 44,300 veterans among its 532,000 residents. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is one of the service's largest military installations.

In Florida, Trump trounced Clinton in several conservative counties along the Florida Panhandle by even wider margins than McCain and Romney beat Obama. In Walton County, for example, Trump beat Clinton 76.6 percent to 20.4 percent. Obama lost their to McCain 72.1 percent to 26.4 percent in 2008, and to Romney 75.1 percent to 23.4 percent in 2012. About 10 percent of Walton County's 63,500 residents are veterans, according to census data. It's near several military installations, including Eglin Air Force Base and a naval station in

Panama City.

In North Carolina, Trump beat Clinton 51.1 percent to 45.3 percent, four years after Romney beat Obama there 50.6 percent to 48.4 percent. Obama beat McCain there in 2008 49.7 percent to 49.4 percent, and Clinton was ahead in several national polls there taken in recent months.

In North Carolina's coastal Onslow County, home to the Marine Corps' sprawling Camp Lejeune, Trump beat Clinton 65.6 percent to 31 percent. Obama lost there in both 2008 and 2012, but by smaller margins: 60.8 percent to 39.2 percent in 2008, and 62.9 percent to 36 percent in 2012. About 23,500 veterans live there among 186,300 people, accounting for about 13 percent of the population.



★ ★ ★
**VETERANS
 DAY**
 SALE
 ★ ★ ★

BLACK FRIDAY PRICES

START NOVEMBER 11th



save \$70
229⁹⁹ Reg 299.99
 Notebook, 15.6" #R540SA-R501
 • 1366x768 resolution
 • Intel dual-core Celeron N3050
 • 4GB memory
 • 500GB hard drive
 • Windows 10
 7840479



XBOX ONE
save \$50
\$279 Reg \$329
Compare at \$349!
 Xbox One S Military
 Appreciation bundle, 1TB.
 8151592
save \$10
 Select Xbox One controllers
 with the purchase of select
 Xbox One consoles.



Microsoft
599⁹⁹ Reg 899.99
 Surface Pro 4, 12.3".
 • 6th generation Intel Core M3
 • 4GB memory
 • 128GB hard drive
 • Windows 10 Pro
 7521277
FREE Microsoft Office 365 Home
 Subscription with purchase of
 Surface Pro 4.



4K | 60"

save \$700

\$499

SAMSUNG

4K Smart TV, 60".
 #UN60KU6300
 • High Dynamic
 Range (HDR)
 • Motion Rate 120
 7899761



SONY

75"

save \$1300
\$1999 Reg \$3299
4K Smart TV, 75".
 #XBR75X850D
 • High Dynamic Range (HDR)
 • Motion Flow XR960
 7760571



SONY

40"

save \$80
\$299 Reg \$379
LED Smart TV, 40".
 #KDL40W650D
 • 1080p
 • 60Hz
 7749705



Visit shopmyexchange.com today!

Nov. 11 - 13, 2016
 VISIT MyECP.com FOR DETAILS

NO SALES TAX!

EXCHANGE
 ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE



★ **THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SERVICE!** ★



EXCHANGE
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

THANK YOU ISN'T ENOUGH.



Thank you is what we say. But we mean so much more. We mean how can we help?
What can we do? To serve them. For all they've done to serve us.



NATION



JEFFREY T. BARNES/AP

Smoke rises from a fire at a former Bethlehem Steel site in Lackawanna, N.Y., on Wednesday.

Fire contained but continues burning at old mill site in NY

Associated Press

LACKAWANNA, N.Y. — A massive blaze at a former steel mill site outside Buffalo has been contained, but authorities say the fire could burn for days.

Fire crews remained at the scene of the blaze in Lackawanna on Thursday morning, nearly

24 hours after it started inside a massive building housing several businesses on the former Bethlehem Steel site. The blaze caused a large section of the roof and some walls to collapse as thick clouds of black smoke covered the area.

More than 100 firefighters from Lackawanna, neighboring Buffalo and other local communities

struggled through the day to extinguish the blaze before officials deemed it contained Wednesday night.

No injuries have been reported.

The official cause of the fire remains unknown, but one Lackawanna official said it started when a hot light bulb fell on some combustibles.

Santa, reindeer and snowflakes return to Starbucks' holiday cups

By JOSEPH PISANI

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Snowflakes, Santa Claus and reindeer are returning to Starbucks' holiday cups this year after last year's more subdued red cups caused an uproar from critics who said the chain was part of a so-called war on Christmas.

In all, 13 different cups will hit stores around the world Thursday. Eleven of them will be available in U.S. shops. The cups were designed by customers who uploaded pictures of their designs on Instagram last year, the company said Wednesday.

Starbucks Corp. has released holiday cups every year since 1997. The outcry over 2015's plainer red cup grew after now President-elect Donald Trump

suggested boycotting the chain.

The company was surprised by last year's controversy, CEO Howard Schultz said at an event Wednesday where the designs were displayed.

"It's just a cup," he said.

For the holiday cups, the company said it received 1,200 designs from customers online and narrowed them down. All the cups for hot drinks are red and have white designs featuring candy canes, ornaments or other holiday symbols. The one cup for iced drinks has a wreath wrapped around the Starbucks mermaid logo. The company declined to say if the customers were compensated for the designs.

Last week, the Seattle-based company also unveiled a green cup ahead of Election Day that it said was "a symbol of unity."

Police searching for gunman after shooting in Seattle

By LISA BAUMANN

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A man opened fire on a crowd outside a convenience store in downtown Seattle, wounding five people and setting off an intense police search, authorities said.

Seattle Assistant Police Chief Robert Merner said four men and one woman were hurt after an argument near Pine Street and Third Avenue outside a 7-Eleven store near a busy bus stop.

"There was some type of argument that took place, a suspect walked away and then fired into a crowd, striking those individuals," Merner said.

All five people shot were taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Harborview Medical Center spokeswoman Susan Gregg said the condition of one woman and two men wounded improved by Wednesday night from serious to satisfactory condition.

She said two other men remained in critical, but stable condition in intensive care.

The five victims range in age from their 20s to their 50s and sustained injuries to their legs, chest and neck, Gregg said.

Authorities were searching for and trying to identify the gunman, who fled the scene on foot, Merner said. Streets in the area were closed while police investigated the scene and interviewed witnesses.

Merner said officers don't believe the incident is related to anti-Trump protests happening near the area at the time. "As far as we know, it seems to be a personal argument," he said.

The manager of the 7-Eleven, Sharon Keith, told reporters she heard what sounded like firecrackers and told everyone to get down while she went to lock the door.

She said she could see multiple people on the ground outside afterward.

"How do you describe that? There were multiple people down, a lot of blood," she said, her voice breaking.

Police were also investigating an exchange of gunfire earlier in the day in Seattle that wounded two men.

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray said in a statement Wednesday night that he was thankful all the victims were alive and receiving treatment.

1 of 2 Pa. police officers shot has died; suspect still sought

Associated Press

CANONSBURG, Pa. — One of two western Pennsylvania police officers "ambushed" and shot while responding to a domestic situation has died, and police are searching for a suspect, authorities said Thursday.

The dead police officer was identified as Officer Scott Leslie Bashium.

State police Trooper Melinda Bondarenka told reporters the incident began at 3:14 a.m. when the Canonsburg officers responded to a report of a domestic dispute.

The officers were "ambushed upon their arrival" and immediately shot, Bondarenka said.

The surviving officer was flown to a hospital in Pittsburgh. His name and condition weren't immediately released.

Police and SWAT teams have been seen near at least two homes in the borough about 20 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. It's not clear whether the suspect was in either of those homes.

Police haven't said whether they know who the suspect is, or whether he's been charged.

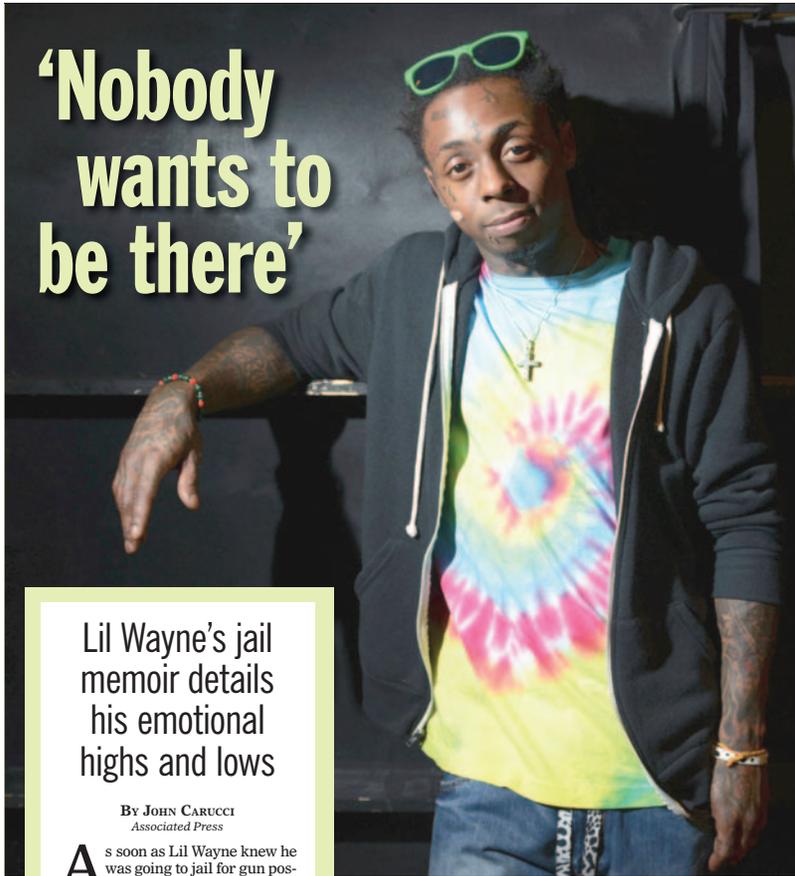
The Canon-McMillan School District canceled classes Thursday because of the heavy police presence, and the nearby Chartiers-Houston School District was operating on a two-hour delay.

STARS AND STRIPES.
honors our veterans for
their service to America.
Veterans Day
November 11, 2016

Photos courtesy of Defense.gov

FACES

'Nobody wants to be there'



Lil Wayne's jail memoir details his emotional highs and lows

By JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

As soon as Lil Wayne knew he was going to jail for gun possession, he mapped out his plan to survive.

"There was, 'OK, let's get a plan together ... from when you go in ... and when you get out,'" the rapper said of his eight-month stint in New York City's Rikers Island in 2010.

What wasn't intended was his book detailing his experience. The recently released "Gone 'Til November" is based on his diary from his time inside prison. He writes about disillusionment, disputes between inmates and even a time when he officiated at a gay marriage. He was skeptical that people would be interested in his diaries. Then "my best friend Cortez (Bryant) told me: 'You know, people want to know what you did every single day.'"

Lil Wayne, 34, sat down with The Associated Press recently to talk about his experience.

Associated Press: Sean "Diddy" Combs and Kanye West visited you in jail. What did that mean to you?

Lil Wayne: When I was there, actually talking to them during the visita-

tion, they made it so real. ... They threw all the 'Who's in this room' out of there. That was thrown out the window. They were like, 'How you feeling? What are you going through? Do you need anything, like do you really need anything? Do your parents need anything?' And then, I said the moment it hit me was going back up to the cell.

How did you get through it?

It was due to the people around (me). When I say the people around me, I mean the prisoners, the guards. ... They took all the cliché (out) of whatever I thought it was gonna be, they took that and threw it right out the window. They made me feel like, for lack of a better word, to say like

I was at home. And it was everybody. ... Nobody wants to be there, not even the guards. So when you come through there, for everybody to treat you the same. ... Whatever it was, it worked.

How did you keep your seizures under control? (He has epilepsy.)

I was on my medicine. I had to take my medicine every single day, not that I don't take my medicine. I guess I was just praying, and I guess God was with me, I don't know.

What did it feel like to perform again after you were released?

I'd say it was like, uh, being in an accident and losing ... feeling in your legs and they're telling you (that) you'll never walk again. And coming back eight months and running up. ... That's how that felt.



Lil Wayne released a memoir, "Gone 'Til November," inset, about his 2010 jail stint for gun possession.

AP

AP source: Pitt cleared in child services investigation

An investigation into whether Brad Pitt was abusive toward his son on a private flight in September says the case has been closed with no finding of abuse by the actor, a source familiar with the inquiry said Wednesday.

The source, who was not authorized to speak publicly, told the Associated Press that the investigation was closed within the past few days.

Multiple sources have said the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services had been looking into allegations Pitt was abusive toward his 15-year-old son on the flight in mid-September. Pitt's wife, Angelina Jolie Pitt, filed for divorce days after the incident, and her attorney said it was "for the health of the family."

A department spokesman said the agency could not confirm it investigated Pitt.

Custody of the actors' six children has been the primary issue in their divorce. Jolie Pitt is seeking sole custody of the children, while Pitt is seeking joint custody.

Pitt has had visitation with his children under terms agreed upon by the former couple. Jolie Pitt's representatives said Monday that an agreement on custody had been reached, although a final agreement will be part of the couple's divorce judgment when it is entered.

A representative for Jolie said the actress is relieved that the inquiry is over and that the custody arrangements in place will allow the children to heal. A representative for Pitt declined comment.

Late-night hosts mark election with jokes, therapy

Late-night hosts combined punchlines and audience therapy as they addressed Donald Trump's victory.

Conan O'Brien asked his audience Wednesday if anyone needed a hug, then joked he called his old high school bully to congratulate him.

Jimmy Kimmel took his viewers through the stages of grief, from denial to acceptance. He said it matter how people feel, Trump will be the next U.S. president, adding it's fortunate that several states legalized marijuana use.

Stephen Colbert began his monologue by asking his audience how they were doing, drawing cheers and applause. "I'm glad. That's better than I thought," he said, suggesting the country was facing "four very interesting years."

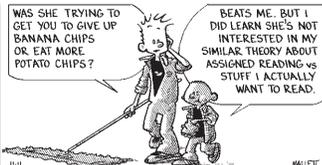
Other news

■ Los Angeles supervisors are urging State Wars creator George Lucas to bring his planned Museum of Narrative Art to Los Angeles, not San Francisco. Lucas has proposed two possible sites for the institution: LA's Exposition Park, across from the Natural History Museum, and Treasure Island in San Francisco.

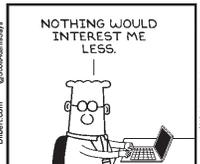
■ Donald Trump's best-seller from the 1980s, "The Art of the Deal" and his campaign work "Great Again" were on Amazon.com's Movers & Shakers list Wednesday of books making the biggest jumps on the best-seller list. "The Art of the Deal" soared from No. 1,107 to No. 24 and "Great Again" from 5,340 to 172. J.D. Vance's "Hillbilly Elegy" — a memoir about his white working-class family in rural Ohio — was No. 2 as of midday Wednesday.

■ Kirk Douglas has received an early 100th birthday present — an award from the World Jewish Congress for his strong support for Israel, including starring in the first Hollywood feature film shot in the nation. Ronald Lauder, the organization's president, said Douglas, born Dec. 9, 1916, was "always proud of his Jewish roots."

Frazz



Dilbert



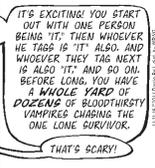
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|--|----|---|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | | | 17 | | | |
| | | | | 18 | | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | 21 | | | | | 22 | 23 | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | 25 | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | | | | | | 30 | | | | 31 | | |
| 32 | | | | | | 33 | | | | 34 | | |
| | | | | | | 35 | | | | 36 | | |
| 37 | 38 | 39 | | | | | | | 40 | | | |
| 41 | | | | | | 42 | 43 | | | | 44 | 45 |
| 46 | | | | | | 47 | | | | | 48 | |
| 49 | | | | | | 50 | | | | | 51 | |

ACROSS

- 1 Meadow
- 4 Online auction site
- 8 Costa
- 12 100%
- 13 Carry
- 14 Barrel part
- 15 Whale's breath
- 17 "How sweet —!"
- 18 Historic times
- 19 Foolish
- 20 Actor Costner brand
- 22 Old U.S. gas brand
- 24 Russian refusal
- 25 Victoria's Secret buy
- 29 Hockey's Bobby
- 30 Tender spots
- 31 Book-spine abbr.
- 32 Tall, thin person
- 34 — and call
- 35 Annoys
- 36 Job benefits
- 37 Pleasantly warm
- 40 Feeder filler
- 41 Bedouin
- 42 Salad green
- 46 Seethe
- 47 Cauterize
- 48 Convent dweller
- 49 Initial chip

DOWN

- 50 Sagan or Sandburg
- 51 Ovum
- 22 British nobles
- 23 Hook's henchman
- 25 Diner employee
- 26 Exaggerated
- 27 Canal feature
- 28 BPOE members
- 30 Agile
- 34 "Cheers" order
- 5 Greetings the villain
- 6 Pac. counterpart
- 7 "—-hawl!"
- 8 Horned beasts (oater cry)
- 9 Greet vowel
- 10 Mint product
- 11 Church area
- 16 Legal document
- 19 Egyptian deity
- 20 Handle
- 21 Literary Jane
- 33 Agile
- 33 Aglet
- 34 "Cheers" order
- 36 Oyster's prize
- 37 Rum cake
- 38 "East of Eden" son
- 39 Cannes milk
- 40 Cicatrix
- 42 Computer key
- 43 Mermaid's home
- 44 Schlep
- 45 Chang's brother

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | R | D | C | A | L | S | K | I | P | | | |
| A | L | E | E | A | G | A | A | I | D | A | | | |
| R | E | E | F | I | O | U | G | L | O | W | | | |
| E | C | L | A | I | R | N | O | E | L | | | | |
| | | | | C | R | O | P | D | U | S | T | E | R |
| J | E | S | T | S | A | R | T | I | T | A | | | |
| A | S | T | O | A | N | Y | I | M | E | L | | | |
| M | A | A | L | I | I | S | M | E | L | N | | | |
| B | U | M | P | E | R | C | R | O | P | | | | |
| | | | | P | R | O | F | I | N | A | B | I | T |
| D | R | E | I | A | C | T | L | A | R | A | | | |
| R | O | S | | R | O | Z | A | L | A | N | | | |
| S | T | E | M | E | L | Y | S | I | N | G | | | |

11-11

CRYPTOQUIP

XOYHX ESF GJ JESJ G
 FDGJTEBK MXHY MSXYGZC
 THXZ JH DEBSJ. JEBXB GFZ'J
 S CXSGZ HM JXOJE JH GJ.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: BRITISH KING'S WIFE WHO WAS WELL-KNOWN FOR COOKING WITH A CERTAIN HERB: CATHERINE OF TARRAGON.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals I

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Michael C. Bailey, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations
Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Teddie Wey, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
teddie.vey@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9150, cell +49(0)173.315.1881,
DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific

Paul Alexander, Pacific Bureau Chief
alexander.paul@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, cell (808)218.4941
DSN (312)527.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacciolli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacciolli.joe@stripes.com
(412)202/767.0908, DSN (312)763.0908
Brianna Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com
Amanda Trypanis, Design Desk Supervisor
trypanis.amanda@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

Robert Reismann, reismann.robert@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9150, DSN (314)583.9150

Pacific

Van Rowell, rowell.van@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111

Pacific

Mari Matsumoto, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3 6585.3171, DSN (315)225.3171

CONTACT US

Washington

Phone: +1(202)761.0900, DSN (312)763.0900,
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

OMBUDSMAN

Tobias Naegele

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at tobias.naegele@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0900.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96348-0502, Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA, Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96348-0502.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or for, the United States or the Department of Defense. Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2016

stripes.com

OPINION

Does the U.S. military need a swift overhaul to maintain global superiority?

Yes: US must remain top dog to protect others

By JAMES JAY CARAFANO
Special to Tribune News Service

America's military is shrinking — and not by accident. Over the last five years, Washington has slashed defense spending by almost 25 percent. Whether measured as a percentage of gross domestic product or as a portion of the federal budget, the Pentagon's operating budget is near historic lows for the modern era — and is slated to go lower.

Shrinking funds necessitate shrinking forces. Critics decry that today we're defended by the smallest arsenal of ships, planes and warriors since before World War II. That's an interesting factoid but not a compelling reason to rebuild the military.

The real issue is: How much military do we really need?

The Heritage Foundation, the think tank where I work, will answer that question later this month with the publication of its third annual Index of U.S. Military Strength. It's a comprehensive, objective review of not just the fighting capabilities of our armed forces but also the threats they must be prepared to deal with and the environments in which they will have to operate. And if the information in the report is not to be used to judge for themselves whether the Pentagon has what it needs to preserve freedom, protect our national interests abroad and keep us safe.

Measuring the military starts with answering the question: Safe from what? The index lays out three core missions for the armed forces.

Our vital national interests are at significant risk, and shrinking the military further will only make matters worse.

The first is safeguarding the homeland from attack. Enough said.

The second mission is the military's important role in ensuring the freedom of the commons. In other words, preventing others from closing the critical routes of commerce, travel and communication. Assuring freedom in these commons, owned by no nation, allows America and other nations to make their place in the world.

The third vital mission is preventing major regional conflicts in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. That task is important because a big war in any of those places could quickly become a very dangerous problem for us.

Objectively grading the military's capacity to fulfill those missions requires more than just adding up troop and equipment numbers and studying readiness assessments. You also have to assess the nature and acuteness of the threats in each key region.

Other factors — such as what our allies can contribute and the operating environment (the geography and infrastructure in each region) — go into determining our military strength.

For three years running, this type of

assessment has revealed U.S. military strength to be, at best, marginally capable of executing its three core missions successfully.

Our vital national interests are at significant risk, and shrinking the military further will only make matters worse.

Our enemies have been happy to see our global influence and national defense waste away. It's time for Washington to let them know that playtime is over. And that means rebuilding our military.

To bolster the resolve of NATO and contribute to the stability of Europe, the build-up must include ground and air forces. Our naval forces must be strengthened too, sending a clear message that China won't be pushing us out of Asia or the Pacific anytime soon.

And we need to build up our missile defenses, so Iran and North Korea will have to abandon their dreams of being able to threaten others with nuclear holocaust. Other work needs doing as well.

The sooner the buildup starts, the sooner our adversaries around the world will get the message that America is back and once more ready, able and willing to defend its legitimate interests around the globe.

That's not to say we don't need allies to do more or statecraft to persuade bad efforts to stop doing bad things. But those efforts are most successful when there is a military to back them up. Peace through strength is an apt mantra, especially in these increasingly troubled times.

James Jay Carafano, a 25-year Army veteran, is a vice president at The Heritage Foundation, where he directs the think tank's research on foreign policy and defense issues.

No: Present forces can deal with any enemy

One might think that with the Cold War a memory, taxpayers would not have to go into debt for these extravagant purchases.

have to go into debt for these extravagant purchases.

The Cold War's end was expected to produce a so-called peace dividend that would allow us to devote our hard-earned cash to things that make life better, like bridges that do not collapse and water systems that deliver a liquid one can actually drink.

But President Barack Obama's defense budget request for fiscal year 2017 reads like something out of "The Hunt for Red October."

It states: "We are countering Russia's aggressive policies through investments in a broad range of capabilities. The FY 2017 budget request will allow us to modify and expand air defense systems, develop new unmanned systems, design a new long-range bomber and a new long-range stand-off cruise missile, and modernize our nuclear arsenal."

I recall that that mindset. I was part of President Dwight Eisenhower's cultural exchange with Russia. I was sent to a university in Moscow that was within walking distance of the Kremlin. I knew there was

a missile somewhere deep in the ground in Nebraska or North Dakota with my name on it, waiting to launch if some crisis developed.

The strategy was called mutual assured destruction, or MAD. Neither side would attack since it would, in turn, be obliterated.

Now we are running an arms race with no competitors. Russia spends less on its military than does Saudi Arabia. China spends far less than we do. Our present military adversaries are ragtag operations against whom our high-tech ships and aircraft are the wrong weapons.

Our military bases are another relic. The idea was to have troops positioned to respond to any contingency moves. But we still have 180 bases abroad at an annual cost of \$150 billion.

We have the potential via smart diplomacy to resolve many of the situations that weapons alone cannot resolve.

In Syria, we could try to bring the contending parties together rather than backing one side, a side that includes terrorist groups. We may not like Syria's government, but neither side seems able to prevail, so our current policy only perpetuates the killing.

Our massive funding of Israel generates anti-U.S. resentment that yields attacks against us and our allies. Pulling that funding and forcing Israel out of Palestinian territory could protect us more than fancy military hardware.

John B. Quigley is distinguished professor of law at Ohio State University. He is the author of 17 books on various aspects of international law.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by the Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Some aren't as enthusiastic, but we go forward together

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Donald Trump will be the next president of the United States.

In normal times, the ability of an uncouth, unconventional candidate like Trump to overcome staunch intraparty opposition and be elected the 45th U.S. president on Tuesday could have been seen as a symbol of the vitality of American democracy, with rank-and-file voters defying entrenched establishment interests to change a nation's course.

But these are not normal times. The elation that so many Americans—even some Republicans—first felt in 2008 over the election of the first black president seems unlikely to be repeated this election. Barack Obama maintained a patina of optimism and inclusivity around his candidacy that somehow survived the 2008 campaign. The same won't be said after the scorched-earth 2016 campaign.

The sense of relief that many Americans used to feel after a contentious election season seems a distant sensation.

Despite Hillary Clinton's concession, millions of Clinton voters will be tempted to wonder whether the election was rigged, given the specter of Russian hacking that's been hanging over the campaign. Given the likelihood that Clinton will win the popular vote, they are also likely to see the result as illegitimate for that reason, too. Meanwhile, millions of Trump voters would have seen the election as rigged by shadowy forces if it had even if Trump himself didn't make the incendiary charge.

We congratulate Trump on his victory and hope that Americans won't raise inflammatory, unfounded doubts about the results. But at this point in this extraordinary year, such hope seems naive. America is not what it was. It's almost as if Americans live in two separate countries because of the internet, social media and skewed TV coverage allow partisan individuals to only see information—true or otherwise—that reinforces their beliefs.

This creates a centrifugal effect that pushes more and more Americans to views that once would have seemed extreme and unlikely. A 2014 study by Stanford University's Sherry Gliessman and Princeton University's Sean Westwood came to some remarkable conclusions: that marriage decisions are more influenced by political views than attractiveness or personal qualities and that partisan animus is stronger than racial animus.

Against this grim backdrop, America needs its leaders—political and otherwise—to keep this centrifugal effect from intensifying and threatening to tear this nation apart. We need Democrats to resist the impulse to see racial hatred as the organizing principle of the Republican Party. We need Republicans to resist the impulse to see contempt for traditional American values as the default position of the Democratic Party.

At this point, it is futile to urge individual voters to stop their crowing and venting about this unexpected development. It is vitally important that American leaders and important institutions resist the temptation to declare the result a black eye for democracy. That is simply not constructive.

If our leaders don't step up, America sees the verge of a political and cultural rift as severe as the one that buffeted



the 1960s. We hope that doesn't happen.

Some 180 years ago, French author Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, "The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults."

We hope he was right. How we hope.

Support helps, as president always faces great challenges

The Washington Post

Donald Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States on Tuesday. Those are words we hoped never to write. But Trump shocked the pollsters, riding a wave propelled in part by rural and Rust Belt voters who felt the political establishment had cast them aside. While Trump might not have done the same for his rival, Hillary Clinton, had she won, all Americans must accept the voters' judgment, and work for the best possible outcome for our country and the world.

What does that mean in practice? First, to hope that Trump will be a better president than we fear, and to support him when he does the right thing. Trump will soon command a sprawling federal bureaucracy, sophisticated law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and the world's most powerful military. We have every wish that he will understand that the U.S. system of government is not for or about one person. He alone cannot fix it. The powers of the Oval Office do not exist to punish his enemies, about which he mused as the campaign drew to a close, according to a recent *New York Times* article.

The new president will face immense and unrelenting challenges from Day One. He inherits a world in which liberal democracy is in retreat and U.S. leadership is doubted. The Middle East is in turmoil, North Korea's nuclear arsenal is growing, Russia and China are flexing their muscles. At home, President Barack Obama bequeaths an economy in generally good health but facing problems: slow growth, stubborn inequality, long-term stress on the federal budget.

We can't pretend to have optimism that Trump will suddenly shape more rational responses to these problems than he offered on the campaign trail, nor that he will discover a discipline or wisdom he has yet to display. Over the course of his campaign, Trump spoke about jailing Clinton, suing women who accused him of unwanted sexual advances, neutering the speaker of the House and revoking press freedoms. Per the *Times* article, he has spoken of creating a super PAC dedicated to political vengeance. He has promised to deport millions, rip up trade agreements, apply religious tests and sabotage international efforts to fight climate change, each

of which would hurt many people.

If he attempts to act on these goals and inclinations, others must rally to the defense of constitutional principles and sound government. Republican leaders in Congress endorsed Trump on the bet that he would back their legislative agenda and respect their authority. They will be put to the test. Law enforcement agencies must guard against any attempt to use them unlawfully. The judiciary, the civil service, the media and civil society more broadly will have important roles to play.

Americans are not and have never been united by blood or creed, but by allegiance to a democratic system of government that shares power, cherishes the rule of law and respects the dignity of individuals. We hope our newly elected president will show respect for that system. Americans must stand ready to support him if he does, and to support the system whether he does or does not.

Back system of shared power in which Trump will work

The Orange County (Calif.) Register

In the thunder of a presidential campaign, it is sometimes hard to remember that the president of the United States is the head of just one of three co-equal branches of the federal government.

The president can't raise or cut taxes, expand or contract the defense budget, commit the U.S. to treaties, or amend the Constitution. There is very little that a president can do without the consent of at least a majority of U.S. senators, who are under no obligation to support the president's agenda, and a majority of the U.S. House of Representatives, lawmakers who face the voters every two years—and likely have the ulcers to prove it.

On television, the presidency could easily be mistaken for a monarchy, with all the pomp of red carpets and motorcades. The truth is very different. The American system of government has a fire alarm in every corridor of power—and many opportunities to break the glass and knock down the blaze of an ill-advised policy.

Some people call that gridlock, but it's the founders' design. After an election like the one we've just had, at least half the country may be newly persuaded of its wisdom and foresight.

No one should mistake the end of the campaign for the end of the dispute. Americans have deep and sincere disagreements about the causes of the nation's most pressing problems: the lack of economic growth, the deficit of new jobs that pay enough to support a family, the increasing cost and decreasing choices of health insurance, the unaffordable cost of college, the threat of terrorist attacks in U.S. cities and the

persistence of violent turmoil abroad.

In order to accomplish anything during the next four years, the president-elect will have to work with Congress in a constructive manner that respects the views of tens of millions of Americans who voted for a different candidate. There will not always be agreement, but we should demand civil discourse and reject any attempt to demean or marginalize people of good will whose experiences led them to a different view of an issue.

With respect to vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court, nominations should be made with an understanding that public confidence in the court is essential to public confidence in government. The Senate has the power to reject a nominee who might put that confidence at risk for any reason.

That's just one of many checks and balances that are built into our system to limit the power of those who are elected to high public office. The U.S. government was not designed for perfect human beings, but for the other kind.

Vote showed divided nation, but love of country is constant

The Dallas Morning News

Come January, Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 45th president of the United States.

This newspaper, along with many Americans both liberal and conservative, had hoped never to write that sentence. But the time for arguing about who should lead this country for the next four years is over.

When Trump takes the oath of office in January, he will become the only president this great nation has. He will be our president, and yours too, no matter how you voted or even if you voted.

Enhancing his clout is the fact that he will be joined by fellow Republicans in control of both houses of Congress. Concerning all of this is going to be painful for Hillary Clinton supporters. But it's a necessary step if America is to heal the divisiveness that has plagued its politics for so many years.

Those who voted against Trump, or who oppose his policies in the future, must find ways to work with him, even as they find the courage and creativity to draw lines around those principles and policies that mean the most to them.

But neither is it wise, or even honest, to pretend that Tuesday's results, as impressive as they are, does not threaten to divide us even further.

Many of our countrymen and women are jubilant. Trump, many have felt, hears the cries of those who have felt left out for so many months. This newspaper has stood in their camp, and we cannot pretend these election results do not dismay us.

We worry that we don't yet know, that no one knows, how Trump will govern once he is president. We worry about his tough talk on massive deportations, religious litmus tests, and his general impulsiveness, even on issues of national security and foreign affairs. Principled Republicans and Democrats alike should stand themselves to push back against these instincts.

These wounds will not heal quickly, and the fear of what a Trump presidency will mean for America will not evaporate overnight.

But they can heal eventually, and Trump himself can help that happen. Much depends on how he governs. Will he seek to exploit the vulnerable among us? Or will victory bring an unexpected grace?

NBA Scoreboard

| Eastern Conference | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|------|
| Atlantic Division | | | |
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Toronto | 4 | 3 | .545 |
| New York | 4 | 3 | .429 |
| Boston | 3 | 4 | .429 |
| Brooklyn | 3 | 3 | .375 |
| Philadelphia | 2 | 5 | .000 |

| Southeast Division | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Charlotte | 6 | 1 | .857 |
| Atlanta | 4 | 3 | .571 |
| Orlando | 4 | 3 | .375 |
| Washington | 2 | 5 | .286 |

| Central Division | | | |
|------------------|---|---|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Cleveland | 4 | 3 | .571 |
| Milwaukee | 4 | 3 | .500 |
| Chicago | 4 | 4 | .500 |
| Indiana | 4 | 4 | .500 |

| Western Conference | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|------|
| Southwest Division | | | |
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Houston | 5 | 3 | .625 |
| San Antonio | 3 | 3 | .500 |
| Memphis | 3 | 3 | .500 |
| Dallas | 2 | 5 | .286 |
| New Orleans | 1 | 6 | .143 |

| Northwest Division | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Oklahoma City | 4 | 3 | .571 |
| Portland | 4 | 3 | .571 |
| Utah | 4 | 3 | .571 |
| Denver | 3 | 4 | .429 |
| Minnesota | 2 | 5 | .286 |

| Pacific Division | | | |
|------------------|---|---|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| L.A. Clippers | 7 | 1 | .875 |
| Golden State | 6 | 2 | .750 |
| L.A. Lakers | 4 | 3 | .571 |
| Sacramento | 4 | 4 | .500 |
| Phoenix | 3 | 4 | .429 |

| Wednesday's games | | | |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|------|
| Home | Visitor | Score | Time |
| Charlotte | 104 | Utah | 104 |
| Indiana | 122 | Philadelphia | 115 |
| Minnesota | 123 | Orlando | 107 |
| Washington | 110 | Boston | 93 |
| Washington | 110 | Portland | 107 |
| Toronto | 112 | Oklahoma City | 102 |
| Golden State | 116 | San Antonio | 99 |
| Golden State | 116 | Portland | 100 |

| Thursday's games | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------|------|
| Home | Visitor | Score | Time |
| Chicago | 104 | Miami | 97 |
| New Orleans | at Milwaukee | 96 | 97 |
| L.A. Lakers | at Sacramento | 100 | 97 |

| Friday's games | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------|------|
| Home | Visitor | Score | Time |
| Cleveland | at Washington | 95 | 96 |
| Indiana | at Philadelphia | 100 | 96 |
| Utah | at Orlando | 100 | 96 |
| New York | at Boston | 100 | 96 |
| Detroit | at Oklahoma City | 100 | 96 |
| Sacramento | at Portland | 100 | 96 |

| Saturday | | | |
|------------|------------------|-------|------|
| Home | Visitor | Score | Time |
| Detroit | at Oklahoma City | 100 | 96 |
| Sacramento | at Portland | 100 | 96 |

| Wednesday | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|------|
| Home | Visitor | Score | Time |
| Wizards | 118 | Celtics | 93 |

| Wizards 118, Celtics 93 | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| Wizards | Celtics | Score | Time |
| 5-0 | 1-1 | 118-93 | 10:00 |
| 10-23 | Bradley 14-17 | Green 0-3-0-0 | 0-0 |
| 10-23 | Robinson 12-13 | Miskey 1-2-0-2 | 0-0 |
| 10-23 | Johnson 11-12 | 2-8 | 2-5 |
| 10-23 | Jackson 1-1 | 0-2 | 2-2 |
| 10-23 | Robinson 4-0-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| 10-23 | Talbot 35-11 | 23-29 | 33-34 |

| Washington 85, Bulls 74 | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Washington | Bulls | Score | Time |
| 3-1 | 2-1 | 85-74 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Smart 4-0 | Bradley 3-0 | 1-2 |
| 10-23 | Johnson 11-12 | Green 0-3-0-0 | 0-0 |
| 10-23 | Johnson 11-12 | Green 0-3-0-0 | 0-0 |
| 10-23 | Johnson 11-12 | Green 0-3-0-0 | 0-0 |
| 10-23 | Johnson 11-12 | Green 0-3-0-0 | 0-0 |

| Knicks 110, Nets 96 | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Knicks | Nets | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 110-96 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |
| 10-23 | Hollis-Jefferson 14 | 6-8 | 8 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |
| 10-23 | Hollis-Jefferson 14 | 6-8 | 8 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |

| Brooklyn 110, Nets 96 | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Brooklyn | Nets | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 110-96 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |
| 10-23 | Hollis-Jefferson 14 | 6-8 | 8 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |
| 10-23 | Hollis-Jefferson 14 | 6-8 | 8 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |

| Knicks 110, Nets 96 | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Knicks | Nets | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 110-96 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |
| 10-23 | Hollis-Jefferson 14 | 6-8 | 8 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |
| 10-23 | Hollis-Jefferson 14 | 6-8 | 8 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |

| Knicks 110, Nets 96 | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Knicks | Nets | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 110-96 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |
| 10-23 | Hollis-Jefferson 14 | 6-8 | 8 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |
| 10-23 | Hollis-Jefferson 14 | 6-8 | 8 |
| 10-23 | Brooklyn 1-4 | 3-4 | 5 |

| Timberwolves 123, Magic 79 | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Timberwolves | Magic | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 123-79 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |
| 10-23 | Dieng 6-9-0-0 | 10-10 | 11 |

| Orlando 116, Mavericks 95 | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Orlando | Mavericks | Score | Time |
| 1-1 | 1-1 | 116-95 | 20:35 |
| 10-23 | Wiggins 10-13 | 20-10 | |

NFL

AFC midpoint

Brady is back and he's better than ever

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

The New England Patriots barely missed a beat when Tom Brady served his monthlong "Deflategate" suspension, going 3-1 and keeping up with the undefeated Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos.

Trevor Siemian, the 250th overall draft pick in 2015, outdueled a trio of top overall selections in Cam Newton, Andrew Luck and Jameis Winston during a magnificent first month as Peyton Manning's surprise successor.

Then, reality hit — along with Buccaneers defensive tackle Clinton McDonald.

He flung Siemian to the turf, bruising his left shoulder, the first in a string of injuries that have sidelined the likes of DeMarcus Ware, C.J. Anderson, Aqib Talib and Derek Wolfe while helping to break the Broncos' stranglehold on the AFC West.

With an anemic offense and a depleted defense, the Broncos (6-3) are looking up at not only the Patriots (7-1) in the AFC but two teams in their own division. The resurgent Raiders (7-2) and the Chiefs (6-2) are ahead of them in the AFC West, which the Broncos have owned since Tim Tebow was running the read-option and not the bases.

"We've just got to find a way to stay on the damn field," said coach Gary Kubiak, whose team leads the league in three-and-outs, putting a back-breaking strain on its dazzling defense.

Behind Derek Carr and Khalil Mack, the Raiders are seeking their first playoff berth since 2002, and their 30-20 drubbing of Denver on Sunday was their biggest win in more than a decade.

"We know we can't look at this game as something that's going to define us or define the season," running back Latavius Murray said after running for three touchdowns and half of Oakland's 218 rushing yards.

By dominating the trenches and controlling the clock for 41:28, the Raiders were able to expose a weakness in Denver's otherwise stellar defense.

"That's something that we have to fix," cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said. "It's been leaky pretty much all season. So we have to figure that out and really put an emphasis on that, and get back to doing what we do."

The Raiders won't get caught up in their first-half success because they know holding off the Chiefs, who have won 10 consecutive home games, and Broncos, who have won five divisional titles in a row, won't be easy.

Plus, New England is clearly the class of the conference now that Manning is pitching products instead of pigskins.

Brady is back and better than

ever. The Patriots, who visit Denver



Ben Margot/AP

Raiders running back Latavius Murray, right, tries to stretch across the goal line while being tackled by Broncos free safety Darian Stewart.

on Dec 18, are 4-0 with him back under center.

At age 39, that speed bump year when most elite QBs have either traded in two-minute drills for 30-second spots or are just trying

not to tarnish their legacy, Brady has thrown for a dozen TDs and not a single interception in four games.

His completion rate of 73.1 percent is nearly 10 points above his

career average, and his passer rating of 133.9 would be a career high if he can maintain this pace over the second half.

Brady is two wins shy of Brett Favre's 199 career victories and three wins shy of Manning's record 200 wins, a mark the five-time MVP set when the Broncos won Super Bowl 50.

"It's pretty early, so, there's a long way to go," Brady said. "Seven wins, it's a good place. I think decent position. But coach always says 'Seven wins won't get you anything in this league.' He's right. We've got a lot of football ahead."

As well as things have gone for the Patriots, the trade of defensive stalwart Jamie Collins was a reminder to everyone — Brady included — that no one has infinite time in the Patriots' locker room.

"You can't be around this long and not realize that the world will keep spinning and the sun will come up tomorrow without you," Brady said.

The next two months will show whether Bill Belichick's trade of Collins was a huge mistake or a heeded message.

New England is well on its way to an eighth consecutive AFC East title, holding a three-game lead over second-place Miami (4-4).

The Houston Texans (5-3) are

the only .500-or-better team in the AFC South, but they were throttled 27-9 in Brock Osweiler's return to Denver.

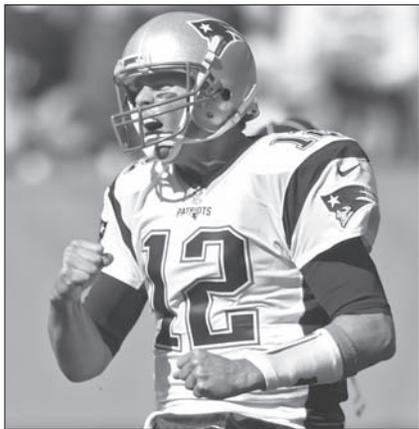
At least the South has a winning team. The Ravens and Steelers are tied atop the North at 4-4.

Nothing epitomizes Pittsburgh's paradoxical season as well as kicker Chris Boswell's flubbed onside kick Sunday in the final minute of the Steelers' 21-14 loss to Baltimore. Boswell attempted what in soccer is known as a "rabona" — where the kicking leg is wrapped around the other leg before striking the ball. But Boswell kicked the ball right into his other foot.

A lot of teams seem to be tripping over themselves in an attempt to keep up with Brady and the Patriots this season. Indeed, the only conference teams with winning records halfway through the schedule are the Patriots, Texans and the trio from the AFC West.

And all the way at the bottom, 0-9 with few prospects for getting a victory, are the Cleveland Browns.

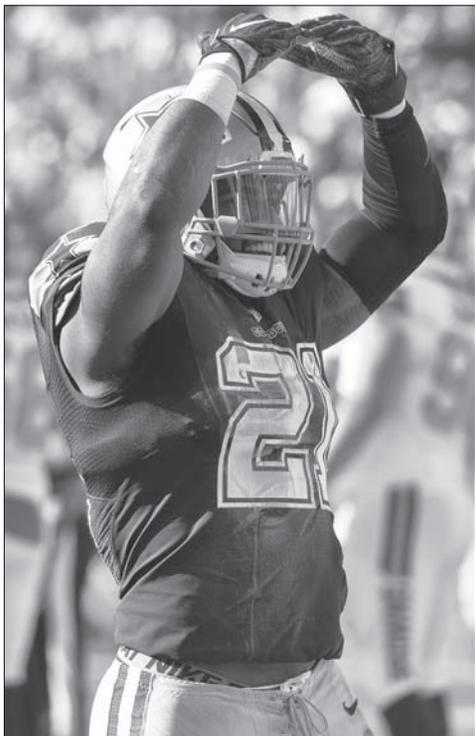
"I've never been 0-and-9 before, so you better believe it's the toughest challenge I've ever had," Browns coach Hue Jackson said. "But I am excited about the challenge and I truly believe that we've got a tough road ahead of us, but we're looking forward to it."



Quarterback Tom Brady returned after a four-game suspension to lead the Patriots to four straight victories.

AP

NFL



NFC midpoint

Comfy Cowboys

Led by rookie duo, Dallas is sitting pretty atop the NFC

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS

How 'bout them Cowboys? They've built a healthy lead on the rest of the NFC at the midpoint of this season, for starters. They've been playing like they're capable of finishing on top, too.

Defying so many of those pre-September predictions from the punditry, Dak Prescott and the Dallas Cowboys have followed a one-point loss in their opener with seven straight victories. This, of course, with an all-rookie backfield of Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott performing well beyond their years.

"We're so dynamic it's crazy," said two-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Dez Bryant, whose three-game absence due to a knee injury went largely unnoticed.

That's partly because of the polish and poise displayed by Prescott, the fourth-round draft pick from Mississippi State thrust into action when Tony Romo injured his back during the preseason. The other significant factor in the first-half surge by the Cowboys, as sure a sign as any that it's sustainable, is the success Elliott has had carrying the ball behind that dominant offensive line built by three former first-round draft picks.

That fearsome five the Cowboys (7-1) can pass and run behind is not the only factor in their command of the NFC playoff race. Another reason they're ahead is the struggles by other contenders, namely Seattle and Minnesota, to solidly blocking up front.

The Seahawks (5-2-1) have had trouble getting their offense going this year, with running back Marshawn Lynch now retired and Russell Wilson grinding through ankle and knee injuries that have hampered his mobility. The revamped line remains a work in progress.

The Vikings (5-3) had the NFL's last undefeated record, until their bye week arrived. Since then, they've lost three

'We're so dynamic it's crazy.'

Dez Bryant

Cowboys two-time Pro Bowl receiver

straight. With both starting tackles on injured reserve and left guard Alex Boone recovering from a concussion that kept him out of an overtime loss to Detroit on Sunday, protection for quarterback Sam Bradford is going to be a yearlong concern.

The Falcons (6-3), having broken an October skid by rallying to beat Green Bay by one point on Oct. 30 and breezing through Tampa Bay four days later, are the league's highest-scoring team. At 34 points per game, Atlanta has assembled an offense with multiple threats, none more dangerous than star receiver Julio Jones.

Here are some other facts and figures about the NFC entering the stretch run:

Fall of the finalists: Carolina carried plenty of confidence, coming off a trip to the Super Bowl, along with a reputable defense and the NFL's most recent MVP, Cam Newton. The Panthers (3-5) instead have been one of the league's biggest busts. The team they blew out in the NFC championship game last winter, Arizona, has struggled as well. The Cardinals (3-4-1) lost the rematch to the Panthers on Oct. 30.

Problems for the Packers: With Aaron Rodgers still in his prime, the return of wide receiver Jordy Nelson and many other standouts on the roster, the Packers (4-4) were again a trendy pick to reach the Super Bowl. The offense just hasn't been able to establish a rhythm, injuries have begun piling up and the defense has been vulnerable lately with 30-plus points allowed in three of the last four games.

Sneaky Saints: New Orleans hasn't made the playoffs since 2013, and after starting 0-3 the Saints sure weren't part of the conversation about Super Bowl contenders. While the Saints (4-4) are still soft on defense, allowing an average of 30 points per game, the third-most in the league, they're right in the thick of the wild-card race.

Fantasy football stars: Arizona's David Johnson and Atlanta's Devonta Freeman have been productive running backs, as expected, but Chicago rookie Jordan Howard has been quite the revelation. QB Matt Ryan is in the MVP mix for the Falcons, and Matthew Stafford is playing as well as ever for the Lions. Odell Beckham has snapped to life after a slow start for the Giants. Tampa Bay's Mike Evans has become a true elite wide receiver.

Cowboys rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott, above left, and rookie quarterback Dak Prescott, left, have given Dallas' offense a spark that has the team in the top spot in the NFC playoff race.

PHOTOS BY DAVID RICHARD, TOP, AND MICHAEL AINSWORTH, LEFT/AP

AUTO RACING/SPORTS BRIEFS/NHL

Around the track

Hamlin needs big finish to move into next round

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — It has not been an easy march through NASCAR's playoffs for Denny Hamlin, who once again must chase his way into the next round.

Hamlin was on his own at Talladega Superspeedway, a track that requires help from all drivers to be successful. Hamlin's teammates at Joe Gibbs Racing had too much to lose that day and rode around in the back of the pack. He needed a strong finish, and had to figure it out alone.

Now he again goes into an elimination race with the pressure on to pull off a big finish. Carl Edwards is the only JGR driver who already has earned a berth in the championship race, and Hamlin is competing with teammates Matt Kenseth and Kyle Busch for a spot in the final four.

All three of the JGR drivers are within two points of each other in Chase standings. Busch is tied with Team Penske's Joey Logano for the lead, with Kenseth one point behind them and Hamlin two behind. Hamlin finished third at Phoenix earlier this year.

"Phoenix was a good track for us in the spring," Hamlin said. "I look to go back there and have another great run and go out there and try to win. That's what we're



DM ORENO/AP

Sprint Cup Series driver Denny Hamlin will have to race his way into the next playoff round with a strong in an elimination race.

going to do. Any time I've been below (the cut line) in an elimination race, I've found a way to get in (to the next round).

"I like our chances. It's a pressure race and I like pressure."

Crew chief fixed: Team Penske crew chief Todd Gordon has been fined \$10,000 because a lug nut was not properly installed on Joey Logano's car at Texas. The penalty was the only mon-

etary fine issued by NASCAR on Wednesday. But, five drivers were docked 15 minutes of practice time for inspection issues at Texas.

Kevin Harvick, Tony Stewart, Carl Edwards and Martin Truex Jr. all failed the pre-qualifying template inspection three times. AJ Allmendinger failed the laser inspection three times before qualifying. All will miss practice time Friday at Phoenix.

DiBenedetto cleared: Matt DiBenedetto was cleared to race at Phoenix International Raceway after NASCAR held him out of one event because of a possible concussion.

DiBenedetto missed last Sunday's race at Texas Motor Speedway, where he was involved in a crash during the Xfinity Series race one day earlier. Jeffrey Earnhardt replaced DiBenedetto for BK Racing and finished 34th.

It was the first Cup race DiBenedetto had not started since early in the 2015 season.

DiBenedetto had said Sunday morning at Texas he felt fine and able to race, but said he had to respect the decision by NASCAR's doctors.

"They decided they wanted to err on the side of caution, which I understand," he said. "They're doing their job."

Briefly

Donovan undecided on return to Galaxy

Associated Press

CARSON, California (AP) — Landon Donovan isn't ready to decide whether he will extend his MLS comeback for another season with the LA Galaxy.

Three days after their elimination from the playoffs, the Galaxy also had no news Wednesday on the career plans of Steven Gerrard and Robbie Keane. Gerrard is expected to make an announcement later this week, while Keane plans to wait until later in the month.

"I'm hopeful they continue to be part of our club," Galaxy coach Bruce Arena said. "We'll see. Only time will tell."

The 34-year-old Donovan says he greatly enjoyed his comeback season, which ended with the Galaxy's loss to Colorado in the playoffs. Donovan said he hasn't spoken to the Galaxy or to his wife about the future.

"I enjoyed it a lot, and nobody wants to end that way," Donovan said. "That's tough, but that's part of sports, and (I) came back with

a little bit of a different perspective, where you can appreciate and enjoy the process more."

Donovan, the top scorer in the history of MLS and the U.S. national team, ended a 21-month retirement in September. Wearing No. 26 instead of his usual No. 10, he appeared in six regular-season games and three playoff contests.

Fernandez earns NL comeback awards

NEW YORK — Miami Marlins pitcher Jose Fernandez, who died in a boating accident in September, was voted the National League comeback player of the year by his peers in the annual Players Choice Awards of the Major League Baseball Players Association.

Fernandez was the 2013 NL Rookie of the Year, had Tommy John surgery the following year, returned in July 2015 and was 16-8 with a 2.86 ERA this season, earning his second All-Star selection. He died at age 24 on Sept. 25, and autopsy reports released

by the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's Office said he had cocaine and alcohol in his system when his boat crashed into a Miami Beach jetty.

Baltimore slugger Mark Trumbo, who led the major leagues with 47 home runs after hitting 13 for Seattle in 2015, was voted the American League comeback award.

Sabres center Ennis out after having surgery

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Buffalo Sabres center Tyler Ennis is out indefinitely after having surgery to repair a groin injury.

The team says Ennis will miss several weeks in announcing the news on Thursday.

"Ennis was hurt in a 4-0 loss at Boston on Monday.

It's the latest setback for Ennis, who missed the last half of last season because of concussion-related issues.

And it's another blow for the banged-up Sabres, who are already missing several regulars.

NHL scoreboard

| Eastern Conference | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Atlantic Division | | | | | | | | | |
| Montreal | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | SV | PP |
| Ottawa | 13 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 16 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Tampa Bay | 13 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Detroit | 14 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 15 | 38 | 37 | 37 | 38 |
| Boston | 13 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 31 | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Florida | 13 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 13 | 26 | 31 | 31 | 31 |
| Pittsburgh | 13 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 26 | 31 | 31 | 31 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 14 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 20 | 58 | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| Washington | 13 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| New Jersey | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 29 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| Columbus | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 35 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Philadelphia | 12 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 29 | 31 | 31 | 31 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 13 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 37 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Carolina | 12 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 |

| Western Conference | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Central Division | | | | | | | | | |
| Chicago | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | SV | PP |
| St. Louis | 14 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 21 | 49 | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| Minnesota | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 32 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| Winnipeg | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| Nashville | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 |
| Dallas | 14 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 33 | 46 | 46 | 46 |
| Edmonton | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| San Jose | 14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 37 | 33 | 33 | 33 |
| Los Angeles | 13 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Vancouver | 14 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 11 | 47 | 41 | 41 | 41 |
| Los Angeles | 13 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Arizona | 12 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 35 | 44 | 44 | 44 |

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

| Wednesday's games | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Chicago 2, Anaheim 7 (OT) | | | | | | | | | |
| Ottawa 2, Buffalo 1, St. Louis 1, Toronto 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Thursday's games | | | | | | | | | |
| Columbus 2, Detroit 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Anaheim at Carolina | | | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota at Pittsburgh | | | | | | | | | |
| Vancouver at Detroit | | | | | | | | | |
| San Jose at Florida | | | | | | | | | |
| New Jersey at Montreal | | | | | | | | | |
| N.Y. Islanders at Tampa Bay | | | | | | | | | |
| Washington at Chicago | | | | | | | | | |
| Winnipeg at Arizona | | | | | | | | | |
| Dallas at Calgary | | | | | | | | | |
| Friday's games | | | | | | | | | |
| New Jersey at Buffalo | | | | | | | | | |
| Philadelphia at Toronto | | | | | | | | | |
| Los Angeles at Ottawa | | | | | | | | | |
| Washington at Chicago | | | | | | | | | |
| Winnipeg at Colorado | | | | | | | | | |
| Dallas at Edmonton | | | | | | | | | |
| Saturday's games | | | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota at Philadelphia | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Louis at Columbus | | | | | | | | | |
| Toronto at Pittsburgh | | | | | | | | | |
| Anaheim at Montreal | | | | | | | | | |
| San Jose at Tampa Bay | | | | | | | | | |
| N.Y. Islanders at Florida | | | | | | | | | |
| Washington at Chicago | | | | | | | | | |
| Buffalo at New Jersey | | | | | | | | | |
| Washington at Nashville | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston at Arizona | | | | | | | | | |
| N.Y. Rangers at Calgary | | | | | | | | | |

Wednesday

| Blue Jackets 3, Ducks 2 (OT) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anaheim | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Columbus | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| First Period—1, Columbus, Jenner 1 (Hartnell, Atkinson), 1:25; 2, Columbus, Saad 4 (Murray, Johnson), 5:29. | | | | | | | | | |
| Second Period—3, Anaheim, Rakell 4 (Carmichael), 1:25. | | | | | | | | | |
| Third Period—4, Anaheim, Ritchie 3 (Wenban), 1:25. | | | | | | | | | |
| Overtime—5, Anaheim, Wrenski 3 (Wenban), 5:18. | | | | | | | | | |
| Goals on Goal—Anaheim 9-15; 7-1=32. Columbus 7-9; 5-1=31. | | | | | | | | | |
| Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 0 of 3; Columbus 0 of 3. | | | | | | | | | |
| Penalty minutes—Anaheim 5; Columbus 6-1 (2:30, 2:40). | | | | | | | | | |
| A—10,250 (18,144), T—2:38. | | | | | | | | | |

Sabres 2, Sabres 1 (SO)

| Ottawa | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buffalo | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| First Period—1, Buffalo, Baptiste 2 (Schneider, Grant), 2:49. | | | | | |
| Second Period—2, Sabres, Dzingel 5 (Pheasant, Brassard), 7:49. | | | | | |
| Shootout—0-1, Sabres, Turriss G. Ryan G. Buffalo 1 (Reinhart G. Okosno NG), 1:00. | | | | | |
| Buffalo 8-8; 8-8=32. | | | | | |
| Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 0 of 0; Buffalo 1 of 1. | | | | | |
| Goals—Ottawa, Condon 2-0-0 (G2 28:28). | | | | | |
| A—17,884 (18,690), T—2:41. | | | | | |

Blackhawks 2, Blues 1 (OT)

| Chicago | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St. Louis | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| First Period—1, Chicago, Hossa 7 (Panarin, Forsling), 1:49. | | | | | |
| Second Period—1, St. Louis, Pietrangelo 3 (Tarasenko, Schwartz), 17:49. | | | | | |
| Shootout—0-1, Chicago, Panarin 6 (Seabrook, Kane), 0:25. | | | | | |
| Buffalo 6-11; 6-11=30. | | | | | |
| Power-play opportunities—Chicago 0 of 0; St. Louis 1 of 1. | | | | | |
| Goals—Chicago, Crawford 7-3-1 (28 38:54); St. Louis, Allen 5-3-3 (20:08). | | | | | |
| A—18,704 (19,150), T—2:30. | | | | | |

NHL roundup

Chicago outlasts St. Louis

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Corey Crawford has the Chicago Blackhawks on an early season roll.

Crawford stopped 27 shots and Artemi Panarin scored 25 seconds into overtime, leading the Blackhawks over the St. Louis Blues 2-1 on Wednesday night for their seventh straight win.

Crawford won his sixth consecutive game, improving to 15-5 against the Blues. Chicago has earned a point in nine straight games, thanks in part to Crawford, who has given up just six goals in his last six contests.

"He's been phenomenal," Chicago defenseman Brent Seabrook said. "He's been the backbone."

Crawford made 11 stops in the third period, including a sliding kick save on Vladimir Tarasenko while nursing a 1-0 lead.

"I'm in a good spot right now," Crawford said. "I feel good. I'm reading plays (well). I'm patient when I have to be and aggressive when it's time."

Crawford is 7-3-1 this season. "He has been outstanding, instrumental in winning most of these games," Chicago coach Joel Quenneville said. "Again tonight, a couple of big saves."

Panarin whipped a wrist shot from the slot to Jake Allen for his sixth goal of the season. The tally came just 1 second after St. Louis' Alex Pietrangelo left the penalty box.

"I just heard it hit the net," Allen said. "It was a tough way to go."

Blue Jackets 3, Ducks 2 (OT)

Zach Werenski scored 1:21 into overtime after host Columbus blew a two-goal lead before escaping with a victory over Anaheim.

Brandon Saad had a goal and an assist and Boone Jenner got his first score this season for Columbus, which won its fourth straight at home and stretched its point streak to five (4-0-1). Sergei Bobrovsky made 30 saves.

Anaheim's Nick Ritchie tied it at 2 early in the third period after Rickard Rakell scored late in the second. John Gibson made 15 stops.

Sabres 2, Sabres 1 (SO)

Bobby Ryan and Kyle Turriss scored during a shootout, helping visiting Ottawa beat Buffalo.

Turriss scored in the first round to match Sam Reinhart's tally, and then Ryan put Ottawa ahead in the second round. Mike Condon stopped Brian Gionta on Buffalo's final attempt and finished with 31 saves.

Ryan Dzingel got a tying goal for Buffalo 7:15 into the second period.

Nicholas Baptiste scored for Buffalo and Robby Lehner made 28 saves. The Sabres lost their second in a row.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Tide defense embraces that 'hateful' mentality

Saban's 'pretty hateful guys' meant as a compliment

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

If Ryan Anderson and Alabama's defense treat opposing offensive players hatefully, it's not personal.

"It's just business. It's what defenders do," said Anderson, a Crimson Tide linebacker. "Mostly, we're all hateful guys. We hate everybody on the other team. Everybody that's lined up across from us, we hate you; we're trying to kill you."

No. 1 Alabama certainly played with that sort of ferocity last Saturday in shutting out LSU and smothering star tailback Leonard Fournette — again. Afterward, when coach Nick Saban said the Tide has some "pretty hateful guys" on defense, he meant it as a compliment.

Tide defenders certainly didn't take offense to their coach's comments.

Alabama leads the nation in rushing defense and sacks per game and is second in total yards allowed and scoring defense going into Saturday's game against Mississippi State.

And hatin' with a vengeance. Anderson might have stated it more strongly than Saban would prefer, but the coach doesn't want his defensive guys playing nice so long as they play by the rules.

"We want a guy that's going to go hit a guy that weighs 250 pounds running downhill as hard as he can hit him," the coach said.

Saban tells the story of his time with the NFL's Cleveland Browns when the franchise brought in a guy to administer a psy-

chological test to draft prospects. Chances are he didn't interpret the results quite the same way as, say, an accounting firm.

"I looked at the guy and said, 'What are we hiring these guys to do? We want them to be aggressive, we want them to be competitive, not in the real world but at least on the football field,'" Saban said. "These characteristics are important in defensive players. We're evaluating these guys as to what they're like on Sundays, which may not be the same."

For instance, off the field it wouldn't have been socially acceptable when defensive tackle Da'Ron Payne completely disrupted one first-half play after sending LSU guard Josh Boutte tumbling onto his backside. On the field, it was Alabama being Alabama.

The Tide held LSU to 125 yards and six first downs in a 10-0 victory, earning the entire defense Walter Camp National Defensive Player of the Week honors. It's only the second time that award has gone to a defense collectively.

The dominating performance came after star safety Eddie Jackson was lost for the season with a broken leg. A defense that also lost four second-round draft picks to the NFL after last season just keeps on trucking.

The defense's mental makeup was apparent in a game that was scoreless at halftime. LSU went nowhere on three drives starting near or across midfield, including the Tigers' first possession. They took over at Alabama's 33-yard line and gained 1 yard before missing a field goal.

The Tide yielded only 35 yards to Fournette, four more than he gained in last season's meeting. Anderson was named the



GERALD HERBERT/AP

SEC defensive player of the week. Alabama, meanwhile, is giving up 66 yards a game on the ground.

"People play within the defense. We've all got one goal," said Anderson, who leads the team in tackles for loss. "I feel like this team's goals are more team-oriented. Guys aren't talking about wanting 100 tackles,

60 tackles. Guys just want to stop the run, stop the pass, stop everybody we play."

And if that effort is fueled by a healthy dose of hate, that's OK with Alabama.

"Our front seven is very hateful, especially the D-linemen," cornerback Marlon Humphrey said. "They just play mad, to me."

"Mostly, we're all hateful guys. We hate everybody on the other team. Everybody that's lined up across from us, we hate you; we're trying to kill you."

Ryan Anderson
Alabama linebacker

Sun Belt's top teams set for showdown

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Troy and Appalachian State are set for a pivotal Sun Belt Conference showdown one season after waging a three-overtime contest.

The two teams play Saturday at Troy in only the third meeting this deep into the season between Sun Belt teams with unbeaten league marks.

"It's going to be a great college football game," Mountain-state coach Scott Satterfield said. "You've got two of the better teams in the league that are battling, especially this late in the season with everything on the line. This is why you play the game. When you coach the game, you play the game, this is what it's for. It's exciting and it's fun to be a part of this game."

Troy (7-1, 4-0) hasn't been involved in such a meaningful Sun Belt game since the program's string of five straight league titles ended in 2010. The Trojans have been getting votes in the Associated Press poll for the first time. The Mountaineers (7-2, 5-0) are more familiar with this position as they were the only other Sun Belt team to start 7-1 last season.

Both teams are riding six-game winning streaks.

"People are excited and rightfully so," Trojans coach Neal Brown said. "I am excited about the energy on campus and in our community. Our community support is higher than it has been in the six years I have been a part of the program."

Troy, whose only loss came 30-24 to No. 3 Clemson, has fallen behind by two TDs each of its past

two games before rallying.

This is a matchup that's intriguing for more than the stakes. Troy leads the league in scoring offense and Appalachian State is second; that pecking order is reversed for scoring and total defense.

The Mountaineers have run for 218.6 yards per game behind the Sun Belt's only 1,000-yard rusher, Jalin Moore.

The 36-year-old Brown doesn't want his players getting too swept up in the magnitude of the game.

"Any time you play a game that is perceived as a big game to the outside world and people are going to be talking more about this game, they have to understand, you don't have to play a perfect game to win," the second-year head coach and former offensive coordinator said. "We just have to play really sound. The same thing goes for Appalachian State."

Play to win a weekly prize.
Play for the Grand Prize.
Play for bragging rights.
Play for fun.
Just play.

STARS & STRIPES.
NFL CHALLENGE

Play today at Stripes.com/nfl

COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Non-tourney teams turn up in Top 25

By STEVE MEGARREE
Associated Press

This shapes up as a potential big season for plenty of teams that weren't big factors in last year's NCAA Tournament.

The preseason Top 25 that was released Monday includes five teams that failed to reach the 2016 NCAA Tournament. They're all included in this list of six potential 2017 NCAA Tournament contenders that weren't included in the 2016 field.

Creighton

2015-16 record: 20-15 (NIT quarterfinals)

No. 22 Creighton returns three players who had double-figure scoring averages last season in seniors Maurice Watson Jr. (14.1), Cole Huff (11.3) and Isaiah Zierden (10.2). Watson led the Big East with 229 assists last season, and he has the most career assists (639) of any active Division I player. Creighton adds Marcus Foster, who transferred from Kansas State after leading the Wildcats in scoring each of his two years there.

Florida State

2015-16 record: 20-14 (NIT second round)

Florida State is the only unranked team on this list, but the Seminoles still have plenty of reason for optimism. They return two of their top three scorers from last season in guards Dwayne Bacon (15.8) and Xavier Rathan-Mayes (11.8). The Seminoles add freshman forward Jonathan Isaac, rated as the nation's No. 8 prospect in his class according to composite rankings of recruiting websites compiled by 247Sports.

Louisville

2015-16 record: 23-8 (ineligible for postseason)

No. 13 Louisville is different from the rest of the teams on

this list, as the Cardinals would have been in last year's tournament if they hadn't self-imposed a postseason ban in response to an NCAA investigation. If the off-court issues don't prevent Louisville from making the field again, the Cardinals certainly should be good enough to earn an invitation.

Rhode Island

2015-16 record: 17-15

No. 23 Rhode Island is ranked in the preseason Top 25 for the first time since 1998-99. The Rams return four starters from last season and also get back guard E.C. Matthews, who hasn't played since tearing his anterior cruciate ligament in the 2015-16 season opener. Matthews averaged 15.3 points in 2013-14 and 16.9 points in 2014-15.

Saint Mary's

2015-16 record: 29-6 (NIT quarterfinals)

The 17th-ranked Gaels return all five starters from a team that won 29 games and tied for first place in the West Coast Conference last season. Seniors Dane Pineau and Joe Rahon and juniors Emmett Naeir and Calvin Hermanson all averaged over 10 points per game last season. Naar also averaged 6.4 assists and had 223 assists to tie Matthew Della Vedova's season school record.

UCLA

2015-16 record: 15-17

UCLA is ranked 16th despite finishing below .500 last season. The Bruins return four starters from last season. That list of returning starters includes senior guards Isaac Hamilton and Bryce Alford, who each averaged over 16 points last season. UCLA adds freshman guard Lonzo Ball, rated as the No. 3 overall prospect in his class. Other UCLA freshmen include forward T.J. Leaf (18th) and forward/center Ike Anigbogu (46th).



TONY AVELAR/AP

Saint Mary's forward Dane Pineau celebrates a win over Gonzaga with fans. The preseason Top 25 includes five teams that failed to reach the 2016 NCAA Tournament. The 17th-ranked Gaels return all five starters from a team that won 29 games and tied for first place in the West Coast Conference last season.



GERRY BROOM/AP

Duke's Marques Bolden is pressured by Virginia State's Amiel Terry during an exhibition game in Durham, N.C. Duke's six-man freshman class has four of the nation's top 15 recruits according to composite rankings of recruiting websites compiled by 247Sports.

Newcomers: Freshman class could live up to billing as one of all-time best

FROM BACK PAGE

That group includes forwards Harry Giles (No. 2) and Jayson Tatum (No. 4), guard Frank Jackson (No. 13) and center Marques Bolden (No. 15).

"As everyone can see, these guys are already talented," Duke senior forward Amiel Jefferson said. "They already have the tools and the gifts that God gave them to be really good basketball players."

Tatum has a sprained foot and Giles underwent arthroscopic knee surgery last month that kept both players out of Duke's pre-season exhibitions. Bolden is expected to miss Duke's first two regular-season games because of a leg injury.

Jefferson's John Calipari landed five of the nation's top 24 prospects, according to the 247Sports Composite. The new Wildcats include guards De'Aaron Fox (No. 6) and Malik Monk (No. 11) and forwards Edrice "Bam" Adebayo (No. 9), Wenyen Gabriel (No. 14) and Sacha Killeya-Jones (No. 24). They combined

for 78 points Sunday in a 156-63 exhibition blowout of NAIA Division II school Asbury.

Meyer noted Adebayo "is going to bring something to the table that Kentucky was woefully missing last year as far as physical play inside and explosiveness."

Meyer added it's "arguably the best" class John Calipari has brought to Kentucky, though Calipari himself is reluctant to compare.

"It's hard to think back," Calipari said. "All I can tell you is it's a very smart group — a very driven, wired group, a competitive group."

But the freshman talent is spread around.

No. 3 Kansas has guard Josh Jackson, rated as the nation's No. 1 prospect in his class by the 247Sports Composite. No. 16 UCLA, attempting to bounce back from a rare losing season, has added guard Lonzo Ball (No. 3) and forward T.J. Leaf (No. 18). Florida State has forward Jonathan Isaac (No. 8) and No. 12 Michigan State adds forward Miles Bridges (No. 12).



JAMES CRISP/AP

Kentucky's De'Aaron Fox joins four other top 24 prospects on this season's revamped Wildcats squad. The new Wildcats include Fox, Malik Monk, Bam Adebayo, Wenyen Gabriel and Sacha Killeya-Jones.

Bridges averaged 26.5 points and 7.5 rebounds in Michigan State's two exhibition games.

"I think he can be one of the more versatile players that we've had since Jason Richardson," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "He's been as humble and hard-working and coachable a kid as I've had."

Ball leads a bumper crop of point guards that also includes Fox, Washington's Markelle Fultz (No. 5) and North Carolina State's Dennis Smith Jr. (No. 7). Ball and Leaf posted double-doubles in UCLA's exhibition victory over NAIA school The Master's University. Smith averaged 23 points and 5.0 assists in North Carolina State's two exhibition games. Isaac averaged 18.5 points and 7.5 rebounds in Florida State's two exhibitions.

Those early performances lend some credence to the notion this freshman class could live up to its considerable billing.

"In terms of guys who are going to make significant impacts as freshmen, it's definitely going to be one of the top three or four classes of the last 16-17 years," Bossi said.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW



LAURENCE KESTERSON/AP

Villanova guard Josh Hart, left, is fouled by IUP's Ayrton Hutton in the second half of an exhibition game last week. Hart, arguably the nation's best all-around player, returns for the defending champions.

Best non-conference games

Michigan State vs. Arizona, Nov. 11 in Honolulu. Not a bad opener for the college basketball season at all.

Kansas vs. Duke, Nov. 15 in New York. The Champions Classic has some of the most anticipated non-conference games every year and this one is no different.

Kansas at Kentucky, Jan. 28. Blue bloods facing off right smack in the middle of the conference season.

North Carolina vs. Kentucky, Dec. 17 in Las Vegas. Blue bloods in Sin City.

Louisville vs. Indiana, Dec. 31 in Indianapolis. Great way to ring out the old year.



GERRY BROOME/AP

Preseason favorite Duke, with star Grayson Allen, takes on Kansas on Nov. 15 in New York.



ETHAN HYMAN, THE NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

North Carolina State's Dennis Smith Jr., left, passes around Lynn's Vieux Kande during an exhibition game last week. Smith is expected to be one of the top freshman players in the nation.

Impact transfers

Nigel Williams-Goss, Jonathan Williams and Jordan Mathis, Gonzaga. Coach Mark Few brought in a trio that could help take the Zags on a deep March run. Williams-Goss, formerly of Washington, has All-America potential.

Austin Nichols, Virginia. Former Memphis forward can score, rebound and be an anchor for the Cavaliers' defense.

Shannon Evans, Arizona State. He followed Bobby Hurley from Buffalo and gives the Sun Devils a potent backcourt alongside Trae Holder.

Marcus Foster, Creighton. Former Kansas State guard has the potential to team with Mo Watson Jr. in one of the nation's top backcourts.

Andrew White, Syracuse. Graduate transfer from Nebraska gives Jim Boheim a veteran who can score and rebound.



Williams-Goss

What to watch for this season

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

The 2015-16 college basketball season ended in the most dramatic way possible, with Villanova's Kris Jenkins confidently pulling up for a buzzer-beating three-pointer to give the Wildcats their second national championship.

Now it's time for the encore.

And, based on the talented teams and players across the country, this season has a chance of being just as good.

Here are some of the marquee teams, players and games to look for from the 2016-17 season:

Top teams

Duke. Another stellar recruiting class by Coach K has the Blue Devils primed for a second title run in three years.

Kansas. The Jayhawks lost a lot from last year's team, but may actually be better this year. Watch out for freshman Josh Jackson.

Villanova. Defending national champs lost little and have player of the year candidate Josh Hart back.

Kentucky. See if you've heard this one before. Coach Cal has another collection of long, athletic, highly touted recruits on his roster.

Oregon. The Ducks were a No. 1 NCAA Tournament seed a year ago and return nearly everyone, including do-everything Dillon Brooks.

Marquee players

Grayson Allen, Duke. The latest Blue Devil people love to hate has lots of game and should be in the running for national player of the year.

Hart, Villanova. Arguably the nation's best all-around player.

Brooks, Oregon. He'll likely have to miss a few games due to offseason

foot surgery, but proved last year that there's little he can't do.

Monte Morris, Iowa State. Previously a setup man, he'll have a chance to shine after deciding to return to Ames.

Melo Trimble, Maryland. The junior gets his shot at it being the man in College Park and the results could be spectacular.

New coaches

Jamie Dixon, TCU. Left Pittsburgh in hopes of revitalizing his alma mater.

Tubby Smith, Memphis. Has a chance to become the first coach to take six teams to the NCAA Tournament after stops in Tulsa, Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota and Texas Tech.

Marvin Menzies, UNLV. Hoping to bring the success he had at New Mexico State to bright lights of Vegas.

Brad Underwood, Oklahoma State. Looking to get the Cowboys back on track after winning 89 games in three seasons at Stephen F. Austin.

Chris Beard, Texas Tech. Spent one season at UALR, about a minute at UNLV, now back in Lubbock, where he worked 10 years as an assistant under Bob and Pat Knight.



L.E. BASKOW, LAS VEGAS SUN/AP

UNLV coach Marvin Menzies

Must-see freshmen

Jackson, Kansas. The 6-foot-8 swingman has been predicted to have more impact on the Jayhawks than Andrew Wiggins. That's high praise.

Markelle Fultz, Washington. Arguably the most decorated recruit in program history, can score or dish.

De'Aaron Fox, Kentucky. Supremely athletic, can shoot, pass, plays hard. The Wildcats are in good hands.

Lonzo Ball, UCLA. Playmaker who can shoot from deep was a big get for coach Steve Alford.

Dennis Smith Jr., North Carolina State. Wolfpack coach Mark Gottfried called him the "best guard in the country. Period." He may be right.

Miles Bridges, Michigan State. The athletic 6-7 forward could be the best player in coach Tim Lizzo's two decades in East Lansing. Considering the list of players he's coached, that's saying something.

SPORTS



Halftime break

The midseason winners – and losers
– in each conference » **Pages 26-27**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

INCOMING: FRESHMEN

Talented newcomers set to take center stage this season

By STEVE MEGARGEY

Associated Press

Get ready to learn some new names as the college basketball season tips off this week.

The 2015-16 season was billed as “the year of the senior,” but newcomers figure to take center stage this season with the arrival of a talented and deep freshman class.

Jerry Meyer, the national director of scouting for 247Sports, calls the incoming freshman class the best since the 2007-08 season, which featured eventual NBA all-stars Derrick Rose, James Harden, Blake Griffin and Kevin Love.

“I would be surprised if this class doesn’t eventually produce multiple NBA all-stars when it’s all said and done,” said Eric Bossi, the director of basketball recruiting at Rivals.

That represents a major change from last season, when experience was emphasized. Four of the five first-team selections on the AP All-America team last year were seniors: Virginia’s Malcolm Brogdon, Oklahoma’s Buddy Hield, North Carolina’s Brice Johnson and Michigan State’s Denzel Valentine.

The starting lineups in last season’s NCAA championship game between Villanova and North Carolina included four seniors, three juniors, two sophomores and only one freshman. The nation’s most celebrated freshman was LSU’s Ben Simmons, who became the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA Draft but failed to reach the NCAA Tournament.

This year’s freshman class features considerably more depth.

“I wouldn’t put anyone on that Ben Simmons level — I really think Ben Simmons is an exceptional talent — but I think there’s a bunch of guys just a step below,” Meyer said.

As usual, freshmen could make the biggest impact at No. 1 Duke and No. 2 Kentucky.

Duke’s six-man freshman class has four of the nation’s top 15 prospects, according to composite rankings of recruiting websites compiled by 247Sports.

**SEE NEWCOMERS
ON PAGE 30**

Pictured, clockwise from top right: Kentucky’s Malik Monk; Michigan State’s Miles Bridges; Kansas’ Josh Bridges; UCLA’s Lonzo Ball; Duke’s Frank Jackson; and Florida State’s Jonathan Isaac.

AP photos



Hamlin looking for win to save season » NASCAR, Page 28

