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Inside

NFL

Week 14 takeaways:
Seahawks soaring as
49ers are fading fast

Back page



ARMY

Pacific Pathways gets
expansion in 2015 as
focus shifts to region

Page 5



MILITARY

Disconnect allows
some sex offenders to
prey again as civilians

Page 10

FACES

Hanks, Sting, Tomlin
among recipients of
Kennedy Center honors

Page 17



Symbolic ceremony

US generals upbeat
as command center
in Afghanistan closes

Page 2

Capt. Nicole White
stands at attention during
the closing ceremonies
for ISAF Joint Command
on Monday.

Carlo Munoz/Stars and Stripes

Report calls for protection of WWII wreck

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

A recently released Navy report says the wreck of the USS Houston — sunk by the Japanese off the Java coast at the outset of World War II — is leaking fuel and being picked clean of metal and dangerous munitions by salvagers and divers, creating a potential ecological disaster and endangering the remains

of sailors and Marines entombed there.

The Houston was sunk in Banten Bay along with Australia's HMAS Perth on March 1, 1942, in what was later dubbed the Battle of Sunda Strait. The ship went down with more than 1,000 aboard and as much as 350,000 gallons of fuel and diesel oil. Fewer than 400 survived.

SEE WRECK ON PAGE 6



The USS Houston in 1942.

Courtesy of R. Dana Charle

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's kind of weird, but it's not weird here."

— Pieter Van Hiel, a technical writer from Hamilton, Canada, discussing the Midwest FurFest convention in Illinois

See story on Page 12

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

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1. Medal of Honor campaign continues for sergeant who saved troops in Iraq
2. Navy's fired skippers often maintain their rank
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4. Navy civilian charged with benefits theft wants hard drive evidence thrown out
5. Failed Yemen raid highlights difficulty of military rescue operations

COMING SOON

Fitness and health

Teaching mindfulness



TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 16
- Business 18
- Classified 19, 22
- Comics 13
- Crossword 13
- Faces 17
- Opinion 20-21
- Shifting Gears 15
- Sports 23-32
- Weather 18

MILITARY



PHOTOS BY CARLO MUNOZ/Stars and Stripes

Left: Outgoing International Security Assistance Force Joint Command chief Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, left, and ISAF Command Sgt. Maj. Isala Vimoto lower the IJC flag during the closing ceremony on Monday in Kabul, Afghanistan. Right: U.S. and NATO servicemembers salute during the lowering of the official colors.

Remarks upbeat as IJC closes in Kabul

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Despite an escalation in Taliban attacks in recent months, the outgoing commanders of the NATO-led military coalition sounded an optimistic note Monday at a ceremony marking the closure of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, which has overseen combat operations since 2009.

"Everyone made tremendous sacrifices, but those sacrifices were not in vain," said Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, the IJC commander.

He spoke on a chilly morning next to the tarmac of Kabul's international airport in a ceremony to mark the formal closing of the IJC's ground forces center, which he has commanded since February.

The closure is part of the continuing drawdown of NATO ground forces, whose combat mission in Afghanistan is due to end on Jan. 1, when it will be replaced by a train-and-advise mission known as Resolute Support.

As in the past, military leaders made optimistic pronouncements about progress in the country that stand in contrast to events on the battlefields.

"The [Afghan security forces] overmatch the enemy wherever and whenever they meet," ISAF commander John Campbell said.

In the last few months, Afghan forces, often short on supplies and sometimes outgunned, have taken heavy losses as the Taliban have sought to reassert control in some of their traditional strongholds. High-profile attacks in the capital have put residents, foreign diplomats and international aid organizations on edge.

On Saturday, Washington announced it would keep an additional 1,000 U.S. troops in

Afghanistan past the end of the year, bringing its total commitment for 2015 to nearly 11,000.

Monday's event was highly symbolic. The flag ceremony represents the penultimate step before U.S.-led international forces shift to the new, pared-down mission. What it symbolized, however, depended on the observer.

For Ali Akbar Qasimi, the head of the Afghan parliament's defense commission, it marked the beginning of a perilous chapter for an Afghan defense force he believes is still too inexperienced and ill-equipped to defend the country on its own.

'Sangin is secure. The government of Afghanistan remains in control.'

Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson
IJC commander

"I believe no one will admit his failure at the end of his job," he said of the closing ceremony. "After this project, after this many years, no one will say, 'I'm done and I have totally failed in my job.'"

In many ways, IJC represents the hopes and failures of the war since President Barack Obama made ending the war in Iraq and winning the war in Afghanistan his foreign policy priorities. Created in 2009 to coincide with the influx of more than 30,000 additional U.S. troops, the IJC oversaw day-to-day military operations during the bloodiest fighting foreign troops experienced.

Since then, there have been some significant successes, most notably in the city of Kandahar, the spiritual homeland of the Taliban, which has been relatively calm after years of constant bombings and other deadly attacks.

But IJC-led operations fell far short of the goal of defeating or even significantly weaken-

ing the Taliban, who now regularly engage in fierce combat with the Afghan security forces.

As ISAF forces have wound down their military efforts, violence has actually risen, with record numbers of civilians and Afghan troops dying. After 13 years of war and nearly 3,500 foreign troops killed, U.S. commanders acknowledge that the war won't end on the battlefield but in some sort of peace deal.

"The defeat [of the Taliban] is going to be part of a political process as well as a military process," Anderson said.

Underlining the tenuous situation in Afghanistan, a rocket slammed into the ISAF's main logistics hub, Bagram Airfield, on Sunday night, killing two civilian workers.

Insurgents also launched a fierce assault on the Maiwand district government center in Helmand province on Monday that left several people dead. The Taliban have flexed their muscle throughout Helmand province recently, nearly overrunning the district of Sangin before being forced to withdraw by the Afghan army.

In his speech, Anderson hit back at criticism that the problems in Helmand, where nearly 1,000 coalition troops lost their lives, illustrate the shortfalls of the Afghan military.

"Sangin is secure," he said. "The government of Afghanistan remains in control."

But Sulaiman Shah, who until last week was governor of Sangin district, said government forces there are in desperate need of coalition air support and that insurgents still control much of the district.

"The government [forces are] in a defensive position, only able to protect themselves where they are and not able to recapture territory," he said. "The Taliban are not going away easily."

druzin.heath@stripes.com
Twitter: @Druzin_Stripes

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WAR/MILITARY

In Kabul's 'Valley of Death,' hints of security woes

Attackers blend in easily on violent stretch of Kabul-Jalalabad Road

By **SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN**
The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — At an intersection of a deadly road, Afghan security forces stand watch. They peek into vehicles, stare suspiciously at anyone running across the street. They are on alert for suicide bombers, the sort who have inspired Afghans to dub the road and the surrounding area "The Valley of Death."

"This is the bloodiest road," said Khasar, 28, a vegetable seller who, like many Afghans, uses one name. He stood in his stall across from the Green Village, a heavily guarded compound for foreign contractors that has been attacked several times.

An afternoon spent along a particularly violent stretch of the route — the Kabul-Jalalabad Road — helps illustrate the challenges in securing this capital city, as most U.S. and international forces prepare to withdraw by the end of this month. Here, it's difficult to distinguish the enemy from local residents, and the targeting of foreigners is fueled by perceptions they are engaged in nefarious activities.

During the past three weeks, Kabul has been rocked by an unprecedented series of Taliban attacks. That has instilled fear in Afghans and foreigners, convincing many to leave the capital temporarily or to make exit plans in case the situation gets worse.

But in the Valley of Death, life goes on, highlighting the resilience of ordinary Afghans. Their attitude is reminiscent of the way Iraqis responded to the relentless suicide attacks and car bombings that occurred in Baghdad for years. After every assault, they would clean up the shattered glass, remove the mangled cars and continue on with their lives. Along the Kabul-Jalalabad road, many Afghans have done the same.

"This is our only option," said Samir Asifi, 22, another vegetable seller. "Otherwise, we can't buy bread for our family. Everyone around here has no option but to stay here and work."

Two weeks ago, his brother Zamir, 10, was wounded in the leg when a suicide bomber detonated a car filled with explosives near a British Embassy vehicle, killing a British citizen and five Afghans. The attack unfolded next to Asifi's shop.

Three days earlier, a remote-control bomb attached to a bicycle killed two American soldiers passing by in a convoy. Two weeks ago, in the same area, a truck bombing at a compound filled with foreign contractors killed two Afghan guards.

About the same time, Taliban militants, including four suicide bombers, tried to break into the Green Village. They were repelled by Afghan security forces after an hourlong gunbattle.

Maintaining pressure

Last week, outgoing Afghan Interior Minister Omar Daudzai said the Taliban was seeking to pressure the government and to maintain momentum during the few months before the annual fighting season traditionally begins.

"The enemy wants to keep the attacks at a certain level this winter," Daudzai told reporters. "Because they don't want to start from zero in the summer."

Afghan law enforcement officials provide two reasons for the spate of attacks along the road. Many foreigners, including military, security contractors and aid workers, live in compounds in the area and use the road. Also, the neighborhoods flanking the road are overpopulated, dense areas without proper streets, providing cover for militants.

"The enemy can easily infiltrate onto the main road," Afghan



CARLO MUNGOZ/Stars and Stripes

Traffic flows Nov. 20 in front of a bomb crater created by a Taliban suicide attack on the Green Village compound in Kabul, Afghanistan.



RAHMAT GUL/AF

A U.S. military wrecker carries away a vehicle in December 2013 that was destroyed in a suicide car bomb attack on the Jalalabad-Kabul road in Kabul.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said.

Today, he said, security along the road has been bolstered, with added personnel, checkpoints and outposts. The Interior Ministry, he said, has launched an awareness campaign here and in other parts of the city to convince locals to "identify terrorists" and to report any suspicious activities.

But residents along the road painted a more complex picture, underscoring the tough task ahead for Afghan security forces.

Seen as a 'brothel'

Take the Green Village. Hardly any Afghans interviewed saw the compound, behind tall blast walls and fencing topped with barbed wire, as the home of foreigners who were helping their nation. They said they viewed it as a place of ill repute, with activities that ran counter to Afghanistan's conservative beliefs.

"This Green Village is a brothel," declared Ahmed Jan, 20, who fixes generators across the road from the compound. "I agree with the [Taliban's] decision to attack it. I wish the attackers could have gotten inside and blown themselves up."

Members of several Pashtun tribes — some with allegiance to the Taliban, which is made largely of the same ethnic group — live in enclaves flanking the road. Local residents and police suspect some of them of providing havens for suicide bombers or places to hide explosives.

"The Taliban can infiltrate inside the government," said Abdul Nasir, 53, a mechanic, referring to a recent failed attempt by the insurgents to assassinate Kabul's police chief inside the heavily fortified police headquarters. "Of course they have spies among the people. The majority of the people living around here are illiterate.

They are easily influenced."

"There are good people here," continued Nasir, who is ethnic Pashtun, "and there are bad people here."

Seddiqi, the Interior Ministry spokesman, said he was aware of the allegations, but said officials had yet to find any evidence that locals along the road were helping the Taliban stage attacks.

Some police officials did blame a familiar culprit: Pakistan, long accused by Afghans of destabilizing their country and aiding powerful Taliban factions based in Pakistan.

"This is the road to import goods from Pakistan," said a police commander standing next to the Green Village who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. "Through truck convoys, Pakistan has access to Kabul. They can smuggle in explosives, arms."

The question on the minds of many locals was this: Would their lives improve after most U.S. and foreign troops leave by the end of the month?

"The root of the problem are the foreigners," said Jan. "They must be forced to leave. If they leave here, everything will get better."

Not everyone along the road was convinced.

"I am afraid that if the foreigners leave, things will deteriorate further," said Asifi, the vegetable seller. "The government is not able to secure the area."

"Now, it's unclear whether the insurgents are targeting foreigners, Afghans or Muslims," he said. "They are targeting everyone."

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MILITARY

Army expanding Pacific Pathways exercises in '15

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ASAKA, Japan — The Army is accelerating its rebalancing to the Pacific with three brigade-level Pacific Pathways deployments planned for 2015.

The missions follow this year's four-month deployment of a brigade from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington and personnel from Schofield Barracks in Hawaii to Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan.

I Corps commander Lt. Gen. Stephen R. Lanza, in Tokyo on Monday for the annual Yamasakura exercise with the Japan Ground Self Defense Force, said Pacific Pathways 2015 kicks off in March and will continue for nine months.

The first event involves a brigade deploying to Thailand, South Korea and the Philippines to participate in the Cobra Gold, Foal Eagle and Balikatan exercises. I Corps spokesman Col. David Johnson said.

Another brigade will go to Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia to join in the Talisman Saber, Garuda Shield and Keris Strike training. A third brigade will deploy

later in the year, although the locations and exercises have yet to be settled, Johnson said.

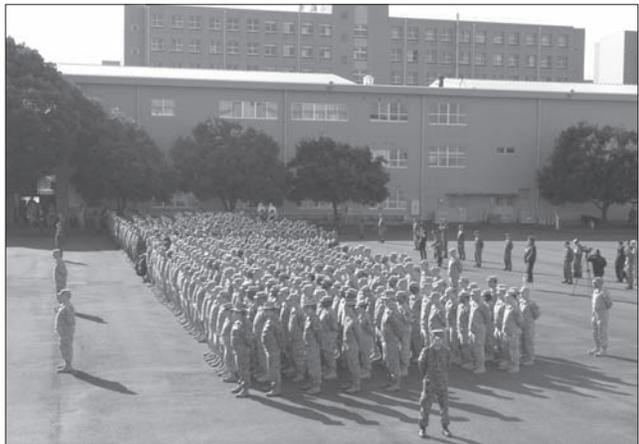
Pacific Pathways is part of the Army's effort to develop a semi-permanent presence in the region, adding to the large forces already stationed in South Korea and Japan. The rotational forces will allow for a U.S. presence in friendly nations without the expense and political complications of permanent overseas bases.

From a larger perspective, Pathways is part of the Obama administration's Pacific pivot, which was intended to reinvigorate America's diplomatic, economic and military influence in the region.

The brigade-level deployments — which eventually will include I Corps troops from Alaska — are a big step up from previous engagements by the Army in the Pacific, Lanza said.

"In the past, we would send a small contingent to these countries," he said. "They exercise in the Pacific) were more about partnership building and cultural exchanges."

Pacific Pathways involves operational training and gives soldiers the chance to do recon-



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

U.S., Japanese and Australian troops parade at Camp Asaka in Tokyo during the annual Yamasakura exercise Monday.

naissance and to build relationships with partners in the region that will stand them in good stead in the future, Lanza said.

"We are doing things that are tactically significant in these countries," he said. "Pathways facilitates future operations."

Lanza dismissed talk of a turf war between the Marine Corps and the Army over engagement in the Pacific.

"The Pacific is big enough for all the services," he said, noting that seven of the world's 10 largest militaries are in the region.

Soldiers rotating there for Pacific Pathways will complement what the Marines do, he said.

"All these capabilities are required in the Pacific," he said.

Yamasakura is not part of Pacific Pathways. However, Japanese troops will be in Australia as observers at next year's Talisman Saber exercise, and Australian observers are in Japan for Yamasakura.

Lt. Gen. Koichi Isobe, commander of Japanese Ground Self Defense Force's Eastern Army, noted that 4,500 of his troops

were exercising alongside 2,000 U.S. personnel this month.

Lanza said I Corps is working with Japan on cyberdefense and ballistic missile defense and operational fires and sustainment during Yamasakura.

The Army is integrating ever more closely with Japanese forces, he said, noting that U.S. and Japanese personnel are sharing a common headquarters during this year's training.

robson.seth@starsandstripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1

Military appeals court to hear Kansas airman's HIV case

By ROXANA HEGEMAN
The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — A Kansas airman accused of aggravated assault for exposing multiple sex partners to HIV at swinger parties in Wichita will have his appeal heard this week before the nation's highest military court.

The Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces will on Tuesday take up the case against David Gutierrez, an appeal the defense contends could upend similar prosecutions in the U.S. military.

"This case will have the potential of decriminalizing sexual contact with someone with HIV," defense attorney Kevin McDermott said.

Air Force prosecutors have declined comment.

Gutierrez was a sergeant at McCConnell Air Force Base in Wichita in 2011 when he was stripped

of his rank and was sentenced to eight years behind bars.

In addition to aggravated assault, Gutierrez also was found guilty of violating an order to notify partners about his HIV status and to use condoms. He was also convicted of indecent acts and adultery. He has not been accused of infecting anyone with HIV.

In his appeal, Gutierrez has challenged whether the risk to his sexual partners was high enough to constitute aggravated assault, arguing that laws covering exposure to the disease are outdated because the statistical probability of heterosexual transmission is low and medical advances have made the disease treatable.

"About 100 years ago, we used to have a lot of laws on the books that threw people in prison for having syphilis because you couldn't cure it. Once they came up with a cure, a lot of those laws

went along the wayside," McDermott said.

The risk of infection by an HIV-positive man during sexual intercourse with a woman varies widely, and each side in the case is citing the statistic within that range that is most favorable to their argument.

Defense lawyers say the risk of infection ranged from a 1-in-10,000 to 1-in-100,000 chance per sexual encounter, which they contend is so low that it doesn't meet the legal standard for assault.

Prosecutors counter that the exposure risk was closer to 1 in 500.

"A 1-in-500 chance of receiving a deadly, incurable disease is not merely fanciful, speculative, or remote possibility. It is a real possibility," they wrote. "That real possibility of harm, when balanced with the magnitude of harm, certain death, provides

more than enough justification to hold (Gutierrez) criminally liable here."

Government lawyers argued at trial that Gutierrez played Russian roulette with his sexual partners' lives and several people who had sex with Gutierrez and his wife testified that they would not have done so if they had known he was HIV-positive. The government is playing up that testimony on appeal.

A rare friend-of-court filing has been made in a similar case winding through the Army appeals process. In that brief, defense lawyers said an "epidemic of fear" pervaded the nation in the mid-1980s, when many of the applicable laws were written.

They said that panic led to an expansion of criminal liability, and they urged the military appellate court to see HIV as a treatable condition.

As of early this year, there had been more than 900 arrests or prosecutions in at least 38 states and the military of HIV-positive people accused of exposing others to the disease, according to the Global Network of People Living with HIV.

Defense lawyers also say Gutierrez shouldn't have been convicted of adultery because he and his wife participated in group sex. They also contend that their client's due process rights have been violated by a long appeals process.

Marine suspected in collision that hurt man

A Marine is suspected of fleeing the scene of a hit-and-run in Okinawa that injured a 67-year-old man, according to government officials and media reports.

Emergency crews responded to the scene at 5 a.m. on Thursday and found the man collapsed on the road in Okinawa city. Police believe a car was suspected of crashing into the man's moped.

The Okinawa prefectural government said the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs Okinawa Liaison Office reported a Marine is suspected of involvement and was being questioned. No details, including the injured man's condition or the Marine's rank and unit, were available.

From staff reports

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PACIFIC

Wreck: Ship serves as final resting place for hundreds

FROM FRONT PAGE

U.S. and Indonesian navy divers checked the wreckage in June during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2014 exercises. It was the Navy's first formal site assessment since the ship's discovery decades ago. The Naval History and Heritage Command worked with the navies during the dive.

"The operation produced convincing evidence that the wreck of Houston, which serves as the final resting place for hundreds of sailors, contains potentially live ordnance, is seeping oil and is also being irreparably damaged by the unauthorized disturbance of the site," said the final report on the assessment, released last month.

It called for protective measures to avoid "increased risk of desecration of human remains, serious structural damage to the wreck, and adverse environmental effects."

The assessment was performed by Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1, Company 1-5, which began its work in Banten Bay on June 10 with support from the USNS Safeguard, according to the report. They completed 14 dives with the Indonesian navy participating in several.

They were tasked with documenting battle damage as well as the orientation of the vessel and its debris field, along with environmental hazards, ordnance and any visible human remains.

Much of the vandalism and theft was observed in the area of the exposed port side.

Navy officials said they are coordinating with Indonesia to stop the desecration of the Houston, which has become a popular dive spot.

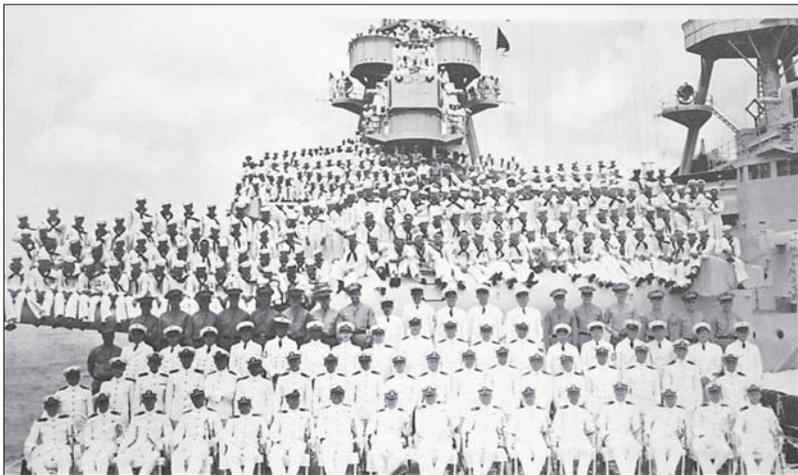
Paul Taylor, an NMHC spokesman, said Indonesian naval units will continue to chase off suspicious people spotted near the wreck and make arrests if possible.

"Representatives from both countries are determined to do what they can to protect and preserve the site, located a mile off Indonesia's coast," Taylor wrote in a statement to Stars and Stripes. "It has the attention of both our navies, and we take any such disturbance very seriously."

Taylor said the Navy will plan follow-up dives to monitor any continued damage and will work with Indonesia to see what "cultural, educational, deterrent and enforcement efforts might be employed to discourage disturbance."

Last year, Frank Craven — an Australian diver with family ties to the HMAS Perth — dove on the site and took a trumpet and several other artifacts from the wreck, he told Stars and Stripes. He returned some artifacts to the Houston and handed the trumpet over to the Navy; it's in the possession of NMHC in Washington.

According to the report, divers documented missing rivets and large metal pieces of the hull. More disturbing was the documentation of tools used to pillage the ship, including a rudimentary surface-supplied oxygen delivery system to support local divers during prolonged underwater operations, a dredge that permitted access inside the hull and a new hacksaw, which



Above: The crew of the USS Houston poses for a photograph sometime prior to the start of World War II.

Left: The Houston's Marine contingent poses during the summer of 1943, when the group was increased almost twofold. The photograph depicts 44 Marines, but there were 74 on the ship when it sank during a battle with the Japanese off the Indonesian coast in 1942.

Photos courtesy of R. Dana Charle

indicated recent vandalism.

"Dredges of this type are commonly utilized in salvage or archaeological operations to excavate through and remove compacted sediment," the report said. "The condition of the dredge indicates it has been present on site for some time, while it is still being weighed down by a rectangular metal frame and what may be an adjacent cinder block, suggesting its continued use."

They also documented the absence of most portholes on the exposed port side.

Divers also observed piles of shells and ordnance on the exposed port side near a secured bag to haul it out and castings and ordnance in the vicinity of the dredge.

"As no assessment has been conducted on any of the seemingly intact pieces of ordnance must be presumed active, and therefore potentially a public safety hazard," the report said.

Taylor said the removal of old ammunition is of grave concern due to the danger, and the amount of fuel on board is also a concern.

The ship — one of 17,000 ship and aircraft wrecks worldwide — went down with as much as 350,000 gallons of fuel and diesel oil, the report said. Preliminary estimates suggest about a quarter of the oil was lost due to battle damage.

Divers documented oil slicks on the surface, the report said, requesting further study to fully grasp the problem.

Taylor said a Navy panel took up the issue in September and is "continuing to work toward response recommendations" for the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy.

Divers documented no human remains or evidence that remains had been tampered with. However, they said the remains in and around the ship are at risk if the vessel's destruction continues.

"It is likely that any human remains, if extant, might be preserved within the hull or buried in the adjacent sediment, rather than exposed on the deck or port side of the hull," the report said.

The Navy has generally maintained a policy of letting sailors and Marines lost at sea rest with their sunken vessels, which they consider to be hallowed war graves.



Courtesy of the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations

The USS Houston's swing band poses for a photograph on the ship's fantail sometime between November 1940 and Sept. 19, 1941.

The report recommended a lengthier site survey to assess battle damage versus theft, public safety and environmental concerns, and possible security measures.

John Keith Schwarz, a representative from the Houston's family group, the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations, said the report confirmed long-held suspicions about salvage and environmental damage to the ship.

"The ship needs to be left alone and not

disturbed nor intruded upon by ANYONE," Schwarz wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes.

"We call upon citizens of all nations to respect and to leave undisturbed the final resting place of those courageous American and Australian crewmen of USS Houston (CA-30) and HMAS Perth who are still standing watch over Sunda Strait," his group said in a statement last year.

burke.matt@stripes.com

PACIFIC

Soldiers at WWII Pearl Harbor attack honored

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT DERUSSY MILITARY RESERVATION, Hawaii — Capt. Robert Hardaway had been toiling away at triage and surgery during the first 24 hours after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. The Army surgeon was exhausted as he lay down to get some rest.

Then a nurse burst into the room and said President Franklin D. Roosevelt was about to give a speech — one that would ultimately galvanize the nation as well as Hardaway, who on Sunday sat in the front row of a ceremony honoring, in particular, Army and Army Air Corps soldiers who defended against the attack.

Maj. Gen. Charles A. Flynn, commander of the 25th Infantry Division, told the audience that he'd spoken with Hardaway earlier about that speech.

"Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan," Roosevelt had said in a somber voice.

Hardaway said those words revived his spirit and energy.

"All I needed to hear was my commander-in-chief and I see that American flag, and I knew what my duty was," Flynn quoted Hardaway as saying.

Few living military survivors of the 1941 attacks remain alive; virtually all are now in their 90s.

Sunday afternoon, four of the remaining nine survivors of the sunken USS Arizona met at the ship's memorial for what might be their final toast to their departed shipmates. The oldest was 97, the youngest 92.

The massive explosion on the Arizona resulted in a staggering



Left: Maj. Gen. Charles A. Flynn, second from right, steadies Robert Hardaway during a ceremony Sunday in Honolulu commemorating the role of soldiers during the Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Hardaway was then a captain and surgeon and operated on the wounded at an Army hospital at Schofield Barracks. Right: Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division perform Ha'a Koa, or Dance of the Warrior, during the ceremony.



PHOTOS BY WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

death toll of 1,177 that morning, accounting for a large portion of the roughly 2,500 who would die in the attack. A thousand more were wounded. Eighteen American ships were damaged or destroyed, along with about 300 airplanes.

The Navy held a ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center on Sunday morning, observing a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., marking the opening salvo of the attack.

Oahu was believed to be "an impenetrable fortress" then, a belief shaken by the attack, but "the strategic importance of Hawaii and its military forces was clear then as it is today," Flynn said.

The brunt of the attack was on the Navy's ships, but the Japanese planes also went about crippling the aircraft of the Army Air

'While Dec. 7, 1941, shook the Navy — and, specifically, the Pacific Fleet — to its core, it rattled the Army and the nation as well. Today, we're here to commemorate the U.S. Army's actions.'

Maj. Gen. Charles A. Flynn
commander, 25th Infantry Division

Corps at Wheeler Air Base.

Thirty-three soldiers were killed in action there, with another 75 wounded.

And while most planes were crippled, 12 pilots assigned to the 15th Pursuit Group at Wheeler got airborne and commenced a "furious dogfight," Flynn said.

"While Dec. 7, 1941, shook the Navy — and, specifically, the Pacific Fleet — to its core, it rattled the Army and the nation as well,"

Flynn said. "Today, we're here to commemorate the U.S. Army's actions Dec. 7, 1941, and in the weeks, months and years following that day that would live in infamy.

"These soldiers provided a wide range of support to their sister services, buying them the time and space for the Navy to recover

from the devastation of Pearl Harbor and moving the necessary logistics in the name of basic needs to the Hawaiian people.

"We stand here today in this beautiful setting because of their courage and commitment to duty."

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MILITARY

Leader: Army Reserve must grow to shrink

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

DAENNER KASERNE, Germany — The U.S. Army Reserve needs to grow in order to then shrink the right way, says the organization's top enlisted leader.

The Reserve's current authorized end strength is 205,000 soldiers. With the reserve topping off at just more than 196,000, that means there's room to expand, Command Sgt. Maj. Luther Thomas Jr., the command sergeant major of the Army Reserve, said Saturday. He was speaking at a town hall in Kaiserslautern for reservists from the 7th Civil Support Command, the Army's only Reserve command stationed entirely overseas.

By 2019, however, the Army Reserve is slated to drop to 195,000 soldiers, Thomas said.

Despite the future downward trajectory, he said the Reserve is still trying to fill its ranks. It is particularly keen on retaining and bringing in soldiers with jobs for which there's a current need. Those include fuel handlers, foreign language speakers and those working in military intelligence and psychological operations, to name some.

"The reason you want to go up is so that you come down with quality" and retain the right mix of soldiers, Thomas said in an interview after the town hall.

With the active Army undergoing an even larger drawdown — the force is scheduled to contract from 513,800 soldiers to between 440,000 and 450,000 by



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Command Sgt. Maj. Luther Thomas Jr., the command sergeant major of the Army Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve Command, speaks to reservists with the 7th Civil Support Command at a town hall Saturday at the command's headquarters on Daenner Kaserne in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

2019 — more soldiers could be knocking on the Reserve's door.

Recently, 771 soldiers opted to leave the active Army early to join the Reserve as part of an "Active Component 2 Reserve Component" pilot program at Fort Hood, Texas, Thomas said. The program began in May and ended Sept. 30.

Soldiers joining the Reserve retain cer-

tain benefits and can earn years toward reserve retirement. "You still have the camaraderie of being part of the Army family and you still have the opportunity to serve your country," he said.

The Reserve is working with the Army to ensure soldiers separated from active duty for performance or disciplinary issues don't fly under the radar and get slots

in the Reserve, he said, responding to a question during the town hall.

It's happened, but only with a "very, very small percentage" of soldiers, he said.

"We've asked the Army to do more vetting" and to flag soldiers who may not be qualified for Reserve service, he said.

Thomas said he's working on a policy change aimed at reducing the Reserve's backlog of 19,000 soldiers who are overdue for professional military education. "What we're doing now is we select soldiers for promotion, promote them, and then we train them," he said. "We're putting people into leadership positions for which, educationally, we have not trained them."

"I'm asking us to go back to something that was in effect when I was coming up, which was train, select and promote," he told reservists.

"Soldiers will either go to school and get promoted or they'll be separated from the service or they'll be reduced in rank," he said.

Also contributing to the backlog is reservists who have been "flagged" for not meeting height and weight or physical training standards, Thomas said.

"I know it's difficult with soldiers coming one weekend a month, two weeks at a time throughout the year, but as a leader, you have to figure out... how do I motivate this soldier? How do I inspire this soldier to be all that they can be?" he said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com

Medal push continues for sergeant who saved soldiers in Iraq

By DAVID ZUCCHINO
Los Angeles Times

If he had known in 2005 what he knows today, Brig. Gen. Gary Brito would have nominated Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe for the Medal of Honor.

Brito knew in 2005 that Cashe, his uniform soaked with fuel, had plunged into a burning vehicle in Iraq on Oct. 17, 2005, to rescue soldiers who were on fire. But not until months later did Brito, Cashe's battalion commander, learn the full details of Cashe's courage that day outside the city of Samarra.

Cashe rescued six badly burned soldiers while under enemy small-arms fire. His own uniform caught fire, engulfing him in flames. Even with second- and third-degree burns over three-fourths of his body, Cashe continued to pull soldiers out of a vehicle set ablaze when a roadside bomb ruptured a fuel tank.

Before all those details emerged, Cashe was awarded a Silver Star, the military's third-highest award for valor, after Brito nominated him. But soon after learning more about Cashe's actions, Brito mounted an unusual Medal of Honor campaign that has continued for more than seven years.

If the latest batch of sworn statements submitted to the Army by Brito is successful, Cashe will become the first black among 16 servicemembers awarded the nation's highest medal for valor for actions in Iraq on Afghans. Cashe, 35, died of his burns three



Courtesy of Home of Heroes

Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe died less than a month after rescuing soldiers from a burning vehicle.

weeks after the bomb attack. Seven of the 16 medals have been awarded posthumously.

"You don't often find truly selfless sacrifice where someone put his soldiers' welfare before his own," Brito said. "Sgt. Cashe was horribly wounded and continued to fight to save his men."

Acts of heroism in combat typically play out in a matter of seconds or minutes. Honoring those actions with a Medal of Honor often takes years — and sometimes decades — as emerging details and conflicting accounts are evaluated.

In Cashe's case, the soldiers he rescued were unable to provide accounts of his heroism because they were hospitalized in critical

condition. Other details were lost in the turmoil of a war zone.

"The true impact of what he did that evening was not immediately known because of the chaos of the moment," Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, one of Cashe's commanders, wrote to the Army in support of Cashe's Medal of Honor nomination.

The Senior Army Decorations Board does not comment on Medal of Honor nominations, an Army spokeswoman said, noting that vetting such nominations takes considerable time, "with intense scrutiny every step of the way." There is no deadline for a decision.

Nine years after the Iraq bomb attack, retired Sgt. Gary Mills has no doubt that Cashe deserves the Medal of Honor. Mills was inside the stricken Bradley fighting vehicle that day. He was on fire, his hands so badly burned that he couldn't open the rear troop door to free himself and other soldiers trapped inside the flaming vehicle.

Someone opened the door from outside, Mills recalls. A powerful hand grabbed him and yanked him to safety. He later learned that the man who had rescued him was Cashe, who seconds later crawled into the vehicle to haul out the platoon's critically burned medic while on fire himself.

"Sgt. Cashe saved my life," Mills said. "With all the ammo inside that vehicle, and all those flames, we'd have all been dead in another minute or two."

Four of the six soldiers rescued later died of their wounds at a hospital. An Afghan interpreter riding in the Bradley died during the bomb attack. Cashe refused to be loaded onto a medical evacuation helicopter until all the other wounded men had been flown.

A citation proposing the Medal of Honor for Cashe reads: "SFC Cashe's selfless and gallant actions allowed the loved ones of these brave soldiers to spend precious time by their sides before they succumbed."

Cashe's sister, Kasiel Cashe White, spent three weeks at her brother's bedside at a military hospital in Texas as doctors treated his extensive burns. She knew nothing of his actions during the bomb attack until a nurse asked her, "You know your brother's a hero, don't you?"

When Cashe was able to speak, White said, his first words were, "How are my boys?" — his soldiers, she said.

Then he began weeping, she said. He told her, "I couldn't get to them fast enough."

Cashe died Nov. 8, 2005. "My little brother lived by the code that you never leave your soldiers behind," White said. "That wasn't just something from a movie. He lived it."

White said her family hopes Cashe is awarded the medal while his mother, who is 89, is still alive.

White, Mills and Brito are part of a sustained seven-year effort to honor Cashe. They have been joined by Cashe's fellow sol-

diers, his commanders, two high-ranking generals and a retired drill sergeant who never met Cashe but has mounted a public campaign to draw attention to the sergeant's valor.

"This is a story that needs to be told," said Harry Conner, 62, the former drill sergeant, who runs a Facebook page, "SFC Alwyn Cashe Deserves the Medal of Honor," that has 3,700 members.

"This man allowed himself to burn to death to save his men," Conner said. "To not award him the Medal of Honor would be a terrible injustice."

Cashe's family and supporters say they don't know why it has taken so long for the Army to decide on the nomination, but they have issued Brito's race as an issue. Brito said Cashe was not even aware of his Medal of Honor nomination. Brito said the medal was awarded the Medal of Honor was following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

White said she has resisted "pulling out the race card."

"He is not just a black soldier who earned the right to the Medal of Honor," she said. "He's a soldier who happens to be black."

Brito said the long, demanding process has taught him that the Medal of Honor is a singular honor that should be reserved for the rare examples of extraordinary courage personified by Cashe.

For Alwyn Cashe, "the criteria of bravery and gallantry under horrific conditions has been met," Brito said. "I'll respect whatever decision is made."

WAR ON TERRORISM

US says it was not aware of S. African hostage release talks

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — The United States did not know about talks on the reportedly imminent release of a South African hostage who died in a U.S. raid on al-Qaida militants in Yemen, the U.S. ambassador in South Africa said Monday.

Ambassador Patrick Gaspard said American officials were "unaware of ongoing negotiations that had any resolution" following the militants and Gift of the Givers, a South African humanitarian relief group that had been acting on behalf of the family of South African hostage Pierre Korkie. Gaspard also said it was "not altogether clear" to him that the South African government was even aware of the talks.

Korkie and American hostage Luke Somers were killed Saturday during a U.S.-led rescue attempt. Intiaz Sooliman, founder of Gift of the Givers, has said that Korkie was supposed to be released Sunday under a deal struck with al-Qaida.

Gaspard said the U.S. hadn't

been informed about that. The U.S. decided to carry out the raid because the militants had threatened to kill Somers, Gaspard said.

"We were just completely unaware of those developments and had to act hastily," the ambassador said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

He also said the United States had believed before the raid that there may have been "other hostages in the vicinity" of Somers' location, but did not have details on the nationalities of any captives.

"At no time was it apparent that Pierre Korkie was being held in the same space as the American photojournalist Luke Somers," the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria said in a statement.

President Barack Obama has said he ordered the raid because Somers was believed to be in "imminent danger" after al-Qaida released a video showing Somers and threatening to kill him in three days if the U.S. did not meet the group's unspecified demands.

Gaspard cited comments by Sooliman that there were no guarantees that the negotiated release of Korkie would have proceeded smoothly. However, the ambassador said the talks appeared to have made progress.

"It does appear that they were pretty far down the track," Gaspard said.



Korkie

DOD issues warning over Senate torture report

BY JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Joint Staff has warned all combat commands to be on alert for possible violence following the upcoming release of a Senate Intelligence Committee report on CIA interrogation methods during President George W. Bush's administration.

The report, anticipated to be released this week, is expected to detail and condemn what many consider acts of torture carried out against terrorist suspects in the years after the 9/11 attacks.

The report is an unclassified summary of a longer 6,200 page classified document. Democrats on the committee and their staffs spent six years reviewing CIA documents about the agency's interrogation programs, which included controversial tactics like waterboarding. Those practices were prohibited after President Barack Obama came into office.

U.S. officials have expressed concern that the revelations could provoke attacks against Americans and U.S. facilities overseas.

Secretary of State John Kerry reportedly warned committee chairwoman Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., of the potential consequences of releasing the report at this time.

The House intelligence committee chairman Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., told CNN that the intelligence community believes that the report will lead to violence and deaths.

The Pentagon shares those concerns. "There is certainly the possibility that the release of this report could cause unrest, and therefore the Joint Staff has directed the combatant commands to take the appropriate force protection measures," Defense Department spokesman Col. Steve Warren told reporters Monday. He said the security mea-

sures taken would vary by region, depending on threat level assessments.

Military facilities and personnel in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility — which covers the Middle East and most of the Muslim world — are considered the most vulnerable.

Warren declined to provide details of the specific steps that military commanders are taking to enhance security at U.S. bases.

Britain and Canada have reportedly closed their embassies in Cairo in part in anticipation of a backlash against the report.

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MILITARY

Lost in the system and preying again

Military-civilian disconnect allows some sex offenders to operate off radar

By MARK GREENBLATT
Scripps News

WASHINGTON
Matthew S. Carr is the type of serial sex offender public registries were designed to track.

While serving in the U.S. Air Force, Carr approached women by posing as a doctor training in gynecology. He persuaded them to submit to pelvic exams as he inserted medical instruments, drew blood samples and even administered an injection near one victim's genitals.

A military court at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota convicted the airman in 2003 of indecent assault against seven women and sentenced him to seven years in prison.

Exactly how Carr avoided registering as a sex offender when he got out is unclear, but a critical error occurred. The military registry sent to civilian authorities mistakenly described lesser assault charges, according to a federal probation officer.

When the mother of a Reedsburg, Wis., woman typed "Matthew Carr" — the name of her daughter's new boyfriend — into sex offender registries in the summer of 2013, nothing turned up.

She soon found herself racing the 45 minutes to Reedsburg to confront Carr after another daughter's research revealed his military crimes. By then, her daughter had already submitted to multiple "exams" by the convicted sex offender.

"My blood turned absolutely cold," said the mother, whom Scripps is not identifying to protect her daughter's privacy. "I've never felt such danger, such helplessness as now before."

Charges were brought against Carr, and he was convicted and sent to prison.

An investigation by local police uncovered similar allegations involving a woman 1,000 miles away in New York, where Carr lived after leaving military prison. She didn't press charges.

The military way

A nine-month Scripps News investigation found that Carr is among hundreds of convicted military sex offenders who do not appear on the registries created to alert the public and prevent repeat crimes. Of 1,312 cases, at least 242 are not on any public U.S. sex offender registries.

The reasons vary. Unlike the civilian system, where federal law requires offenders to register before leaving prison, the military requires them to self-register when they're released — but many don't. Records can get garbled



PHOTOS BY MATT ANZUR, SCRIPPS NEWS/TNS

When the mother of a Reedsburg, Wis., woman searched public sex offender registries for the name of her daughter's new boyfriend, she found no records. Her daughter became another victim of Matthew Carr, who had previously been found guilty of assaulting seven women while in the Air Force.

during transmission to civilian authorities. And in many places, translating a military crime to its civilian equivalent can be confusing. Without a good match, an offender convicted in the military might be able to avoid registering.

In Carr's case, officials are trying to make sense of two confusing and contradictory paper trails that may have played a role. Although military court opinions reviewed by Scripps accurately documented Carr's crimes as "indecent assault," federal probation officials say the paperwork they received from the Air Force and forwarded to New York described Carr committing a lesser crime — "assault consummated by battery."

"That offense is equivalent to a civilian misdemeanor, which would not qualify someone for the sex offender registry, said a spokeswoman for New York's Board of Examiners of Sex Offenders. State law bars her from discussing specific cases, she said.

For Reedsburg police Chief Tim Becker, the breakdown that kept Carr off sex offender registries was profound.

"It's reckless," he said. "They've cleaned up what he's done in the military, and now he's revictimized people outside in the civilian world. We could have stopped all that from happening."

How many others among the more than 1,300 cases may have failed to register is difficult to know because the military keeps many details about these offenders confidential, including their photos, helping them conceal their crimes once they get out. Except for the Army, military officials won't even divulge the

state where a sex offender is released when leaving the service.

Zimman Casey

Zimman Casey was an Army private when a military court convicted him of assault and "indecent acts" on a young girl and sentenced him to three years in prison. After being released in 2002 from Fort Sill in Oklahoma, Casey headed for Texas, where the convicted sex offender effectively slid under the public radar while he preyed again.

By 2007, the former soldier had again been convicted after three more incidents of sexually assaulting a minor under 14. He was sentenced to 16 years.

For civilian offenders, the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act requires that before leaving prison, they place their names and details of their crimes on a registry. They must reregister whenever they move to a new state. The public can search not only state registries but also a Department of Justice website that links all sex offender registries nationally.

The military has a different system. Prisoners must state where they intend to move once they're released. Defense officials then inform civilian authorities but rely on the sex offenders to actually move to that location and to register themselves.

But Casey didn't register in Texas after leaving the service. Although federal law requires the military to track and make sure its sex offenders comply, Texas officials say they have no record of the Army notifying them about

'It's reckless. They've cleaned up what he's done in the military, and now he's revictimized people outside in the civilian world.'

Tim Becker
Reedsburg, Wis., police chief



Casey. The military currently lacks the legal standing to place convicted sex offenders on any registry. That responsibility rests solely with civilian authorities.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier, D-Calif., a member of the House Armed Services Committee who has led reforms against lax prosecutions of military sex offenders, called the registration failures "outrageous."

"What we have, in fact, is an effort to protect defendants," she said. "This is the kind of conduct that would require that they be on a civilian sexual offender list."

Defense officials say they are developing a policy to ensure that sex offenders comply with self-registration.

"The department categorically does not condone the heinous behavior of convicted sexual offenders cited as examples," said Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen, a Department of Defense spokesman. "That behavior simply has no place in our military."

In August, the DOD inspector general concluded that the military's current system "enables offenders to evade registration," and recommended changing the system so offenders are registered before release. According to

an IG review of cases during one quarter last year, 20 percent of the 197 offenders studied failed to self-register.

Asked why they didn't adopt the civilian model requiring registration before release, defense officials said that's for their lawyers to review. They insisted that such a rule "would have no practical effect," still leaving it up to a sex offender to sign up or dodge registries anytime he moved to a new state.

In fact, according to the inspector general, the rule would automatically put a military sex offender's profile in a national FBI database, available to authorities anywhere in the country conducting even a simple traffic stop — and help target unregistered offenders.

In response to repeated requests for on-the-record interviews, a senior defense official who declined to be identified also said that changing the system and requiring offenders to register before release could cost the military millions and would be a hardship in an era of shrinking budgets.

"This is not one of our primary missions in life," he said in a telephone interview.

SEE SYSTEMS ON PAGE 11

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MILITARY



MATT ANZUR, SCRIPPS NEWS/TNS

Among the reasons some military sex offenders don't appear in the national registry is that verdicts reached in military courtrooms like this one at the Washington Navy Yard are sometimes difficult to translate into their civilian equivalents.

Systems: Lawmaker seeks DOD registry that civilian authorities can access

FROM PAGE 10

In a step forward early last year, the DOD required that the National Sex Offender Targeting Center be notified prior to the release of any military sex offender. The center, part of the U.S. Marshals Service, tracks offenders who fail to register. A senior official at the center said even they have had trouble getting photos of offenders from the military. And, he said, they have only enough resources to focus on those released since 2013.

Basil Dwayne Kingsberry

That means someone like Army Specialist Basil Dwayne Kingsberry can elude notice for years — and has.

Court-martialed in 1999, he was convicted of rape and forcible sodomy and sentenced to 11 years and 10 months behind bars. The Army released him from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in July 2005 and, according to regulations, it was up to Kingsberry to register himself as a sex offender after release.

Kingsberry said he was heading to Adams County, Miss., and it appears the military forwarded at least some information to authorities there. But county officials have no evidence that Kingsberry ever arrived.

What is known is that Kingsberry went to Cobb County, Ga., and did attempt to register there. In letters to the Army marked "urgent," the Georgia Bureau of Investigation sought details about the Kingsberry case, but says it never got a response. The Army decided to provide any information about its handling of the case.

Georgia officials didn't give up. GBI's director, Vernon Keenan, said they reached out to Adams County officials for details about Kingsberry's conviction. County officials shared what they knew but their file was incomplete. It showed Kingsberry's conviction had been set aside, Keenan said. Missing was a military court's later ruling upholding the original conviction. So Georgia decided Kingsberry didn't need to register.

Keenan called such miscommunications and registry gaps "very dangerous."



MATT ANZUR, SCRIPPS NEWS/TNS

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., a member of the House Armed Services Committee, plans to introduce a bill to create a Department of Defense sex offender registry accessible by civilian authorities.

"The only information that we have come from the Mississippi authorities," he said.

In the nearly 10 years since his release, Kingsberry hasn't appeared on a sex offender registry anywhere in the country. "The public is interested in this, and they have a right to be," Keenan said. "There is only one government website that has more citizen access and hits on it than our sex offender registry and that's the winning numbers in the Georgia lottery."

Meanwhile, Kingsberry hasn't been entirely invisible to police. Public records show he appeared in court in October on a domestic violence charge, which is how

Scrrips learned he was in York County, S.C. When Scrrips contacted the York County sheriff about his case authorities, who had been unaware he needed to register, tried to track down Kingsberry.

At his home, they were told he'd moved. Capt. Jerry Hoffman reached Kingsberry on his cellphone and in a brief exchange told him he must register in South Carolina. Kingsberry thanked him, said he was moving to Georgia and provided an address. When Georgia officials knocked on that door, he wasn't there.

Hoffman phoned back, but said a frustrated Kingsberry wouldn't say where he was.

"Our second conversation was simply not as cordial," Hoffman said.

For now — with authorities in Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina in pursuit — Kingsberry seems to have disappeared again.

A possible fix

"Once a member separates from the military, the department loses jurisdiction over individuals and the legal authority to either track or enforce sex offender registration," said Christensen, the DOD spokesman.

He said the Pentagon will continue a partnership with the U.S. Marshals Service that began in 2010 to ensure military sex offenders register. A senior defense official later told Scrrips that one focus will be to work with an FBI database to improve notification to civilian authorities.

But Speier, the California congresswoman, said the military's reliance on th-

ers to ensure that offenders get registered "shows a gross lack of responsibility."

"Convicted sex offenders should be identified to the civilian world and should be identified to local law enforcement," she said. "That's not happening, and we have got to fix that in Congress."

Speier said she will introduce a bill to create a DOD sex offender registry that is accessible by civilian authorities. It would require the military to register its own sex offenders in the database before they are released. The DOD inspector general urged similar steps earlier this year.

Speier will also request the IG to investigate past releases of military sex offenders to see if they are complying with registration laws.

Such changes might help get someone like Derrick Coston on the registry.

On separate occasions while serving as a chief warrant officer in the Marines, he engaged in bizarre activity with three 12-year-old baby sitters. He instructed them to wear his wife's shoes and walk on his nude or partially nude body, then he rubbed their feet against his genitals.

When the Marines sentenced him to five years in prison, it was on charges of conduct unbecoming an officer — a military offense that doesn't easily translate to civilian crimes or require registration in most states, including Arizona, according to officials with the marshals service.

Coston currently lives in New River, Ariz., just 15 doors from a school. He is not on the state sex offender registry.

“Once a member separates from the military, the department loses jurisdiction over individuals and the legal authority to either track or enforce sex offender registration.”

Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen
Department of Defense spokesman

NATION



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Frederic Cesbron, right, and Maxim Durand walk on the street outside the Hyatt Regency O'Hare hotel on Sunday in Rosemont, Ill. The hotel was evacuated after a gas release sickened many people.

Gas at FurFest event investigated

By DON BABWIN
The Associated Press

ROSEMONT, Ill. — Investigators were looking into the release of a gas that sickened several hotel guests and forced thousands of people — many dressed as cartoon animals for a convention — to temporarily leave the building.

Although some participants at the Midwest FurFest convention thought the mass evacuation was just part of a show, investigators were treating it as a criminal matter.

Nineteen people who became nauseous or dizzy were treated at local hospitals, and at least 18 were released shortly thereafter. Within hours, emergency workers decontaminated the Hyatt Regency O'Hare and allowed people back inside.

The Rosemont Public Safety Department said someone apparently intentionally left chlorine powder in a ninth-floor hotel stairway, causing the gas to spread.

While authorities conducted their investigation, organizers tried to assure the participants that the evacuation would not

overshadow the FurFest event, in which attendees celebrate animals that are anthropomorphic — meaning they've been given human characteristics — through art, literature and performance. Many of costumed attendees refer to themselves as "furries."

"In walk all these people dressed like dogs and foxes," said Pieter Van Hiel, 40, a technical writer from Hamilton, Canada, chuckling as he thought about the crowd being herded into the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center as it was hosting a dog show.

Kit McCreehy, 28, from Madison, Wis., said he didn't think the incident would cause further disruption at Midwest FurFest, which was in its final day.

"I think we'll recover from this," said McCreehy, his fox tail swinging behind him as he headed back inside. "People are tired but they're still full of energy."

Others said they did not have a clue as to why anyone would intentionally disrupt the convention that includes dance contests and panel discussions on making the costumes, with some quick to point out that the brightly colored

outfits are made from fake fur and foam and not real fur.

"Nobody uses real fur," said Frederic Cesbron, 35, a forklift operator who rode a plane to Chicago from his home in France. He attended the convention dressed head-to-toe in a fox outfit that he said cost him about \$2,000 four years ago but would go for \$3,000 today.

Attendees said they came for fun, but also for the spiritual and artistic aspects of the convention that have them celebrating animal characters from movies, TV shows, comic books and video games. Some also create their own characters and appreciate being in an atmosphere where nobody seems surprised or shocked by an elaborate, bright purple dragon.

"Everyone is from a different background," said Michael Lynch, 25, from Madison, Wis., who, like his buddy, McCreehy, dressed as a fox. "Nobody judges anybody. It's nice to come to a place like that."

Or, as Van Hiel put it, "It's kind of weird, but it's not weird here."

Religious groups due in court over health law

The Associated Press

DENVER — Faith-based non-profit organizations that object to covering birth control in their employee health plans were due in federal court Monday to challenge a birth-control compromise they say still compels them to violate their religious beliefs.

The plaintiffs include a group of Colorado nuns and four Christian colleges in Oklahoma. They are already exempt from covering contraceptives under the federal health care law.

They say the exemption doesn't go far enough because they must sign away the coverage to another party, making them feel complicit

in providing the contraceptives.

The groups are appealing to the 10th Circuit in Denver, which ruled last year that for-profit companies can join the exempted religious organizations and not provide contraceptives. The U.S. Supreme Court later agreed with the 10th Circuit in the case brought by the Hobby Lobby arts-and-crafts chain.

The birth-control rule has been a divisive aspect of the health care overhaul. Advocates for women praise the mandate, but some religious groups have decried it as an attack on religious freedom.

The Denver nuns, called the Little Sisters of the Poor, run more

than two dozen nursing homes for impoverished seniors. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court offered the nuns a short-term reprieve on the exemption pending appeal.

The government was to argue Monday that its 2013 rule on religious groups and contraceptives, which requires only that a religious group sign "a self-certification form stating that it is an eligible organization," does not make that religious group complicit in providing contraceptives. The rule "does not require non-profit religious organizations with religious objections to contract, arrange, pay, or refer for that coverage," lawyers wrote in 2013.

Berkeley protest violent again on second night

The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Raucous demonstrations hit Berkeley's streets for a second straight night as protesters angered by police killings in Missouri and New York clashed with officers, vandalized businesses and even fought with each other, officials said.

Sunday's protest began peacefully on the University of California, Berkeley, campus but eventually grew rowdy and spilled into Oakland. Activists made their way onto a freeway and blocked traffic.

The California Highway Patrol said officers fired tear gas after protesters targeted them with rocks and bottles and tried to light a patrol vehicle on fire. Police also said explosives were thrown at officers, but there was no information immediately available on how potent they were.

Officers chased protesters off the roadway.

The demonstrations were the latest of several in the Bay Area — including in Oakland where activism is strong — to protest recent grand jury decisions in Missouri and New York not to indict white police officers in the deaths of two black men.

As hundreds of protesters began marching through downtown Berkeley, the unrest that

marked protests Saturday night was touched off again as someone smashed the window of a Radio Shack. When a protester tried to stop growing vandalism, he was hit with a hammer, Officer Jennifer Coats said.

Police said groups of protesters late Sunday began roaming through the downtown area, throwing trash cans into streets and lighting garbage on fire, smashing windows on buildings, and damaging and looting businesses. There also were reports of vandalism at City Hall.

Television footage showed protesters smashing door windows and breaking into buildings and setting rubbish piles ablaze.

Coats said police made five arrests in connection with the demonstrations. She said two officers sustained minor injuries Sunday night.

Coats said in a statement that there was "significant damage" to several Berkeley businesses and that many had windows smashed and several stores were looted.

She said the demonstrations had concluded by about 3:30 a.m.

There was no immediate word of any serious injuries. During the protests a day earlier, three police officers and a technician were hurt and six people were arrested when the protest turned unruly.

Federal law enforcement profiling ban unveiled

By ERIC TUCKER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration issued guidelines Monday that ban U.S. federal law enforcement from profiling on the basis of religion, national origin and other characteristics, protocols the Justice Department hopes could be a model for local departments as the nation tackles questions about the role race plays in policing.

The policy, which expands decades-old guidelines established under the Bush administration, also will require new training and data collection.

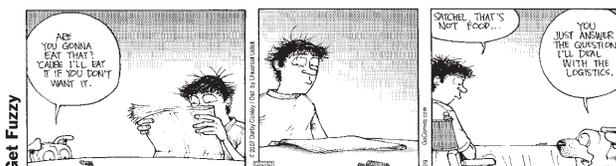
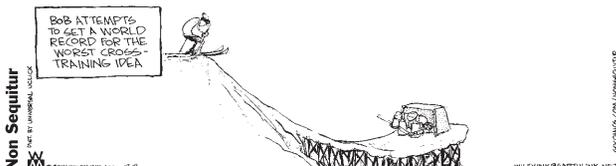
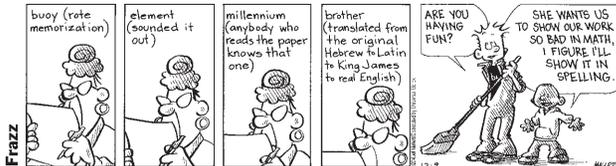
Civil rights advocates said they welcomed the broader protections, but were disappointed that the guidelines will exempt security screening in airports and border checkpoints and won't be binding on local and state police agencies.

Though the guidelines — five years in the making — were not drafted in response to recent, high-profile cases involving the deaths of black individuals at the

hands of white police officers, they're nonetheless being released amid an ongoing national conversation about standards for police use of force, racial justice and the treatment of minorities by law enforcement.

The guidelines cover federal agencies within the Justice Department, including the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. They also extend to local and state officers serving on joint task forces alongside federal agents.

Their practical impact remains to be seen, especially since local police officers are the ones primarily responsible for traffic stops, 911 calls and day-to-day interactions with the communities they patrol. But the Obama administration envisions the rules as a possible road map for local police, with Attorney General Eric Holder expected to brief local law enforcement officials Monday to encourage them to adopt the federal guidelines.



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Church service
 - 5 Meadow
 - 8 Festive
 - 12 Foot part
 - 13 Under the weather
 - 14 Hearty brews
 - 15 Mad king of literature
 - 16 Fight
 - 18 Mourns
 - 20 Not just chubby
 - 21 Existed
 - 22 Latin 101 word
 - 23 Not to be trusted
 - 26 Chic
 - 30 "the fields we go"
 - 31 Expert
 - 32 Carnival city
 - 33 Like the Muppet chef
 - 36 Location
 - 38 Remark from Cathy, in the comics
 - 39 Prompt
 - 40 Debate topic
 - 43 Fore-and-aft piece
 - 47 "The Courtship of Miles —"
 - 49 Hedgepodge
 - 50 Departed
 - 51 "Jungle Book" python
 - 52 Dickens girl
 - 53 Lambs' mamas
- DOWN**
- 1 Shopping center
 - 2 Vicinity
 - 3 Con game
 - 4 Cagey
 - 5 Rosters
 - 6 B.P.O.E. members
 - 7 —Baba
 - 8 Frolic
 - 9 "It's a Sin to Tell —"
 - 10 Not so much
 - 11 Arthur of tennis
 - 17 "— and Michele's High School Reunion"
 - 19 Aye canceler
 - 22 Dined
 - 23 "Help!"
 - 24 Chop
 - 25 Metric measure
 - 26 Univ., e.g.
 - 27 401(k) alternative
 - 28 Off-bracketed word
 - 29 Weeding tool
 - 31 Request
 - 34 Intimidates
 - 35 On the rocks
 - 36 Young pooch
 - 37 Bad cars
 - 39 "Yankee Doodle Dandy" subject
 - 40 Capri, for one
 - 41 Crock-Pot creator
 - 42 Secure
 - 43 Despot
 - 44 Sheltered
 - 45 Ledger
 - 46 Turnpike fee
 - 48 Mammie's man

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	I	C	E		D	A	S		A	S	P	S
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12-9

CRYPTOQUIP

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G N B N W E A S H Q J V A T X N W K A W

BOYER: D T H H Y M W E H - M - Y A C .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EACH TIME MY ALLERGIES ARE REALLY ACTING UP, I HAVE A TENDENCY TO DEVELOP SINUS SORENESS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals O

WORLD



AARON FAVILA/AP

A Filipino man carries a dirty plastic sheet from his house after strong waves from Typhoon Hagupit battered a coastal village in Legazpi, Albay province, eastern Philippines on Monday. Residents began trickling back to their homes after the local government said the typhoon had passed their province.

Typhoon weakens after killing 21 in Philippines

By TERESA CEROJANO
The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Philippines — Typhoon Hagupit weakened into a tropical storm Monday after leaving at least 21 people dead and forcing more than 1 million people into shelters. But it spared most of a central Philippine region still reeling from last year's monster Typhoon Haiyan that left thousands dead.

The sun peeked out over the central island provinces Monday, but Manila and nearby provinces braced for high winds as Hagupit made landfall on the resort town of San Juan in Batangas province, about 60 miles south of the Philippine capital. It had maximum sustained winds of 53 mph and gusts of 62 mph.

Although considerably weaker, the storm remained potentially dangerous and could still generate storm surges that could overwhelm coastal villages, forecasters said. More than 2,000 villagers huddled in the safety of a public

gymnasium as torrential rains pounded San Juan, a low-lying and flood-prone town locally popular for its beach resorts.

While officials expressed relief that the typhoon had not caused major damage in Tacloban and other cities that were devastated by Haiyan, they warned that it was still on course to barrel into the southern tip of the main northern island of Luzon where Manila is located, before starting to blow away Tuesday into the South China Sea.

Hagupit, which first made landfall in Eastern Samar late Saturday, was moving slowly near 6 mph and could dump heavy rain that could possibly trigger landslides and flash floods, forecasters said.

Many of those in eastern areas who evacuated to shelters started to troop back home after the typhoon had blown past their provinces, Philippine Red Cross Secretary-General Gwendolyn Pang said.

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada said more than 5,000 residents of a shantytown on the edge of Ma-

nila Bay have been evacuated due to possible storm surges.

"We've prepared and trained for this," Estrada told The Associated Press, adding that his greatest fear was widespread flooding. Metropolitan Manila has a population of more than 12 million people.

Like villagers in the central Philippines, Estrada said Manila residents were readily moving to safety because of haunting memories of Haiyan.

The strongest typhoon on record to hit land, Haiyan's tsunami-like storm surges, leveled entire villages and left more than 7,300 people dead or missing in November last year.

Hagupit left at least 21 people dead, including 16 villagers who drowned in Eastern Samar province, where the typhoon made its first landfall, according to the Philippine Red Cross. The government disaster-response agency has reported only five deaths, including three people who died of hypothermia, saying it was still verifying other reported casualties.

UAE: Stabbing in Dubai was act of a 'lone terrorist'

By AYA BATRAWY
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The woman accused of stabbing to death an American teacher in a public restroom at an Abu Dhabi mall last week was carrying out a "lone terrorist act," a security official in the United Arab Emirates said Sunday.

"Nothing so far suggests that the accused has links with terrorist organizations," said the unnamed official, who was quoted by the official UAE news agency.

The official said initial investigations and evidence show that the Emirati woman, who also planted a bomb outside an American doctor's home, learned how to manufacture explosives from websites affiliated with terrorist organizations.

The homemade bomb was located and defused by police shortly after the stabbing.

The suspect's foreign targets appear to have been selected randomly, the official said.

Police released video last week of CCTV footage showing the alleged attacker shrouded in the full black veil commonly worn by women throughout the Gulf Arab region as she left the mall, where Ibtola Ryan, 47, who had previously lived in Colorado, was



Ryan

killed. The UAE, home to Abu Dhabi and the flashy investment hub of Dubai, prides itself on being a safe haven in the turbulent Middle East.

It is part of the U.S.-led coalition conducting airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Ryan had two 11-year-old twins living with her in the UAE and a 13-year-old daughter who lived in Vienna with the children's father. He described his ex-wife in comments to the UAE news agency as "a beautiful person with a pure heart."

Candlelight vigils for Ryan were held over the weekend in Abu Dhabi and on Sunday in Dubai.

"We've lived here for seven and a half years and I've never felt anything but safe anywhere I've been day or night, and I really still do feel the same way," Nancy Ray, an American who was at the vigil in Dubai, said.

"Anything can happen anywhere, in any city in the world, and I've always felt very comfortable in Dubai and in Abu Dhabi."

Rape claim leads to Uber ban

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — The Indian capital on Monday banned taxi-banking service Uber after a woman accused one of its drivers of raping her.

Transport official Satish Mathur made the announcement as the 32-year-old suspect appeared in a New Delhi court.

The court ordered Shiv Kumar Yadav held for three days for police questioning over allegations that he raped the finance company employee after being hired to ferry her home from a dinner engagement on Friday night.

The court also ordered Yadav's cellphone confiscated, according to Press Trust of India.

The victim, almost two years after a young woman was fatally gang-

raped on a bus in the capital, has renewed national anger over sexual violence in India and demands for more effort to ensure women's safety.

The government rushed through legislation last year to double prison terms for rape to 20 years and to criminalize voyeurism, stalking and the trafficking of women.

Activists say much more needs to be done, including better educating youths and adding basic infrastructure such as street lights and public bathrooms.

The CEO of San Francisco-based Uber, Travis Kalanick, said the company would do "everything" to bring the perpetrator to justice and to support the victim and her family in her recovery."

Liberian president's son sues over ban on campaigning

The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's son, who is running for a Senate seat, has filed a lawsuit contesting her Ebola-related ban on political rallies, an official said Monday.

While Liberia is the country most affected by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, infection

rates are stabilizing there, and the government has decided to go ahead with the Dec. 16 election.

Police initially agreed to allow political rallies and gatherings in the run-up to the vote, which had previously been postponed.

Last week, the president issued a ban on all gatherings in the capital, citing fears they could help

spread Ebola.

There were concerns the president was using Ebola as an excuse and imposed the ban because large crowds gathered in support of her son's opponent.

Robert Sirleaf, who is running for a seat in the Monrovia area, has now filed a suit asking for the ban to be lifted.

The Supreme Court put a stay on the ban until it can hear the suit, Information Minister Lewis Brown said on state radio Monday. The case is scheduled to be taken up this week, he said.

Robert Sirleaf's opponent, soccer legend George Weah, also opposes the ban.

Critics of Robert Sirleaf say his

suit is merely a show of distancing himself from his mother, who has been accused of nepotism for giving him plum government posts in the past.

Robert Sirleaf has served as chairman of the board of the National Oil Co. of Liberia and as a senior adviser to the president. He has since resigned both posts.

SHIFTING GEARS

Actor Keanu Reeves, left, and Gard Hollinger have teamed up to create Arch Motorcycle Co., maker of high-end bikes in Hawthorne, Calif.

WALLY SKALI, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS



Keanu's company produces \$78,000 bike

By CHARLES FLEMING
Los Angeles Times

HAWTHORNE, Calif. — Sporting a beard and wearing brown leather boots and jacket, Keanu Reeves summed up the new motorcycle he's selling in a single word: "Awesome."

The \$78,000 KRGT-1, years in the making, is a "custom motorcycle you can really ride," the actor said.

Reeves conceived and designed the bike in partnership with his Arch Motorcycle Co. co-owner Gard Hollinger, who built the KRGT-1 off specs and sketches he and Reeves cooked up.

Standing in a high-ceiling brick-walled warehouse here, surrounded by sections of KRGT-1s in various stages of readiness, Hollinger said his first introduction to Reeves was not very promising.

"Someone called and asked me if I was interested in building a sissy bar for Keanu Reeves," Hollinger recalled. "I said, 'No, but I'm happy to meet with him.'"

Within a short time, Reeves had given Hollinger a 2005 Harley-Davidson to customize, and a friendship was born.

Hollinger is a lifelong rider, mechanic and designer, having started racing dirt bikes as a kid growing up in Los Angeles. He worked in a boatyard in the San

“There's a general attitude that no motorcycle should ever cost \$78,000. But that's the kind of person who's never going to buy a Roll Royce. We never set out to make something affordable.”

Gard Hollinger
Arch Motorcycle Co. co-owner

Juan Islands, owned a motorcycle shop in Seattle, and built choppers and bobbers as a "fabricator for hire" and then at his own Ziggy Harley Custom Motorcycles in Canoga Park.

Reeves came to motorcycles later in life. When he was 22, he bought a Kawasaki KLR600 while working on a movie in Germany. The bike was stolen, but the hook was set. When he returned to Los Angeles, he bought a classic Norton Commando.

Over the years, he acquired more bikes — sometimes buying them for the duration of a movie shoot, and selling them when the production wrapped — owning Moto Guzzis, Suzukis and Harleys.

The KRGT-1 started as a one-off custom bike for Reeves, but as it became a reality, the actor started talking about making more of them. Hollinger couldn't

see it, and found reasons to dismiss the idea.

Finally, Reeves told him, "I want you to stop telling me why we can't do this, and start telling me how we can."

Once the design was underway, the two men were in agreement about what the KRGT-1 would be and do. "We didn't want a bike that would just look pretty sitting in your living room," Hollinger said. "It had to be comfortable and reliable."

"It had to go into extreme lean angles and really take care of you," Reeves said.

Now completed and undergoing the testing required to pass emissions and noise standards, the KRGT-1 looks like a rough-hewn road warrior. Blacked-out rims, cylinder heads and fork tubes are stark against the bright chrome and polished aluminum of the gas tank, exhaust pipes and upswept

muffler.

The engine — a 120-cubic-inch V-twin producing 121 horsepower and 121 pound-feet of torque — roars like an untamed beast.

But this beast is a beauty, a hand-crafted, 538-pound piece of motorcycle art. Each bike requires hundreds of hours of labor.

The two-section gas tank alone requires 60 hours of work to turn from 600 pounds of solid aluminum into the sinuously-curved 21-pound final product.

The bike is fast, too. At a recent test run on the track at Willow Springs International Raceway near Lancaster, Hollinger said, professional motorcycle racer Danny Eslick took the KRGT1 up to 138 mph.

Arch employs eight workers at the Hawthorne facility. It is in the process of assembling the first five production KRGT-1s and crafting parts for more. The company is taking orders for bikes that Hollinger said can be delivered in 90 days.

Hollinger and Reeves plan to build a maximum of 100 machines a year, and may expand their line to three different Arch models. But the price point won't come down.

"There's a general attitude that no motorcycle should ever cost \$78,000," Hollinger said. "But that's the kind of person who's never going to buy a Roll Royce. We never set out to make something affordable."

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US MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SALES IN GERMANY & ITALY

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Deer breaks into home, ransacks bathroom

NJ GALLOWAY — Police said a deer burst through the front doors of a New Jersey home, darted through the residence and ransacked the master bathroom.

Galloway police received a 911 call about 3:30 p.m. Saturday from a woman reporting that a deer ran through her house while she was putting sweet potatoes into the oven. The woman said she followed the deer into the back of the house and locked it in a bathroom.

Responding officers found the glass on the front storm door shattered. They also found the frame on the main door damaged, indicating that the deer muscled its way through two doors to enter the home.

After a brief standoff, police escorted the deer from the home and released it into the wild.

The bathroom was significantly damaged.

Robbery suspect hurt in scuffle charged

AZ PHOENIX — A man who was injured in a scuffle with a clerk while allegedly trying to rob a Phoenix liquor store is facing charges including robbery.

Phoenix police spokesman James Holmes said Deray Darnell Hannah, 29, was released from a hospital Saturday and was booked on one count each of armed robbery, prohibited possession of a firearm and first-degree burglary.

Authorities said Hannah went into Discount King Market on Wednesday with a handgun and attempted to steal computer equipment.

Police said the 49-year-old clerk grabbed Hannah's gun and the two got into a physical altercation. The gun went off but nobody was shot.

Hannah was hospitalized with bleeding from his head and face. The clerk was uninjured.

5-foot-tall crucifix stolen from church

NY NEW YORK — Police are searching for suspects who stole a 5-foot by 3-foot wooden crucifix from a Roman Catholic Church in the Bronx.

Police said Saturday the \$5,000 cross was reported missing Wednesday night from the lobby of Saint Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church in the borough's Morrisania neighborhood.

They say services were underway when the theft occurred. Pastor Josu Iriordio told the New York Post the crucifix must have been unscrewed from the wall. He said parishioners may have mistaken the heist for renovations.

Iriordio, 75, told the newspaper congregants are praying for the safe return of the crucifix.

Police dogs receive protective vests

IL NORMAL — Two police dogs at the Normal Police

THE CENSUS

200K

The volume in gallons of used cooking oil stolen from restaurants in Rhode Island and Massachusetts that netted two brothers six months of home confinement and two years of probation. Andrew Jeremiah, 78, and Bruce Jeremiah, 72, were sentenced Thursday. The stolen oil was taken to their business in Central Falls, R.I., then to a company in Pittsfield, N.H., for processing into animal feed and biodiesel.



MICHAEL CIAGLO, THE COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/AP

Santa in the stall

Erin Colton jokes around Saturday as she sits in a portable toilet before the Chasing Santa 5K, a race in which hundreds of runners dressed as Santa Claus that took part in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Department in central Illinois are receiving protective vests to wear while on duty.

The (Bloomington, Ill.) Pantagraph reported that Gunner and Bartlett are two of more than 350 police dogs across the country that will receive the protection through a fundraising effort dubbed Vested Interest in K9s Inc. The campaign raised more than \$335,000 for bullet- and stab-proof vests for dogs after a police dog named Rocco was fatally stabbed in Pittsburgh last January.

Gunner and Bartlett help the Normal Police Department with drug searches and tracking felons and violent criminals.

The fitted vests cost about \$950 each. They're expected to arrive early in the new year.

Police: Youths take delivery car for joyride

IA DES MOINES — Authorities said two Iowa youths stole a pizza delivery car and went on a joyride in Des Moines.

Police caught a 13-year-old and a 12-year-old after the car was reported missing on Thursday.

Papa John's Pizza driver Borislay Paji told police he was delivering pizzas to an apartment

complex after 8 p.m., and when he stepped outside his silver Kia was gone.

The boys were charged with second-degree theft and interference with official acts for running from the vehicle. Police said they fled when officers found them, and the 12-year-old told police they were joyriding.

Police said the 13-year-old, who was driving, was a passenger in another car that was stolen a week ago.

Rocket fans cheer as porta-potty blasts off

MI THREE OAKS — Mission accomplished!

A group of rocket enthusiasts launched a porta-potty into the sky Saturday in southwestern Michigan. It made an arc and almost landed on a spectator's pickup 2,000 feet away.

A group of Michiana Rocketry club members planned the project for more than two years. The club is trying to increase awareness of rocketry as a hobby and to prove it's possible to turn a porta-potty into a rocket and launch it successfully.

The Herald Palladium newspaper said liftoff occurred in a

soybean field near Three Oaks in Berrien County. About 30 people worked on the rocket, from engineers to salespeople who lined up sponsors.

Rocket enthusiast Bob Bycraft said it was carefully planned. He said it wasn't "barnyard engineering."

Holsteins take a stroll down thoroughfare

MN RED WING — The small herd of black-and-white Holsteins certainly looked out of place.

Six wayward dairy cows sauntered down the main drag in Red Wing, a small city tucked along the Mississippi River.

Police Chief Roger Pohلمان said it took three officers to corral the cattle Wednesday night.

Pohلمان said police got a call from the cattle owner, who noticed his trailer gate was down when he returned to his farm in Hager City, Wis., and that he was missing a few cows. He had stopped in Red Wing and figured that's where they made their break for freedom.

The chief said the officers herded the cows into a nearby parking enclosure. He said it's a

good thing the cattle were dairy cows because they're more cooperative than beef cattle.

Police: Man, 18, dies playing Russian roulette

OH COLUMBUS — Police in Ohio said an 18-year-old man killed himself while playing Russian roulette.

The Columbus Dispatch reported that Rashaun McCrae died Dec. 1, and it took Whitehall police several days to confirm his cause of death and to investigate the accounts of friends in the house at the time.

Police reports say an 18-year-old friend told officers that McCrae was sitting in a kitchen spinning the cylinder of a revolver and asked him if he wanted to play Russian roulette. The friend declined, left the room and heard a gunshot.

A 23-year-old woman told police that McCrae showed her and a friend the gun, loaded it with one bullet, held it to his head and fired.

One 911 caller said she heard shouts of "Why would you do this?"

From wire reports

FACES



Kevin Wouk/AP

Tom Hanks (left) and Sting share a laugh as they gather with fellow 2014 Kennedy Center Honorees Al Green (right), Patricia McBride (front left) and Lily Tomlin (front right) at the State Department Honorees Dinner for the Kennedy Center Honors on Saturday at the State Department in Washington.

Cultural treasures

Hanks, Sting, Tomlin feted as Kennedy Center honorees

By **BRETT ZONCKER**
The Associated Press

Tom Hanks and Sting joined Lily Tomlin, singer Al Green and ballerina Patricia McBride in being awarded this year's Kennedy Center Honors for influencing American culture through the arts.

Top performers and power players from Hollywood, Broadway and Washington gathered Sunday to salute them in a gala performance. The show hosted by Stephen Colbert will be broadcast Jan. 1 on AFN-Spectrum.

David Letterman led a series of tributes for Hanks, reciting some of the 58-year-old actor's unforgettable lines from his movies:

"Momma always said life is like a box of chocolates."

"There's no crying in baseball!"

"Houston, we have a problem."

Filmmaker Steven Spielberg, who collaborated with Hanks on many projects, said "America's favorite son" has opened a window on the nation with movies that include "Philadelphia," "A League of Their Own," "Forrest Gump," "Apollo 13" and "Saving Private Ryan."

"Tom loves his country," Spielberg said.

Sting, 63, broke out in 1978 with his band The Police with such hits as "Roxanne" and later "Every Breath You Take" before starting his solo career. He has been performing for four decades and has won 16 Grammy Awards.

Many musicians sang his tunes in his honor. Lady Gaga sang "If I Ever Lose My Faith in You," Esperanza Spalding sang "Fragile" and Bruno Mars sang a medley of "So Lonely," "Roxanne" and "Message in a Bottle."

President Barack Obama saluted the honorees Sunday at the White House before the show.

Tomlin, 75, is known for memorable comedy specials, Broadway shows and movie roles, including "9 to 5."

"Al Green can caress a lyric like no one else," said Whoopi Goldberg, who lauded Green, 68, for his unmistakable sound. Leading entertainers, including Usher, Jennifer Hudson and Earth, Wind and Fire sang some of Green's greatest hits.

McBride, 72, forged her artistic career in dance. She joined the New York City Ballet at 16 after studying under the great choreographer George Balanchine and quickly became the company's youngest principal dancer at 18. It's a role she would hold for 28 years.

'Happy,' 'Frozen' atop iTunes' end-of-year list

The Associated Press

The soundtrack for "Frozen" and Pharrell's viral "Happy" are the year's top-selling album and song on iTunes.

Apple announced Monday that Taylor Swift's "1989," just released in October, is behind "Frozen." Coldplay's "Ghost Stories," Sam Smith's "In the Lonely Hour" and the "Guardians of the Galaxy" soundtrack round out the Top 5 albums.

John Legend's "All of Me," Katy Perry's "Dark Horse," "Talk a Dirty Game" by Jason Derulo and Iggy Azalea's "Fancy" follow "Happy" on the songs list.

"Frozen" is the year's best-selling movie, and season three of "Game of Thrones" is the top TV show.

The top paid and free apps for the iPhone are Heads Up! and Facebook Messenger. The top paid and free apps for the iPad are Minecraft — Pocket Edition and YouTube.

John Green's 2012 novel, "The Fault in Our Stars" — which had a film adaptation this year — is the top fiction book. "Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt" and "Private" are No. 1 for non-fiction and free books, respectively.

Apple also released the editorial list, naming Swift's "1989" best album of the year. Beyonce earned top overall artist and Azalea's "Fancy" best song.

Grammy nods favor Beyonce, Pharrell, Smith

The year's brightest newcomer, Sam Smith; the most nominated female in Grammy history, Beyonce; and mega-producer Pharrell led the Grammy Award nominations, with six nominations apiece.

Smith's "In the Lonely Hour," Beyonce's surprise self-titled release and Pharrell's "G I R L" will compete for the coveted album of the year, along with Beck's "Morning Phase" and Ed Sheeran's "X," the most streamed album on Spotify this year.

The Recording Academy announced its nominees for the 57th annual show throughout the day Dec. 5.

Pharrell earned a whopping three nominations for the top prize thanks to his production work on Beyonce and Sheeran's albums, which means the hit maker has a shot to take four awards at most when the Grammys take place Feb. 8.

'Hunger Games' tops slow box office weekend

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1" continues to dominate the domestic box office, but awards season hopefuls "Wild" and "The Imitation Game" proved their might on a sleepy weekend at the box office.

In its third weekend in release, "Mockingjay — Part 1" earned an estimated \$21.6 million. It's now earned \$257.7 million domestically.

"Penguins of Madagascar" took second place with \$11.1 million in its second weekend, while the raunchy comedy "Horrible Bosses 2" claimed third place with \$8.6 million. The fourth and fifth spots went to the animated "Big Hero 6" (\$8.13 million) and "Interstellar" (\$1.33 million).

"The Pyramid," an R-rated horror film, barely cracked the top 10 in its debut with \$1.35 million.

"Wild," starring Reese Witherspoon, opened Wednesday in 21 theaters, earning an estimated \$630,000 over three days.

The biggest success story of the weekend is the Alan Turing biopic "The Imitation Game," which took in an estimated \$402,000 from eight locations.

'Boydhood' sweeps LA Film Critics Awards

"Boydhood" is on a roll. The Los Angeles Film Critics Association named Richard Linklater's 12-year experiment their best picture of 2014 on Sunday. Linklater also earned a best director honor for his film, while Patricia Arquette picked up best actress.

The top acting honor went to Tom Hardy for "Locke." J.K. Simmons was awarded with best supporting actor for his portrayal of a sadistic jazz instructor in the indie "Whiplash."

Shows that share 'Son of Anarchy's motorcycle love

Newsday

As "Sons of Anarchy" prepares to air its final episode (Wednesday on AFN-Spectrum), we take a look at five other shows in which motorcycles were prominently featured.

"Then Came Bronson" (1969-70)

Brooding loner Jim Bronson (Michael Parks) dealt with a friend's suicide by taking to the highways of America on his late pal's Harley searching for the Meaning of Life.

"Marcus Welby, M.D." (1969-76)

Way back in the day, James Brolin was a sex symbol of sorts playing Welby's young protege, Dr. Steven Kiley. He set hearts aflutter by making house calls on his Triumph Bonneville.

"Happy Days" (1974-83)

Arthur Herbert Fonzarelli (Henry Winkler) cherished nothing more in life than his 1949 Triumph Trophy TR5.

"CHiPs" (1977-83)

You simply did not mess with Jon (Larry Wilcox) and Ponch (Eric Estrada) as they cruised Cali's freeways on their Kawasakis hunting down lawbreakers.

"Street Hawk" (1985)

Rex Smith was the human headliner of this short-lived action series, but the real star was the ex-cop's experimental cycle, capable of speeds exceeding 300 mph and much more mayhem.



FX/AP

From left, David Labrava, Ron Perlman, Kim Coates, Tommy Flanagan, Mark Boone Junior and Charlie Hunnam star as men who love their motorcycles on "Sons of Anarchy."

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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 tleonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Managing Editor International
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croyley, Managing Editor for Content
 troyley.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 Weyr, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 weyrteddie@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.365.9310, cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310
Pacific
 Paul Alexander, Pacific Bureau Chief
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377
Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 +1(202)761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908
 +1(202)761.0890; Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Amanda Trypanis, Design Desk Supervisor
 trypanis.amanda@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 tel: (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: (+1)202.761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
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OPINION

What's cruel and unusual punishment today?

By ROBERT SMITH and G. BEN COHEN

Should a fisherman face two decades in prison for discarding a few fish at sea? That question is at the core of a statutory interpretation case the Supreme Court heard in November, but it also raises another question: What does "cruel and unusual punishment" mean today?
 When a Florida fish and wildlife officer boarded John Yates' fishing boat, he found a number of fish too small to be legally caught. Before reaching land, Yates discarded three of the fish. To punish him, federal prosecutors used a white-collar crime statute criminalizing the destruction of "any record, document or tangible object" intended to obstruct a federal investigation.

During oral arguments, Justice Antonin Scalia argued that Yates could have received 20 years and asked the prosecutor: "What kind of sensible prosecution is that?" The lawyer for the government responded that federal prosecutors often do not prosecute such offenses, but when they do they pursue "the offense that's the most severe under the law." Scalia retorted: "If that's going to be the Justice Department's position, then I think it would be much more careful about how extensive statutes are."

Amen to that. The courts should be much more careful. Yates received a 30-day prison sentence but is appealing his conviction, claiming that the law known as Sarbanes-Oxley is intended to cover shredded documents, not dead fish. To address Scalia's question, though, a 20-year sentence for throwing three fish into the ocean would be cruel and unusual.

The judiciary needs to vigorously guard against statutes that allow excessive pun-

ishment. Our legislators are human. They read the news. They are subject to the same vulnerabilities and weaknesses as the rest of us. Our criminal penalties too often reflect the fear and anger triggered by some violent crime or a cold and sober calculus about what harm was caused or what deterrent is necessary.

The problem is that once crime-fighting legislation is passed, it is very difficult to undo. General societal anxiety around crime means that candidates rarely propose reducing criminal sanctions when they are running for office. As Justice Stephen Breyer puts the point, politicians "were in the popular club in high school" and they know how to "hold their finger up to the wind to measure popularity."

Given the stickiness of criminal statutes, the responsibility of the judiciary is to question whether Americans would tolerate the punishment if it were applied routinely to everyone who commits the offense. Any punishment that is tolerated only because it is applied infrequently and unevenly is not one that the Eighth Amendment tolerates.

The Supreme Court's current approach to Eighth Amendment claims is needlessly obtuse — and results in too little judicial intervention into punishment practices.

This argument is not limited to fishermen who throw gopher back into the ocean. Draconian punishments are repeatedly used for nonviolent drug offenses. For example, in *Amiri, L.A.*, a defendant received a life sentence in 2011 for possessing marijuana for the fourth time. There is a nearby area in New Orleans where twentysomethings often possess marijuana and, no doubt, could have been convicted multiple times. We call that drug-ridden neighborhood Uptown, and its population includes

Tulane University students, some of whom are the sons and daughters of Louisiana's wealthiest residents.

It does not take much reflection to absorb the reality that interminable prison sentences for nonviolent Louisiana teens or death sentences for homicides would not be tolerated if they were applied consistently and evenly to anyone — white or black, rich or poor. Most of the people serving excessive prison sentences are among the nation's poorest and least influential citizens. No powerful lobby presses their plight. And often the loss of franchise is a cost of their incarceration.

While the criminalization of marijuana possession may have the broadest impact, the haphazard application of the death penalty makes the deepest cut. A majority of states have abandoned the death penalty in law or in practice. ... And most Americans live in a place where no one has been sentenced to death in years.

We live in a nation that incarcerates a larger percentage of its population than any other industrialized nation on Earth. We have emptied our public hospitals, mental health wards and drug treatment facilities, and filled up our prisons. We treat people who commit crimes with a brutality that would be incomprehensible if the people who suffered under the burden of this system were the loved ones of the people who make and enforce our law.

This is a judicial failure. If a punishment wouldn't be tolerated if applied regularly and evenly, then the power and responsibility to ensure that it is not imposed at all rests with the courts.

Robert Smith is an assistant professor of law at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. G. Ben Cohen is an attorney with the Promise of Justice Initiative in New Orleans. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Pot industry following trail blazed by Big Tobacco

By SAMUEL T. WILKINSON

Last month, people voted to legalize recreational use of marijuana in Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia. As the movement toward marijuana legalization continues, lawmakers and policy experts are looking to the experiments in Colorado and Washington for guidance. We should not overlook, however, valuable lessons from our experience with another legal drug: tobacco.

In the late 19th century, the landscape of tobacco consumption was very different than it is today. Tobacco use was much less prevalent, and cigarettes accounted for a tiny portion of consumption. Yet by the mid-20th century almost half of U.S. adults smoked, with major consequences for our public health. Despite important health policy achievements since, cigarette smoking remains a major contributor to the top causes of death in the United States, including cardiovascular and lung diseases, as well as cancer.

This drastic rise in the prevalence of smoking is attributed to a number of successful business strategies. Hand-rolling of cigarettes, a technique that limited production potential, was supplanted by machine manufacturing. Changes in the chemical composition and curing process of cigarettes made them more flavorful as well as more addictive. Aggressive marketing techniques sought to build a larger consumer base.

Advertisements often featured doctors in an effort to quell public fear over smoking-related health concerns; other campaigns targeted children or adolescents, who represented potential lifetime consumers. Finally, the industry used powerful lobbying groups to protect their

profits from regulations aimed at curbing consumption.

Alarming, marijuana businesses are now mimicking many of Big Tobacco's successful strategies. New methods of consuming marijuana (such as vaporization) are said to represent a healthier way to get high — though little research supports this claim — encouraging individuals to consume more marijuana in one sitting. The percentage of tetrahydrocannabinol (the euphoria-inducing compound associated with many adverse health effects) in marijuana is much higher than it was a few decades ago. Just as tobacco companies featured doctors in their advertisements, marijuana advocates have appealed to medical authority by successfully lobbying in many places for the approval of "medical marijuana" for a plethora of conditions, even when little or no scientific evidence supports its use. While it is laudable that Colorado has placed restrictions on marijuana advertising, it is also disturbing that the marijuana industry quickly mounted powerful legal efforts to challenge these restrictions in court.

The formula for success in profiting from a legal drug is simple and has been used often by Big Tobacco. Identify a product with addictive potential, aggressively market it to as large an audience as possible, develop technical innovations to allow for and promote increased consumption, and deny or minimize potential costs to human health. The marijuana industry is poised to copy this formula, with dire consequences.

Important lessons can also be drawn from the Netherlands, where marijuana has been decriminalized since 1976. Following decriminalization, the Dutch government strictly enforced guidelines prohibiting advertising and transactions above a cer-

tain quantity (to discourage mass production and distribution). For about a decade, marijuana consumption rates remained stable. However, in the mid-1980s, waning enforcement of those guidelines coincided with a drastic increase in both the commercialization of marijuana and rates of consumption. The overriding lesson from the Netherlands is that it was commercialization, not decriminalization itself, that led to sharp increases in use.

If we are intent on legalizing marijuana for recreational use, lessons from the tobacco industry and the Dutch marijuana experiment suggest that we do so in a way that does not incorporate incentives against the interests of public health. Similar to efforts in Uruguay, production and distribution should be done solely by the government so as to ensure that there is no corporate incentive to entice more people to consume marijuana in larger quantities. If the government is to regulate, it should be banned, or as stringently regulated as allowed by law.

While the health effects of marijuana are generally not as severe as those of cigarette smoking, the consequences — including addiction, psychosis and impaired cognitive ability — are comparable to tobacco. Notably, these effects are most pronounced in children and adolescents. Claims that marijuana legalization will make it easier to prevent use by minors are not backed by scientific or historical evidence. The most prevalent drugs consumed by teenagers above the age of 12 are alcohol and tobacco. This should give us pause to consider the optimal way to legalize marijuana — and indeed whether other states should consider legalization at all.

Samuel T. Wilkinson is a resident physician in psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

Inciting violence is powerful – and weak

BY SHIBLEY TELHAMI

The horrific attack on a Jerusalem synagogue last month has generated heated discussion about the causes of violence. The latest villain — an old one, really — is inflammatory Palestinian rhetoric. But it's the wrong explanation for a much deeper problem. Incitement can make matters worse, but it is rarely a primary cause of violence and often is its outcome.

We have been here before. From 1998 to 2000, I served on the American side of the Trilateral U.S.-Israeli-Palestinian Anti-Incitement Committee, which came out of the Wye River agreements. Benjamin Netanyahu was in his first stint as Israeli prime minister and, having opposed the Oslo agreements, he had been pressured into the talks by President Bill Clinton. Netanyahu stressed Palestinian "incitement" as the cause of the failure of peace negotiations, and the committee was established to appease him.

From the outset, Israelis and Palestinians could not agree how to define incitement. Israelis would present, for instance, a statement by a Muslim religious figure against Israel, and Palestinians would respond by citing settlement construction or episodes of Palestinian humiliation. And so it went — with each side downplaying the examples of the other or simply rejecting them.

This debate about what was worse — Israel using its dominant power to alter Palestinian lives or troubling Palestinian rhetoric — was never settled, and indeed it could not be settled without a real prospect for peace. In the end, little progress emerged.

Incitement is sometimes employed by those seeking to prevent reconciliation. To be sure, but its resonance in society is broader. This is especially true when there's pervasive pessimism about the prospects for peace and people are pre-

paring themselves emotionally for conflict — something that is made easier when the enemy is demonized.

We see this among both Israelis and Arabs. Research I conducted for my book "The World Through Arab Eyes" showed that majorities of each side initially reacted to the other's civilian casualties not with empathy but a sense that the other side "brought it upon itself." This is not purely a function of hate. Most Palestinians rejected terrorism against Israelis in the 1990s when there was genuine hope for peace, while the overwhelming majority of Israelis rejected expelling Palestinians from their homes. Attitudes changed after negotiations collapsed.

Fighting provocation and incitement in conflicts is difficult because they often serve strategic aims. Just as empathy with the enemy is discouraged because it might diminish the will to fight, so a weaker party will often use incitement to muster the will to sustain the fight. By contrast, provocation is often the tool of the stronger party, as it pushes for an earlier fight while it has the upper hand.

My research shows that countering incitement with information that might humanize the other side often gets the opposite result. When Arabs hear stories of the Holocaust, or Israelis confront reports of historical Palestinian suffering, their reactions are similar: They resent the accounts as instruments intended to elicit sympathy or weaken their will.

Both Arab and Israeli leaders have been guilty of incitement and provocation, but the degree to which their words have effect is itself debatable. After almost five decades of occupation, Palestinians are no closer to freedom, and Israelis are no closer to peace; most have given up hope on the very possibility of two states. This reality is far more powerful than the utterances of any individual.

In the face of angry public sentiments, leaders' words have limited impact. Jor-



NASSER SHAYKH/ALP

An Israeli soldier argues with a Palestinian protester trying to block a highway between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea near the West Bank town of Jericho on Nov. 28.

dan's government, for example, condemned the synagogue attack. But Jordan's parliament, mindful more of public rage than King Abdullah's desires, moved to honor the killers.

Highlighting incitement is partly a political decision. After Ehud Barak replaced Netanyahu as prime minister in 1999, the full Anti-Incitement Committee never met again. Barak, who aimed for a comprehensive political deal, didn't take the issue seriously. Had the negotiations succeeded in shaping a durable Israeli-Palestinian peace, some incitement would probably still occur, but few would pay attention. Conversely, the collapse of negotiations in 2000 and the advent of more violence would

have negated any anti-incitement deal. As it was, even the limited steps on media and education that seemed acceptable to both sides were forgotten as soon as casualties started to mount.

So it will be with the current state of affairs. If an agreement appealing to majorities on both sides is reached, incitement will be widely ignored. If the efforts fail, no media or public relations efforts will stop mounting provocation and incitement campaigns — or the violence that will erupt with or without these campaigns.

Shibley Telhami is a professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Ending Assad regime key to defeating Islamic State

BY MUHAMMAD AL-YAQUBI

I recently traveled from Morocco to Fishers, Ind., to lead funeral prayers for Peter Kassig, an American aid worker killed by terrorists from the so-called Islamic State. On behalf of the Syrian people, I offered my condolences to Kassig's parents and extended my thanks for his heroic efforts. It was the least I could do for a courageous American who gave up his comfortable life in the United States to serve desperate civilians in war-torn Syria.

It is, unfortunately, not surprising that the Islamic State brazenly beheaded Peter — who was also known as Abdul-Rahman Kassig, the name he took after his conversion to Islam following his capture — even as he was fulfilling the Prophet Muhammad's directive to "show mercy toward those on earth, so that you may receive mercy from heaven." His killing goes against every Islamic principle that the Islamic State claims to embrace.

The Islamic State is likely the most extreme group in Islam's history. It can be compared to the seventh-century Kharijite sect, which zealously executed even fellow Muslims for apostasy to the extent that Muslim travelers through Kharijite lands would pretend to be pagans seeking conversion. The Islamic State likewise brutally slaughters devout Muslims for their advocacy of democracy, although the



SANA/AP

As civil war rages, Syrian President Bashar Assad is sworn in for his third seven-year term in Damascus on July 16.

majority of Sunni scholars have said that democracy is compatible with Islam. The group also engages in sectarian cleansing of Yazidis, Christians and those of other faiths, despite well-established Sunni jurisprudence protecting the rights of non-Muslims.

Sunni Muslim scholars across the world have condemned the Islamic State's crimes and sought to rebut its flimsy arguments. I joined more than 100 other prominent Is-

lamic scholars to issue a fatwa, or Islamic edict, that refutes the deviant Islamic State ideology from the perspective of Islamic jurisprudence, showing how the group has twisted the words of the Holy Quran and the prophetic tradition. In a statement last month, I further noted that Muslims have a moral duty to warn law enforcement agencies if they know of anyone traveling to join the Islamic State.

However, more needs to be done. To defeat the Islamic State, we need to take serious steps to deprive it of the political justification for its existence on Syrian soil: the regime of dictator Bashar Assad.

For centuries, my home town of Damascus was renowned as a beacon of religious coexistence among Sunnis, Shiites, Jews and Christians. In 1944, almost two decades before the United States passed the Voting Rights Act and more than a half-century before Americans elected Barack Obama as president, Syrians chose Fares al-Khoury, a Protestant Christian, as their prime minister.

The Syrian uprising of 2011 was based on a desire to return to our grand past. It was a protest movement of all faiths, as Syrians of all stripes took to the streets chanting for freedom and democracy. But the Assad regime cracked down with unspeakable horrors. More than 200,000 people have been killed as the regime deployed its full arsenal, including barrel bombs and

warfare, against civilians. More than 9 million Syrians have been displaced, including more than 3 million refugees, and thousands have been tortured to death in Assad's dungeons. All this occurred while the world looked on.

If the West truly wants to destroy the Islamic State, it should force the Assad regime, through diplomatic and military pressure, including airstrikes against the regime's power centers, to negotiate a political transition by which it hands over power so that the Syrian people can unite to rebuild the country and fight terrorism.

The Islamic State has benefited from the world's inaction; had it not been for the tyrannical Assad regime and its genocidal campaign against its people, we would not have seen foreign fighters pouring into Syria or witnessed the group exploit the chaos and suffering to develop its own state apparatus. Further inaction in toppling the regime will threaten the entire region and the United States.

Peter Kassig, a hero to the Syrian people, risked his life to provide healing and hope to Syrians amid the carnage and despair. For the sake of his noble sacrifice, we are duty-bound to defeat the Islamic State, end Assad's reign of terror and continue the quest for healing.

Muhammad Al-Yaqubi was an imam of the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria, until his exile in 2011. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS

Top 25 roundup

Huskies upset No. 13 Aztecs

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Lorenzo Romar and Washington are tired of being an afterthought. They want to return the Huskies to the Pac-12 elite and the national conversation.

Sunday night was a good start. “We’ve had two years where we’ve been mediocre and guys don’t want to be mediocre anymore,” the coach said.

Nigel Williams-Goss scored 15 points, and Washington held No. 13 San Diego State to a school record for fewest points in the Huskies’ 49-36 win.

Andrew Andrews added 13 points as Washington (7-0) posted just its second win over a ranked opponent since 2011 by beating the Aztecs at their own game and being better at the defensive end.

“We told our team before we even started practicing, that potentially we could be a really, really good defensive team,” Romar said.

San Diego State (6-2) shot just 24.0 percent. It was the lowest shooting percentage for the Aztecs dating to 1996 and the second time this season under 25 percent in a game. San Diego State shot 24.6 percent in beating Cal State Bakersfield last month.

The 36 points were the fewest for San Diego State as a Division I program. The previous low was 38 against Utah in 1999.

“Our offense was bad. That’s the only way you can put it and they had a lot to do with that,” coach Steve Fisher said. “They had a lot to do with it but we had a lot to do with it also. They gave us nothing easy until the very end.”

No. 1 Kentucky 82, Eastern Kentucky 49: Karl-Anthony Towns scored a career-high 19 points and host Kentucky rolled

to victory.

Two days after a hard-fought victory over No. 6 Texas, the Wildcats (9-0) had a significantly easier time against the neighboring Colonels, whose campus is located about 20 miles south of Lexington. Despite making its first three-point attempt with 2:57 remaining, Kentucky still shot 33-for-58 from the field (57 percent) and dominated almost every statistical category.

No. 12 North Carolina 108, East Carolina 64: Bryce Johnson had 19 points and a career-high 17 rebounds for host North Carolina.

J.P. Tokoto also scored 19 points for the Tar Heels (6-2), who shot a season-best 60 percent from the floor. Kennedy Meeeks added 12 points and Nate Britt finished with 10.

No. 16 West Virginia 67, Northern Kentucky 42: West Virginia found its scoring touch in the second half and cruised past host Northern Kentucky.

Juwana Staten and Devin Williams led West Virginia (8-1) with 12 points each, and Chad Jackson led the Norse (3-5) with 12 points.

Clemson 68, No. 18 Arkansas 65: Clemson’s Rod Hall scored 11 of his 19 points in the final minute of regulation and overtime.

The host Tigers (5-3) trailed 57-51 on Bobby Portis’ layup with 1:17 to go. That’s when Hall led the Clemson comeback. He made a layup before converting a Razorbacks turnover into another basket. Rashad Madden coughed up the ball again for Arkansas, and Jaron Blossomgame made a layup to tie at 57.

Hall started the extra period with a three-pointer to put Clemson out front for good.



JENNIFER BUCHANAN/AP

Washington forward Jernard Jarreau, left, gets fouled by San Diego State forward JJ O'Brien in the second half Sunda in Seattle. The Huskies beat the No. 13 Aztecs 49-36.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

American Ted Ligety clips a gate during the men's World Cup giant slalom Sunday in Beaver Creek, Colo.

Briefly

Bills safety stands by criticism

The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Bills safety Aaron Williams isn’t backing away from his criticism of NFL officials, and doesn’t care if he’s disciplined by the league.

“I don’t care if I do get fined,” Williams told The Associated Press on Monday. “I speak the way I feel, and that’s the way I feel.”

Williams took issue with a fist bump between two officials after Denver running back C.J. Anderson scored his second of three touchdowns in the Broncos 24-17 win on Sunday.

After the game, Williams expressed his displeasure on Twitter, by accusing the officials of teaming up with the Broncos.

Williams linked a video of the fist bump and wrote: “No excuse for my performance but we can’t win playing 16 vs 11 thought I seen it all Smh (shake my head).” Williams was referring to the number of on-field officials, though are actually seven and not five at NFL games.

The league had no problem with the gesture, which came after line judge John Hussey and umpire Carl Paganelli consulted to determine whether Anderson had crossed the goal line before his knee was down.

“It was an acknowledgment of good mechanics between the two officials involved in making the call,” NFL spokesman Michael Signora said.

The loss was a costly one for the Bills (7-6), who fell to the fringes of a tightly jumbled AFC playoff picture. As a result of tie-breaking formulas, Buffalo ranks 11th in the standings with three games left.

Williams wasn’t the only Bills player to complain about the officiating or the fist bump immediately following the game and on Monday. Cornerback Corey Graham

took a more diplomatic approach by saying the officials’ celebration wasn’t a “good look,” but he understood what prompted it.

“I saw it. I don’t think it was nothing crazy as far as ‘Happy that they scored a touchdown,’” Graham said Monday. “It was more of probably just, ‘We got that one right.’”

Ligety ties mark with 23rd World Cup GS win

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — Ted Ligety caught up to his boyhood idol on a day when no one could come close to catching up to him, even with a broken wrist.

The American used a powerful second run Sunday to capture his 23rd career World Cup giant slalom race.

With that, Ligety tied Switzerland’s Michael von Gruenigen for second all-time in the discipline. Only fitting, since Ligety was a big fan of von Gruenigen growing up in Utah.

“To have the same amount of World Cup wins as him is surreal,” Ligety said. “It’s really cool.”

In fourth place after the opening run, Ligety found speed where others couldn’t on a steadily deteriorating course. He finished in a combined time of 2 minutes, 34.07 seconds. Alexis Pinturault of France was second, 0.18 seconds behind, and Austria’s Marcel Hirscher ended up third.

IOC approves new bid process for Games

MONACO — The IOC approved a new Olympic bidding process Monday to make the system less costly and more flexible to attract future candidates — including the option of holding events outside the host city or country.

The International Olympic Committee voted in favor of the

revised bidding system at the start of a special two-day session to adopt President Thomas Bach’s 40-point “Olympic Agenda 2020” reform package, which represents the biggest shake-up in the IOC in decades.

The votes come at a time when many countries have been scared off by the costs of hosting the Olympics, including the reported \$51 billion associated with the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi. Several cities withdrew from the bidding for the 2022 Winter Olympics, leaving only Beijing and Almaty, Kazakhstan, in the running.

In the most radical change, cities will be allowed to hold events in both the Summer and Winter Games outside the host city or country, “notably for reasons of geography and sustainability.” This opens the door to joint bids by cities, neighboring countries or regions.

Spith sets record with 10-shot victory

WINDERMERE, Fla. — Jordan Spieth won the Hero World Challenge with a performance that tournament host Tiger Woods could appreciate.

Staked to a seven-shot lead, Spieth blew away an elite field at Isleworth and set two tournaments records Sunday when he closed with a 6-under 66 for a 10-shot victory over Henrik Stenson.

It was the second straight run-away victory for the 21-year-old from Texas. Spieth won the Australian Open last week by six shots.

He finished at 26-under 262, breaking the tournament record of 266 set by Woods in 2007 and Davis Love III in 2000 at Sherwood Country Club.

His 10-shot margin broke the record that Woods set in 2007 when he won by seven shots.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/MLS



ROD ANDELLOTTE, WACO TRIBUNE HERALD/AP

Baylor coach Art Briles responds to questions during a news conference on Sunday in Waco, Texas. After weeks of talk about whether Baylor or TCU deserved to be in the playoff, neither made it. The Big 12 may be reconsidering how to declare its champion.

No title game hurt Big 12

But conference is likely to take long view after inaugural playoff snub

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

This year turned out to be the latter.

GRAPEVINE, Texas — Before Big 12 fans demand the conference invite Boise State and Cincinnati and immediately implement a conference championship game, consider this: If Florida State had lost to Georgia Tech in the ACC championship game on Saturday, Baylor would be in the playoff, and not playing that tough 13th game would have worked out great.

Instead, Florida State held on for its seventh one-score victory of the season, Ohio State played its best game of the season in its Big Ten title game appearance, and Baylor and Big 12 co-champion TCU were left out of the first College Football Playoff.

Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby talked Sunday about how the playoff selection committee's treatment of the Big 12's best would certainly lead to discussions within the conference about bringing back its title game, and maybe even rekindle some expansion talk.

After he was done, Bowlsby also said the conference would not be inclined to do anything rash and overreact to Year 1 of the College Football Playoff.

"Conference expansion is a multifaceted decision and goes beyond whether you have a postseason football championship," Bowlsby said.

Expansion is first-and-foremost about revenue. Does a school add enough to the potential revenue the conference can generate to make it worth splitting those revenues with another member? The Big 12 schools are pretty happy these days diving up the pot 10 ways. The conference distributed \$212 million to its members after the 2013-14 season.

So while expansion might come to the Big 12 someday, it is highly unlikely one bad playoff draw will be what makes it happen.

Bowlsby acknowledged that playing a title game with 10 teams could be awkward. Even if the NCAA allows it to happen, the Big 12 might not do it.

Before the Big 12's disappointing weekend, Bowlsby was asked about whether not having that conference title game could hurt his contenders and said this: "I think the fact of the matter is there will be some years, like this one, where we feel just great about where we are. And there will be other years where we'll say 'Gee, we wish we had one more game to play because we might be able to differentiate ourselves,'" Bowlsby said.

Road trips

The playoff adds another layer of travel to a neutral site for fans of the two teams that advance from the semifinals on New Year's Day in New Orleans (No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Ohio State) and Pasadena, California, (No. 2 Oregon vs. No. 3 Florida State).

It will be interesting to see how — if at all — that affects attendance for the semis and the championship game on Jan. 12 at AT&T Stadium in North Texas.

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer was concerned about one particular group of fans getting to the games.

"What are we going to do with our players' families? People are worried about the playoff, and who's going to play who. But I just had a team meeting. How's that mom and dad, or mom and uncle, going to go see their kid play? They should. My kids are going to go to get on a bus, I imagine for free, and go to the game. I'm really concerned about that." Meyer said.

Among the many teams schools in Big Five conferences like Ohio State's Big Ten have discussed is allowing schools to pay for family members of players to go to postseason games.

Better than the BCS?

The biggest problem with the Bowl Championship Series, aside from only allowing two teams to the play for the national championship, was too often it created uninteresting matchups in the other big bowl games.

The College Football Playoff takes the matchmaking away from bowl organizers and eliminates some the rules that required bowls to take certain teams and restricted them for taking others.

"The committee leaned heavily on matchups, getting the highest-ranked teams we had against each other," committee chairman Jeff Long said.

The result is some compelling matchups outside the semifinals, such as TCU and Mississippi in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, and Michigan State and Baylor in the Cotton Bowl. The other two games are Mississippi State and Georgia Tech in the Orange Bowl and Arizona and Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl.

Scoreboard

Bowl glance
Saturday, Dec. 20
New Orleans Bowl
Nevada (8-4) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (8-4)

New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
UTEP (7-5) vs. Utah State (9-4)

Las Vegas Bowl
Colorado State (10-2) vs. Utah (8-4)

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise
W. Michigan (10-0) vs. Boise State (9-3)

Carmelia Bowl
At Montgomery, Ala.
Bowling Green (7-5) vs. South Alabama (8-4)

Miami Beach Bowl
Monday, Dec. 22
BYU (8-4) vs. Memphis (9-3)

Tuesday, Dec. 23
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Marshall (12-1) vs. Illinois (11-2)

Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Navy (6-5) vs. San Diego State (7-5)

Wednesday, Dec. 24
Bahamas Bowl
At Nassau
Western Kentucky (7-5) vs. Central Michigan (7-5)

Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Rice (7-5) vs. Fresno State (6-7)

Friday, Dec. 25
Heart of Dallas Bowl
Illinois (6-5) vs. Oklahoma Tech (8-4)

Quick Lane Bowl
At Detroit
Rutgers (7-5) vs. North Carolina (6-6)

St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl
UCF (9-3) vs. N.C. State (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Virginia Tech (6-5) vs. Cincinnati (9-3)

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Duke (9-3) vs. Arizona State (9-3)

Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Miami (6-6) vs. South Carolina (6-6)

Pinstripe Bowl
At Bronx, N.Y.
Boston College (7-5) vs. Penn State (6-6)

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Nebraska (9-3) vs. Cornell Cal (8-4)

Monday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
W. Virginia (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5)

Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Clemson (9-3) vs. Oklahoma (8-4)

Texas Bowl
At Houston
Texas (6-6) vs. Arkansas (6-6)

Tuesday, Dec. 30
Missouri City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Notre Dame (7-5) vs. SU (8-4)

Beik Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Louisville (9-3) vs. Georgia (9-3)

Fosters Farm Bowl
At San Clara, Calif.
Stanford (7-5) vs. Maryland (7-5)

Wednesday, Dec. 31
Peach Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Mississippi (9-3) vs. TCU (11-1)

Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Boise State (11-2) vs. Arizona (10-3)

At Miami
Mississippi State (10-2) vs. Georgia Tech (10-3)

Thursday, Jan. 1
Back Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Wisconsin (10-3) vs. Auburn (8-4)

Cotton Bowl Classic
At Arlington, Texas
Michigan (11-2) vs. Baylor (11-1)

Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Minnesota (8-4) vs. Missouri (10-3)

At Pasadena, Calif.
Alamo Bowl
Playoff semifinal: Oregon (12-1) vs. Florida State (9-3)

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Playoff semifinal: Alabama (12-1) vs. Ohio State (12-1)

Friday, Jan. 2
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Pittsburgh (6-5) vs. Houston (7-5)

At Jacksonville, Fla.
Alamo Bowl
Iowa (7-5) vs. Tennessee (6-6)

At San Antonio
UCLA (9-3) vs. Arkansas State (9-3)

Cactus Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Oklahoma State (6-6) vs. Washington (8-5)

Saturday, Jan. 3
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Florida (6-5) vs. East Carolina (8-4)

Goadby Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Toledo (8-4) vs. North Carolina State (7-5)

Saturday, Jan. 10
Not of Honor Bowl
At Charleston, S.C.
American (11-2) vs. Wake Forest (11-2)

Monday, Jan. 12
College Football Championship
At Arlington, Texas
Sugar Bowl winner vs. Rose Bowl winner

Keane's goal lifts Galaxy to MLS Cup

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Landon Donovan grabbed Robbie Keane in a triumphant midfield hug right before Donovan's girlfriend leaped into his arms. Moments later, Donovan and Keane raised the silver trophy together amid fireworks and a confetti blizzard.

Throughout his remarkable soccer career, Donovan always did know how to finish.

"One last time, he did it as a champion."

Keane scored on a breakaway in the 11th minute, and Donovan retired with his record sixth MLS title when the LA Galaxy beat the New England Revolution 2-1 on Sunday in the MLS Cup.

Just as he had scored in the 52nd minute as the Galaxy won their record fifth league title in the final game for Donovan, the MLS career scoring leader and most accomplished player in U.S. history.

"I'm in a little bit of a daze," Donovan said, still champagne-soaked after the celebration of the Galaxy's third league title in four years. "There's a lot going on. A lot of obvious excitement. There's sadness. Uncertainty. Just pure joy. This is the team and what we did. It just feels strange, but I'm so proud what this team accomplished this year."

Donovan, Keane and the Galaxy have celebrated three times on their home field, the first two with David Beckham. Retiring his skills largely still formidable, Donovan followed in Beckham's footsteps by leaving on top, wrapping his 14-year MLS career with six titles, including two with San Jose.

"He's done it all," said coach Bruce Arena, who won his record fifth MLS title. "He's got very little left to give. I'm so happy he's made this decision. He's able to go out a winner."

But not without drama.

After Chris Tierney scored the winning goal in the 78th minute for New England, both teams had golden opportunities in extra time — including a tantalizingly close free kick for Donovan, who sailed it over the bar.

But Keane capped his MVP season in the second period of extra time when Matt Besler was lobbed a long pass to the Irish striker, who was nearly unmarked. He gathered it and beat Bobby Shuttleworth with the same poise he showed throughout his 19-goal regular season, celebrating with the usual cartwheel and finger guns.

"We weren't going into the game thinking about (Donovan)," Keane said. "(But) if we won a championship for him, no one deserves to go out on a high as much as he does. It's a great honor to play with him."

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	28	17	7	3	39	98	72
Detroit	28	17	6	5	39	88	70
Norfolk	28	15	10	3	34	74	75
Toronto	26	14	9	3	31	89	79
Boston	28	15	12	1	31	72	72
Buffalo	25	11	7	1	29	56	64
Ottawa	27	11	11	5	27	70	74
Russia	27	10	16	2	20	47	85

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Pittsburgh	28	18	8	38	85	60	
N.Y. Islanders	27	19	8	0	38	86	74
Washington	26	12	10	4	28	74	71
N.Y. Rangers	25	11	10	4	26	73	73
New Jersey	27	10	13	4	24	64	79
Philadelphia	26	9	10	4	22	68	83
Columbus	26	9	15	2	20	61	88
Carolina	26	8	15	3	19	58	74

Western Conference

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Chicago	27	18	8	1	37	85	53
Nashville	26	17	7	2	36	70	54
St. Louis	27	17	8	2	36	76	63
Winnipeg	28	14	9	5	33	64	64
Minnesota	26	10	10	2	29	71	61
Dallas	27	10	12	5	25	79	95
Colorado	27	12	6	5	24	72	89

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Anaheim	29	18	6	5	41	85	79
Vancouver	28	18	5	2	38	87	78
Calgary	28	17	9	2	36	89	72
Los Angeles	27	17	8	2	36	76	59
San Jose	29	14	11	4	32	81	79
Arizona	28	10	15	3	23	66	90
Edmonton	27	7	17	3	19	61	77

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

Saturday's games

Pittsburgh 3, Ottawa 2
 St. Louis 5, N.Y. Islanders 4
 Philadelphia 2, Los Angeles 1
 Toronto 5, Vancouver 5
 Detroit 3, N.Y. Rangers 2
 Boston 3, Tampa Bay 1
 Florida 3, Buffalo 2
 Washington 4, New Jersey 1
 Chicago 3, Nashville 1
 Dallas 4, Montreal 1
 Boston 5, Arizona 2
 San Jose 3, Calgary 2

Sunday's games

Anaheim 4, Winnipeg 3, OT
 Detroit 3, Carolina 1
 Ottawa 4, Vancouver 3, OT
 Edmonton 2, San Jose 1

Monday's games

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers
 New Jersey at Carolina
 Florida at St. Louis

Tuesday's games

Chicago at New Jersey
 Philadelphia at Columbus
 Los Angeles at Buffalo
 Calgary at Toronto
 Vancouver at Montreal
 Washington at Tampa Bay
 N.Y. Islanders at Minnesota
 Winnipeg at Dallas
 Nashville at Colorado
 Edmonton at San Jose

Sunday Ducks 4, Jets 3 (OT)

Anaheim 1 2 0 1-4
 Winnipeg 1 0 1 0-1

First Period—1, Anaheim, Bourque 1 (Maroon, Getzlaf), 11:02 (pp), 2, Winnipeg, Byfuglien 7 (Perreault, Ladd), 14:28 (pp).

Second Period—3, Winnipeg, Ladd 10 (Wheeler, Trouba), 1:33 (pp), 4, Anaheim, Silfverberg 3 (Stoner, Rakell), 4:35, 5, Anaheim, Kesler 8 (Getzlaf, Fowler), 8:55 (pp).

Third Period—6, Winnipeg, Trouba 4 (Lowry, Stuart), 15:15.

Overtime—Anaheim, Palmieri 4 (Getzlaf, Ladd), 8:53.

Shots on goal—Anaheim 9-7-8-1-25.
 Winnipeg 10-10-10-1-33.

Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 2 of 6.
Goals—Anaheim, Andersen 14-4 (38 shots; 27 saves). Winnipeg, Pavel 9-3 (22 shots; 22 saves).
A—15:016 (15,004), **T**—2:31.

Oilers 2, Sharks 1

San Jose 0 1 0-1
 Edmonton 0 1 1-2

First Period—1, Edmonton, Yelovov 4 (Eberle, Petry), 7:45 (pp), 2, San Jose, Moulton 3 (Marinieu, Burns), 35:51.

Second Period—3, Edmonton, Perron 4 (Purcell, Fayne), 10:26.

Shots on goal—San Jose 2-9-10-21. Edmonton 11-7-6-24.

Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 2; Edmonton 1 of 2.

Goals—San Jose, Stalock 3-1 (04 shots; 22 saves). Edmonton, Scrivens 5-9 (31-20).
A—16:839 (16,839), **T**—2:30.

Senators 4, Canucks 3 (OT)

Vancouver 2 1 0 0-3
 Ottawa 0 3 0 1-4

First Period—1, Vancouver, Vrba 12 (Stanton, D.Sedin), 6:10, 2, Vancouver, Bielska 2 (Vrbata, H.Sedin), 7:15.

Second Period—3, Vancouver, Richardson 7, 5:02, 4, Ottawa, Legwand 5 (Chlissoun, Zibanejad), 10:53 (pp), 5, Ottawa, Zibanejad 6 (Ryan, Gryba), 14:12, 6, Ottawa, Zibanejad 7 (Ryan, Hoffman), 18:58.

Overtime—7, Ottawa, Karlsson 7 (Zibanejad, Ryan), 1:21.

Shots on goal—Vancouver 16-7-10-33. Ottawa 11-22-11-45.

Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0 of 3; Ottawa 1 of 7.

Goals—Vancouver, Lack 2-3 (45 shots; 34 saves). Ottawa, Anderson 6-7 (43-30).
A—16:870 (19,153), **T**—2:35.

Red Wings 3, Hurricanes 1

Detroit 2 1 0-1
 Carolina 0 1 0-1

First Period—1, Detroit, Datsyuk 12 (Erosalimski, Iginla), 16:36, 2, Detroit, Tatar 11 (Datsyuk, Quincey), 18:36.

Second Period—Detroit, Tatar 12 (Datsyuk, Franzen), 12:14, 4, Carolina, McClement 1 (Gleason), 17:11.

Shots on goal—Detroit 10-5-7-22. Carolina 11-12-12-35.

Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0 of 3; Carolina 1 of 4.

Goals—Detroit, Mrazek 3-0-0 (35 shots; 34 saves). Carolina, Ward 8-9-1 (22-15).
A—13,489 (18,680), **T**—2:22.



TREVOR HAGAN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Ducks' Kyle Palmieri, left, celebrates his game winning goal against Winnipeg with Sami Vatanen during overtime Sunday.



JASON FRANSON, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Oilers' Mark Fayne (5), David Perron (57) and Teddy Purcell celebrates a goal against the San Jose Sharks during the third period Sunday in Edmonton, Alberta. The Oilers won 2-1.

Roundup

Oilers snap losing streak

The Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — The Edmonton Oilers were able to avoid two dubious streaks on Sunday by beating the San Jose Sharks 2-1.

David Perron scored the game winner midway through the third period and the Oilers snapped an 11-game losing streak and avoided a ninth straight home loss, which would have tied a team record.

Nail Yakupov also scored for the Oilers (7-15-5).

Edmonton also captured its first win against a Western Conference opponent this season, moving to 1-12-4 in the conference.

"We can finally put away the thing about not having one against the West," Perron said. "That's a good thing. There is one way to win and we did that tonight."

Oilers head coach Dallas Eakins was happy end the two losing streaks in one game.

"Getting rid of that is huge," he said. "Whatever you want to call

it, getting the monkey off your back, an elephant, a large gorilla it feels good for everybody. Most importantly, for our players and our fans. I thought we played a fairly similar game to our last one in Winnipeg. We have points in four of our last five games. I thought we played a real mature, smart game. It was a real solid effort."

Oilers goalie Ben Scrivens said his team caught a bit of a break from the schedule maker, but also stepped up its own game.

"San Jose was probably a tired group and we got them on the second night of a back-to-back, which was fortunate for us and helped us out," he said. "But at the end of the day, we executed pretty well. That has to be our expectation now of how we have to play."

Tye McGinn scored the lone goal for the Sharks (14-11-4), who had a four-game winning streak halted.

Red Wings 3, Hurricanes 1: Tomas Tatar scored two goals and Pavel Datsyuk added a goal

and two assists, leading visiting Detroit.

Petr Mrazek made 34 saves for the Red Wings, who have won three in a row and seven of eight.

Senators 4, Canucks 3: Erik Karlsson scored 1:21 into overtime to give host Ottawa a victory.

Mike Zibanejad had two goals and two assists, David Legwand also scored and Craig Anderson stopped 53 shots for the Senators.

Ottawa rallied from three goals down to snap a five-game losing streak (0-4-1).

Ducks 4, Jets 3: Kyle Palmieri scored 53 seconds into overtime to lift visiting Anaheim.

Ryan Getzlaf added three assists for Anaheim (18-6-5), including the assist on Palmieri's winner and extended his point streak to five games. Getzlaf has two goals and eight assists during his current streak.

Rene Bourque scored his first goal of the year for the Ducks and Jakob Silfverberg and Ryan Kesler also scored goals.

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NFL

Arizona tops KC, maintains division lead

Slumping Chiefs drop 3rd straight

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Just when Arizona's fortunes had turned sour, along came Kerwyn Williams, an unlikely hero.

Williams provided what quarterback Drew Stanton called the "shot in the arm" the Cardinals needed on Sunday in Arizona's 17-14 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Cardinals (10-3), who had lost two in a row, needed the win to stay a game ahead of Seattle in the NFC West. Now they have a short week to prepare for a Thursday night contest at St. Louis.

"You've got to love NFL scheduling," Arizona wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald said.

The Chiefs (7-6) dropped their third straight and trail three teams in the AFC wild card chase.

"We obviously need to do a better job, take care of our business," Kansas City coach Andy Reid said. "It's my responsibility that takes place. We had every opportunity to do that today, and we didn't get it accomplished."

On Friday, Williams practiced with the scout team, pretending to be Jamaal Charles. Afterward, coach Bruce Arians told him he was being elevated to the regular roster.

Williams responded by rushing for 100 yards, nine more than Charles got. The former Utah



MICHAEL CHOW, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP

The Cardinals' Calais Campbell splits the block by Kansas City Chiefs linemen Eric Fisher (72) and Mike McGlynn (75) to pressure Alex Smith (11) on Sunday in Glendale, Ariz. The Cardinals defeated the Chiefs 17-14.

State back, a seventh-round draft pick by Indianapolis last year, was the main cog in a running game that had been so bad lately. After rushing for fewer than 100 yards in the last two games combined,

the Cardinals got a season-high 141 on Sunday.

"Quickness, explosiveness, an unbelievable change of direction," Arians said of Williams. "He can break a guy down in a

hole and make him miss and he's got power for a smaller guy."

Williams' big game came the same day that Arians said running back Andre Ellington's season is over. Ellington is to have

surgery to repair a hernia. He never had been at full strength this season.

Arians gave Williams a game ball. Williams said he would give it to his parents.

Scoreboard

FROM PAGE 28

Lions 34, Buccaneers 17

Tampa Bay	0	10	0	7-17
Detroit	10	10	10	7-24

Det—C. Johnson 6 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 2:57.

Second Quarter

Det—Bell 1 run (Prater kick), 6:01.

Det—Prater 46, 20 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), :05.

Third Quarter

Det—FG Prater 23, 11:14.

Det—FG Prater 10 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 1:15.

Fourth Quarter

Det—Evans 25 pass from McCown (Murray kick), 12:52.

Det—Bell 5 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 5:01.

A—61, 489.

	TB	Det
First downs	15	22
Total Net Yards	207	294
Rushes-yards	14-26	31-113
Passing	20-27	2-6
Punt Returns	0-0	2-11
Kickoff Returns	1-23	2-67
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-11
Comp-Att-Int	20-39-2	26-34-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	6-43	3-13
Punts	6-42.5	9-57.2
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	5-50	9-112
Time of Possession	32:25	36:35

Rushing—Tampa Bay, Martin 5-22, McCown 4-8, Sims 5-6min, 4-6. **Detroit**, Bell 3-23, Bush 8-26, Ross 1-4, Winn 1-2, Stafford 3-6min, 2.

Receiving—Tampa Bay, McCown 20-39-2, 250. **Detroit**, Stafford 26-34-0, 311. **Passing**—Tampa Bay, Jackson 10-159, Evans 4-45, Murphy Jr. 3-18, Sims 1-24, Stocker 1-4, Martin 1-0. **Detroit**, Closs 1-58, Bell 5-50, Tate 4-50, Bush 4-8, Ebron 3-28, Fauria 2-17.

Missed field goals—None.

Steelers 42, Bengals 21

Pittsburgh	0	10	7	25-42
Cincinnati	0	14	7	0-21

Pit—Miller 1 pass from Roethlisberger (Suisnam kick), 11:17.

Cin—Gresham 10 pass from Dalton (Nugent kick), 9:06.

Second Quarter

Cin—Dalton 20 run (Nugent kick), 2:57.

Third Quarter

Pit—Bell 10 pass from Roethlisberger (Suisnam kick), 5:24.

Cin—Green 41 pass from Dalton (Nugent kick), :00.

Fourth Quarter

Pit—FG Suisnam 44, 13:52.

Pit—Bell 13 run (Miller pass from Roethlisberger), 11:27.

Pit—Bryant 94 pass from Roethlisberger (Suisnam kick), 8:21.

Pit—Bell 22 run (Suisnam kick), 5:09.

A—65, 512.

	Pit	Cin
First downs	25	46
Total Net Yards	543	408
Rushes-yards	31-193	21-86
Passing	131	329
Punt Returns	3-14	4-42
Kickoff Returns	1-50	4-91
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	25-39-0	25-35-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	3-5
Punts	6-47.5	7-46.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-2
Penalties-Yards	3-20	7-54
Time of Possession	32:45	27:15

Rushing—Pittsburgh, Bell 26-185, Harris 4-3, Roethlisberger 1-6min, 13. **Cincinnati**, Hill 8-46, Dalton 4-22, Bernard 6-17, Campbell 1-1, Peerman 1-0, Sanu 1-0.

Passing—Pittsburgh, Roethlisberger 25-39-0, 350. **Cincinnati**, Dalton 21-29-0, 301, Campbell 1-25.

Receiving—Pittsburgh, A. Brown 9-117, Bell 6-50, Bryant 4-159, Wheaton 2-31, Spaeth 2-13, Moore 1-29, Miller 1-1, Cincinnati, Green 11-274, Gresham 3-23, Hill 3-21, Bernard 3-19, Brock 2-18, Sanu 2-16, Little 1-6.

Missed field goals—None.

FROM BACK PAGE

"I don't know if shock is the word I'm going to use," linebacker Aldon Smith said. "We're a competitive team, we're a good team and every week we go out I expect for us to win. So I wasn't expecting the result."

Derek Carr threw three touchdown passes and completed 22 of 28 passes for 254 yards. He completely outplayed counterpart Colin Kaepernick as the Raiders (2-11) bounced back from last week's 52-0 loss at St. Louis.

Kaepernick went 18-for-33 for 174 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions. Five sacks gave him a league-high 43 this year.

"I'm giving everything I have every time I step on the field," Kaepernick said. "I have to play better. I haven't played well."

In case you missed it, here are the other top topics after the NFL season's 14th Sunday.

Here come the Seahawks: In mid-October, the defending Super Bowl champions were sitting at .500 and coming off consecutive losses. And now? They're playing as well as just about anyone in the NFL, led by their "Legion of Boom" and the rest of the defense.

Seattle has won six of its past seven games, including a 24-14 victory Sunday over Chip Kelly's go-go Philadelphia Eagles, who were limited to 139 yards.

Russell Wilson threw for 263 yards and a pair of touchdowns, and rushed for 48 yards and another score, but it's Seattle's "D" that is leading the way right now. Over the past three weeks, the Seahawks have given up a grand total of 20 points while improving to 9-4 and putting themselves in position to

West: Questions swirling in San Francisco

make the playoffs.

"We are really connected right now," safety Earl Thomas said, "really in sync."

Fisher's job: As if there weren't enough angst in Washington about the off-field drama involving benched Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III and first-year head coach Jay Gruden aimed at a 3-10 season, Rams coach Jeff Fisher managed to add insult to injury. Six Rams players acquired in connection with the trade that allowed the Redskins to draft Griffin in 2012 were chosen by Fisher as captains for the pregame coin toss before St. Louis' 24-0 victory over Washington. Those players were Michael Brockers, Jordan Jenkins, Alec Ogletree, Greg Robinson, Stedman Bailey and Zac Stacy.

I can't breathe: Lions running back Reggie Bush wore a blue shirt with "I Can't Breathe" written in black across the chest during warmups Sunday.

Browns cornerback Johnson Bademosi had that phrase on the back of a shirt he wore before his game. And Rams teammates Davin Joseph (on his cleats) and Jared Cook (on his wrist tape) also displayed it. Those were words spoken by Eric Garner, who died when a New York police officer put him in a chokehold. "I guess," Bush said, "the situation just touched me."

Sweetness: Put Le'Veon Bell's name alongside Walter Payton's Pittsburgh's Bell ran for 185 yards, caught six passes for another 50, and accounted for a trio of TDs in a 42-21 victory at the Bengals. Add it all up, and Bell joined Payton as the only players in NFL history with at least 200 yards from scrimmage in three consecutive games.

NFL ROUNDUP



24 13

OAKLAND, Calif. — While Derek Carr and the Oakland Raiders put together their best performance of a rough season, his Bay Area counterpart Colin Kaepernick has rarely looked worse than he has the past two weeks.

Carr threw for 254 yards and three touchdowns and the Raiders bounced back from a shellacking last week by putting a major dent in San Francisco's dwindling playoff hopes.

"I know the kind of talent we have, I know the kind of team we have," Carr said. "We haven't put it together, obviously, throughout the season... I felt for the first time there wasn't the little detailed mistakes that just ruined it."

Carr threw TD passes to offensive lineman Donald Penn, Marcel Reece and Mchall Rivera as the Raiders (2-11) capped a three-week roller-coaster by beating San Francisco (7-6).

The win follows a 52-0 loss at St. Louis, which came after an exhilarating 24-20 home win over the Chiefs as the Raiders seek some consistency to end the season.

"This game goes in highs and lows," interim coach Tony Sparano said. "One week you can be on top of the mountain and the next week you can be at the bottom of that thing really fast. It's important that our team keeps learning here."

Now the 49ers are in danger of missing the playoffs for the first time in coach Jim Harbaugh's four-year tenure. San Francisco trails three teams by two games in the NFC wild-card race with three games remaining after making three straight NFC title games.

"There is no surrendering," Harbaugh said. "You look for the next thing to win at."



24 14

PHILADELPHIA — Russell Wilson threw two touchdown passes, ran for another score and the Seattle Seahawks stifled Philadelphia's high-powered offense.

Wilson had 263 yards passing an run for 48 to help the Seahawks (9-4) win their third straight. The defending Super Bowl champions have victories over NFC West-leading Arizona (10-3), San Francisco (7-6) and Philadelphia (9-4) in the last three weeks.

The Eagles lost Dallas (9-4) with first place in the NFC East at stake next week.

Richard Sherman and Co. held the Eagles to 139 total yards, the fewest under Chip Kelly.

Pete Carroll was the winner in his first NFL matchup against Kelly.



BILL HABER/AP

Panthers free safety Tre Boston, left, breaks up a pass intended for Saints wide receiver Joseph Morgan in the second half Sunday in New Orleans. The Panthers won 41-10.



24 17 28 13 24 0

DENVER — C.J. Anderson ran for three touchdowns and the Broncos overcame a rare run-steady outing by Peyton Manning.

Manning's streak of 51 straight games with a touchdown throw ended three shy of Drew Brees' NFL record.

Despite three turnovers, the Broncos (10-3) won their third straight game since changing from a pass-oriented attack to a run-heavy approach.

Manning finished 14-for-20 for 173 yards with two interceptions.

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — The Baltimore Ravens played more than 17 minutes before picking up a first down, then overcame a 10-point deficit to win.

The Ravens rallied with consecutive touchdown drives of 97 and 75 yards, and added the clinching score after a favorable replay reversal.

The victory gave Baltimore (8-5) a significant edge over Miami (7-6) in the AFC's scramble for a wild-card playoff berth.

LANDOVER, Md. — The Rams have back-to-back shutouts for the first time since 1945 for their first winning streak of the season.

Jared Cook caught two touchdowns passes, Tavon Austin returned a punt 78 yards for a score, and the defense allowed 206 total yards.

The Rams (6-7) sacked Colt McCoy six times. He suffered a neck injury on the sixth sack just before the two-minute warning, so Robert Griffin III finished the game in his first appearance since getting benched two weeks ago. Griffin was sacked once during his brief stint.



42 31

CINCINNATI — Ben Roethlisberger threw three touchdown passes, including a 94-yarder to rookie Martavis Bryant in the fourth quarter that was the longest play from scrimmage this season.

The win turned the AFC North into a wide-open race. For Cincinnati (8-4), it was a second straight lopsided at home loss to a division rival. The Bengals fell to Cleveland 24-3 before going on the road and winning three straight to take control of the division.

Le'Veon Bell ran for 185 yards, caught six passes and scored three touchdowns.



34 17

DETROIT — Matthew Stafford threw for 311 yards and three touchdowns — including one off a fluky deflection late in the game.

The Lions (9-4) trail first-place Green Bay by a half-game in the NFC North, with the Packers hosting Atlanta on Monday night.

Tampa Bay (2-11) was finally eliminated from playoff contention. They turned over the ball three times in the second quarter against Detroit and never led.

Calvin Johnson had eight catches for 158 yards and a touchdown for Detroit, which snapped a nine-game losing streak in December.



27 13

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Arian Foster's 1-yard run on the second play of the fourth quarter gave Houston (7-6) a comfortable cushion in what had been a back-and-forth game.

After quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick got stuffed on third down, the Texans lined up for a field goal before calling time out. Foster started right and looked like he would be stopped, but he eluded a tackle, cut back the other way and high-stepped into the end zone.



41 10

NEW ORLEANS — Cam Newton passed for three touchdowns, appeared to incite a scuffle with frustrated New Orleans after he went over the pile for another score, and the Panthers ended a six-game skid.

Jonathan Stewart added a 69-yard touchdown as the Panthers (4-8-1) pulled closer to NFC South leader Atlanta (5-7), which plays at Green Bay on Monday night.

Newton's jawing and "Superman" celebration of his 2-yard rushing touchdown in the first quarter drew a shove from linebacker Curtis Lofton. That ignited a scrum that eventually went into a tunnel beyond the end zone.

Panthers tight end Brandon Williams was ejected for punching Cam Jordan.



30 OT 24

MINNEAPOLIS — Jarius Wright's 87-yard touchdown reception from Teddy Bridgewater in overtime lifted the Vikings.

After forcing the Jets to punt to start the extra period, the Vikings faced third-and-5. Bridgewater was blitzed and threw high on a bubble screen to his right. Wright jumped, made an off-balance grab, slipped by Jaiquwan Jarrett and outran defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson the rest of the way.

Former Vikings receiver Percy Harvin had a 35-yard touchdown reception and a 47-yard kickoff return while finishing with 124 yards on six catches. But he hurt his ankle on a hit by Josh Robinson late in the fourth quarter and didn't return. This was his first game in Minnesota in more than two years after playing his first 3½ seasons with the Vikings (6-7).



36 7

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Eli Manning threw for 260 yards and a touchdown, and the Giants snapped a seven-game skid.

The Giants (4-9) won for the first time since Oct. 5 with two rookie having big games. Odell Beckham Jr. set a team rookie record with his fourth game with 100 yards receiving this season: 11 catches for 130 yards and a TD. Andre Williams ran for a season-high 131 yards, including a 50-yard TD.

Tennessee (2-11) lost its seventh straight and for the 11th time in 12 games with a performance that had fans booing.

NFL



DENIS POROBY/AP

New England Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman runs for a touchdown against the Chargers during the second half of Sunday's game in San Diego.

Patriots get by Chargers

Brady connects with Edelman for 69-yard game-sealing touchdown

By **BERNIE WILSON**
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Their week in San Diego over, the New England Patriots headed home with a big win and a 10-3 record.

Brady threw a 69-yard touchdown pass to Julian Edelman midway through the fourth quarter, and New England beat the San Diego Chargers 23-14 for its eighth win in nine games.

The Patriots clinched their 12th straight 10-win season for the second-longest such streak in NFL history. They spent the week in San Diego following a loss at Green Bay in order to cut down on late-season travel.

The Chargers (8-5) looked almost like a road team, getting shut out in the second half as a large portion of the crowd cheered for the Patriots.

"We worked very hard this week," Patriots defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said. "Being in San Diego for a week gave us a chance to bond a little bit, watch extra film because we was at the hotel, and basically hung out and talked football. ... A lot of times we talked about what it's going to take to win a football game. Everybody prepared well. ... The focus was unbelievable."

New England went ahead 16-14 on Stephen Gostkowski's 38-yard field goal with 10:34 left.

After forcing the Chargers to punt, the Patriots started on their 31. Brady faked a handoff and hit Edelman on a slant at the 45. He

broke two tackles and was gone. "Tommy put a good ball out there," Edelman said. "And I did my job to get open and try to catch the ball and do something with it."

Said Brady: "We needed that play. We were struggling. We needed a great play."

Brady completed 28 of 44 passes for 317 yards and two touchdowns with one interception. Edelman caught eight passes for 141 yards.

Here are some other takeaways from the game:

Just offensive: San Diego's offense scored one touchdown.

"We just didn't play well," quarterback Philip Rivers said. "They were the reason for a lot of that. But we had some things that were self-inflicted as well. It wasn't our best day, obviously. Anytime you score seven points in this league you're not going to win any games."

Rivers completed 20 of 33 passes for only 189 yards.

Brady said the Patriots' defense "was unbelievable. They kept us in it all night. That was a defensive win right there. I love the way those guys played on defense."

Momentum swings: After Gostkowski kicked his second 22-yard field goal of the first half, Brandon Bolden blocked a punt by Mike Scifres to give New England the ball on the San Diego 28. Scifres hurt his left shoulder on the play and was carted off the field.

Four plays into the drive, Rob Gronkowski caught a 14-yard



DENIS POROBY/AP

New England quarterback Tom Brady celebrates after the Patriots defeated the Chargers 23-14 on Sunday in San Diego.

touchdown pass to pull the Patriots to 14-13.

Gronkowski became the first tight end in NFL history with four seasons of 10 or more scoring receptions.

The Chargers scored twice in 2 minutes, 33 seconds in the second quarter.

Safety Darrell Stuckey returned a fumble 53 yards for a touchdown and Malcolm Floyd made a diving catch of a 15-yard touchdown pass from Philip Rivers.

Man! Te'o: Te'o leaped to make his first career interception just before halftime, preserving the Chargers' 14-13 lead.

Brady tried to hit Gronkowski on second-and-10 from the Chargers 18. But Te'o, the second-year linebacker from Notre Dame, picked off the under-thrown pass at the 4.

Luck's late drive lifts Indianapolis

By **TOM WITHERS**
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Their backs up against the end zone where Browns fans were doing all they could to make things harder for them, the Indianapolis Colts were in a bind.

Down by five points and 90 yards from a go-ahead touchdown, this was no time to blink.

Andrew Luck wouldn't let them. "I'm glad I'm on his team this year," said Colts linebacker D'Qwell Jackson, who spent his first eight seasons in Cleveland. "As a player on his team, you always know when No. 12 is back there, you always have a chance of winning."

Luck threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver T.Y. Hilton with 32 seconds left as the Colts rallied for a 25-24 win on Sunday over the Cleveland Browns, who had their playoff hopes damaged and could be on the verge of benching quarterback Brian Hoyer for rookie Johnny Manziel.

While the Browns (7-6) contemplate another change, the Colts (9-4) are glad they've got Luck.

After making characteristic mistakes, two that gave the Browns defensive touchdowns, Luck got it together just in time to rescue his team.

"Just glad we won," said Luck, who brought the Colts back from a 21-7 deficit in the third quarter: "I had some real bonehead mistakes, two touchdowns on my account, against us. I can't do that. It feels good to win on the road, in this fashion, against a very good team. A big team victory. We made enough plays when it mattered."

With the Browns leading 24-19, the Colts took over at their own 10 with 3:45 left. On first down, Luck was sacked by Browns linebacker Barkevious Mingo, who had the best game of his two-year NFL career, for a four-yard loss. Luck got seven back with a pass on second down and facing a third-and-12, rookie wide receiver Donte Moncrief made a lunging catch to help Luck.

Then, the Browns pitched in as cornerback Buster Skrine was called for interference for grabbing tight end Dwayne Allen, a 35-yard penalty.

Luck drove the Colts to Cleveland's 5, where they faced a fourth-and-1 with 44 seconds left. Coach Chuck Pagano risked a run, and Daniel Herron, who was stopped for no gain on third down, made it work by spinning forward after being stopped at the line of scrimmage and keeping the drive alive.

"It was a huge play," Herron said. "It wasn't all me, but everything as a team. I couldn't have done it without the line. It was ugly but it all worked out for us and we got the first down."

Luck took it from there, hitting Hilton, who finished with 10 catches for 150 yards and two TDs.

"We've been on the road some many times that it doesn't even matter to us anymore," Hilton said.



DAVID RICHARDS/AP

Indianapolis Colts wide receiver T.Y. Hilton celebrates his touchdown catch against the Browns in the fourth quarter of Sunday's game in Cleveland. Hilton's 1-yard reception gave the Colts a 25-24 win.

Here are five other things we learned as the Colts moved closer to wrapping up the AFC South title:

Hoyer's dud: Hoyer may have made his final start for the Browns.

Coach Mike Pettine said he did not consider switching to Manziel during the game, and that it was too early to discuss who will start next Sunday at home against Cincinnati. Hoyer went 14-for-31 for 140 yards with two interceptions. "He did not play well enough for us to win," Pettine said.

Broken record: Luck passed for 294 yards, 208 after halftime. He has 12,501 career yards, the most for any player in his first three seasons. Peyton Manning had the previous record with 12,287.

Defense doesn't rest: Cleveland's defense stifled the NFL's top-rated offense until the final minutes.

The Browns pressured Luck into mistakes. Rookie cornerback Justin Gilbert returned an interception 23 yards for a touchdown and linebacker Paul Kruger knocked the ball away from Indy's QB before linebacker Craig Robertson pounced on it for a TD.

"We knew we had to make some plays and we did," said safety Jim Leonhard, who had six tackles, a sack and interception. "We were fighting and fighting and fighting, and we couldn't quite do it for 60 minutes."

Wayne's world: Colts wide receiver Reggie Wayne didn't make his first — and only — catch until early in the fourth quarter. Wayne had caught at least three passes in an NFL record 82 straight games. Wayne also tied Manning for the most games played in team history (208), and matched Manning for the most wins (141).

SPORTS



Fitting end

LA Galaxy capture MLS Cup in Donovan's final game | Page 26

NFL: WEEK 14 TAKEAWAYS



BEN MARGOT/AP

San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick, center, is sacked by Raiders outside linebacker Khalil Mack, bottom, and defensive end Justin Tuck (91) during the fourth quarter in Oakland, Calif. on Sunday. The Raiders won 24-13, putting the 49ers' chances of making a fourth straight trip to the playoffs in jeopardy.

Niners sinking in West

Division title hopes looking dim for 49ers

The Associated Press

Maybe it's time the San Francisco 49ers look behind them and not toward the top of the NFC West.

A fourth straight trip to the playoffs, let alone to the conference championship game, looks even less likely after a costly trip across the bay to play the Raiders. Oakland stunned its more successful neighbor 24-13, and now the Niners (7-6) are much closer to the bottom of their division than the top.

'I don't know if shock is the word I'm going to use.'

Aldon Smith, 49ers' linebacker on Sunday's 24-13 loss to the Oakland Raiders

With wins by Arizona (10-3) and Seattle (9-4), San Francisco's odds of taking the division are shrinking.

And with St. Louis moving to 6-7 with a second straight shutout, the 49ers also could be caught by the Rams.

SEE WEST ON PAGE 29

Inside:

- Brady-to-Edelman TD pass clinches win for Patriots, Page 31
- Cardinals hand Chiefs 3rd straight loss, Page 29

Oilers top Sharks, snap 11-game skid | NHL roundup, Page 27

