

# STARS AND STRIPES

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Free to Deployed Areas

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Afghan men wait for more than an hour in a neighborhood in western Kabul to vote in the national elections on Saturday.

Josh Smith/Stars and Stripes



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## VETERANS POLL

### After the wars, mental, physical problems persist

By RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN  
*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — More than half of the 2.6 million Americans dispatched to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan struggle with physical or mental health problems stem-

ming from their service, feel disconnected from civilian life and believe the government is failing to meet the needs of this generation's veterans, according to a poll conducted by The Washington Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The long conflicts, which

have required many troops to deploy multiple times and operate under an almost constant threat of attack, have exacted a far more widespread emotional toll than previously recognized by most government studies and independent assessments. One in two say they know a fel-

low servicemember who has attempted or committed suicide, and more than 1 million suffer from relationship problems and experience outbursts of anger — two key indicators of post-traumatic stress.

SEE POLL ON PAGE 6

**QUOTE**  
OF THE DAY

**"We already had our drinkers on airplanes, we just didn't have the beer. They want to drink in the air what they're drinking on the ground."**

— Jim Koch, co-founder of the Boston Beer Co., maker of Samuel Adams, talking about airlines adding craft brews to their in-flight offerings

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3. Betrayed military spouses often keep quiet for fear of losing benefits
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Science & Medicine

What women want on the dance floor, according to science



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**MILITARY**

**Nuke corps getting yet another look**

By **ROBERT BURNS**  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Service leaders took an assessment last year of the nuclear Air Force as an encouraging thumbs-up. Yet in the months that followed, signs emerged that the nuclear missile corps was suffering from breakdowns in discipline, morale, training and leadership.

The former Air Force chief of staff who signed off on the 2013 report is now being asked to dig for root causes of problems that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel says threaten to undermine public trust in the nation's nuclear arsenal.

The Air Force may have taken an overly rosy view of the report — it was not uniformly positive — by a Pentagon advisory group headed by retired Gen. Larry Welch. The study described the nuclear Air Force as "thoroughly professional, disciplined" and performing effectively.

The inquiry itself may have missed signs of the kinds of trouble documented in recent months in a series of Associated Press reports. In April 2013, the month the Welch report came out, an Air Force officer wrote that the nuclear missile unit at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., was suffering from "rot," including lax attitudes and a poor performance by launch officers on a March 2013 inspection.

An exam-cheating scandal at a nuclear missile base prompted the Air Force to remove nine midlevel commanders and accept the resignation of the base's top commander. Dozens of officers implicated in the cheating face disciplinary action, and some might be kicked out, the Air Force said recently.

Welch began the new Hagel-directed review in early March, teaming with retired Navy Adm. John C. Harvey, who was not involved in the earlier reviews but has extensive nuclear experience. Much rides on what they find, not least because Hagel and the White House want to remove any doubt about the safety and security of the U.S. arsenal and the men and women entrusted with it.

Hagel's written instruction to Welch and Harvey in February said they should examine the nuclear mission in both the



DENNIS COOK/AP

Gen. Larry Welch, testifying on Capitol Hill in February 2008, has been asked by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to explore for a second time flaws in U.S. nuclear forces.

**3 differing views of the nuclear Air Force**

A retired general's mostly positive assessment of conditions inside the nuclear Air Force one year ago stands in contrast to the picture that has emerged since. Some examples of how the views differ:

■ A 2013 study for the Pentagon, headed by Larry Welch, a retired Air Force general, said the nuclear missile and bomber forces are "professional, disciplined, committed and attentive to the special demands of the mission." The same month his group's report was published, an Air Force nuclear officer wrote in an internal memo that the nuclear missile unit at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., suffered from "rot," including discipline problems.

■ The Welch study found "positive results either delivered or promised" in several areas, including person-

nel. In recent weeks, following the discovery of widespread exam-cheating at one nuclear missile base, the Air Force has acknowledged systemic flaws in the personnel area, including problems with morale and discipline.

■ The 2013 report found that morale had improved since 2010, while noting people's skepticism about Air Force promises of future improvements in the support required to carry out daily duties in the missile fields. An unpublished RAND Corp. report disclosed by The Associated Press last November found evidence of morale issues, including "burnout" among a sampling of missile launch control officers and junior members of the security force.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Air Force and the Navy, focusing on "personnel, training, testing, command oversight, mission performance and investment" and recommend ways to address any deficiencies they identify.

A fighter pilot by training and a former top nuclear commander, Welch also is known for integ-

ity and honesty. Hagel "believes there is no one better suited to examine these issues than General Welch," Hagel's press secretary, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, said Friday. "Like his partner, Admiral Harvey, he's tough and pragmatic. And he flat out knows his stuff."

Welch led the initial outside

review of arguably the most startling nuclear failure of recent years, the unauthorized movement in August 2007 of six nuclear-armed cruise missiles from an air base in North Dakota to Louisiana. Welch led that inquiry as chairman of a special task force of the Defense Science Board, which is a group of outside experts who advise the secretary of defense on a wide range of technical issues. The panel's report was published in February 2008.

The same task force, again under Welch's direction, published follow-up assessments in April 2011 and April 2013. Each of those examined both sides of the nuclear Air Force — strategic bombers as well as the intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, forces whose problems have gained wide attention over the past year.

The April 2011 study cited morale issues among missile crews.

"They perceive a lack of knowledge of and respect for their mission from within the larger Air Force," it said.

The April 2013 report ticked off numerous significant improvements. It found that senior leaders were paying more attention, with more clarity of responsibility for the nuclear mission than in the years leading up to the 2007 mishap. The system of inspections and the support for nuclear personnel, logistics and facilities had improved. Yet at that point, the first signs of new trouble had begun to emerge, including the mass suspension of 19 launch officers at Minot in April 2013, followed by a failed inspection in August at another nuclear missile base in Montana.

Welch's report also cited "enduring issues that require more responsive attention." And he said the Air Force needed to prove that the nuclear mission is the No. 1 priority it claims it to be. He also found that groundwater intrusion in nuclear missile silos and the underground launch control posts to which they are connected had done major damage, including collapsing electrical conduits.

The bottom-line conclusion, however, was this:

"The nuclear force is professional, disciplined, committed and attentive to the special demands of the mission."

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# FORT HOOD SHOOTINGS



TAMIR KALIFA/AP

Active-duty servicemembers, veterans and civilians march through Lions Club Park to pay tribute to the victims and families affected by the Fort Hood shooting, in Killeen, Texas, on Friday.

# Argument over leave may have prompted shooting

By JENNIFER HLAD  
Stars and Stripes

FORT HOOD, Texas — Investigators believe that an escalating argument in Spc. Ivan A. Lopez's unit area Wednesday afternoon was the "precipitating event" to the shootings that left four soldiers, including



Ferguson



Owens



Lazaney Rodriguez

Lopez, dead and 16 more injured, Lt. Gen. Mark A. Milley said Friday. Lopez was being treated for depression and other mental issues, and Milley on Thursday said there is "strong evidence that he had a medical history that indicates an unstable psychiatric or psychological condition." However, Milley said, Lopez's underlying medical conditions are now not believed to have been "a direct precipitating factor" in the shooting.

The New York Times on Friday reported that Lopez met with superiors Wednesday about

a leave request that had been denied. A law enforcement source told the Times that Lopez was acting agitated and disrespectful after the meeting.

Milley, the commander of the post and of III Corps, and Chris Grey, spokesman for the Army's Criminal Investigation Command, said they could not offer details about the argument with Lopez's superiors, but said some of the soldiers injured in the gunfire were involved in the verbal altercation.

Lopez began shooting around 4 p.m. Wednesday near the intersection of 72nd Street and Tank Destroyer Boulevard, moved to his car and fired his 45-caliber Smith & Wesson semi-automatic weapon indiscriminately while driving, then fired shots at two additional locations, Grey said. At the second location, Lopez approached a military police sergeant and drew his



LAURA SKELDING, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

Gov. Rick Perry, right, gives a news conference with Sen. Ted Cruz, left, and local lawmakers at the Marvin Leahy Visitors Center at the Main Gate of Fort Hood in Fort Hood, Texas, on Friday.

weapon. The MP fired one round, Grey said.

According to witnesses, Lopez then put the gun to his head and fired, Grey said.

All evidence so far suggests there was only one shooter, Grey said. Initial reports that there may have been two shooters were likely due to the chaos of the situation and the fact that the shootings happened in multiple locations within a two-block area.

The investigation also has not uncovered any previous criminal activity or convictions in Lopez's past, Grey said, nor has it established a "concrete motive."

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel M. Ferguson, Sgt. Timothy Owens and Staff Sgt. Carlos Alberto Lazaney Rodriguez were killed. Ferguson and Owens were, like Lopez, part of the 49th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control). Rodri-

guez was assigned to 1st Medical Brigade.

But Friday there is no evidence thus far that any of the victims was targeted in advance.

Earlier Friday, Gov. Rick Perry and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, met with the survivors. After the visit, they called for more prayers and less discussion about policy.

"There aren't any easy answers here," Perry said. "There's no way to push away the suffering."

Lopez purchased the weapon March 1 at Guns Galore, the same gun store where Maj. Nidal Hasan bought the rifle he used to kill nine in the mass shooting at Fort Hood in 2009. He did not register the weapon on base, and brought it to the post in violation of local and Army regulations.

The most recent shooting re-newed calls by gun advocates and victims of the 2009 shoot-

# Recent shooting jars 2009 Fort Hood victim

By SABA HAMEDY  
Los Angeles Times

Amber Gaddin, 24, was driving home from the grocery store when she got the text Wednesday afternoon.

"Turn on the news," her neighbor wrote. "My mom said there was another shooting at Fort Hood."

Gaddin's heart stopped. The memories from the 2009 Fort Hood shooting came rushing back.

The four gunshot wounds in her back.

The three days she spent in the hospital.

"I started shaking and crying. I kind of lost it. I'm pretty sure I had a panic attack," she told the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday night from her home in Albuquerque, N.M., where she now lives. "It was kind of looking at the same situation in two completely different ways."

Gaddin, who is a stay-at-home mom to her 18-month-old son, immediately called her mom.

"My mom said, 'Oh, my God' — and from what she told me, she lost it too," Gaddin said.

Later, she updated her Facebook page.

"I can't breathe," she wrote. "I am shaking so bad right now."

About 30 people posted replies; many friends wrote that they were praying for her.

"You've been through hell and back, just glad you're home and not going through it again," one friend said.

Another wrote, "We're out of the area physically but this pulls us right back emotionally, as I'm sure it does for so many."

As far as safety at Fort Hood goes, Gaddin, who has arthritis in her back because of bullet fragments, said she didn't think much could be done.

"The only way that you're going to stop something like that from happening again is literally getting every single person down," she said. "The last time I checked it was something like 70, 80,000 people that

go on base every single day, so doing something like that is virtually impossible."

But Gaddin thinks there could be more training to prepare for such events.

A couple of Gaddin's friends who are still at Fort Hood posted on their Facebook pages that they were safe.

By 7 p.m., Gaddin was finally able to relax.

"I'm still thinking about it and everything," she said. "But I'm not really panicking anymore."

The shooting also brought back memories for Kimberly Cooke of Oneonta, N.Y., whose brother, Matthew, was shot five times at Fort Hood in 2009, and survived.

"I'm totally fine until I hear my family panicking and I know they are having flashbacks," she wrote on her Facebook page. "I hear them tearing up on the other end of the phone line ... thinking of the Fort Hood families."

When the 2009 shooting occurred, Cooke said her family had trouble getting information about the incident.

"Nobody contacted us to tell us he was one of the victims," she said. "The Army is not really forthcoming in with what's going on."

Cooke said her family still hadn't told her brother about Wednesday's shooting.

"He actually doesn't know about the shooting today," she told the Times. "My family hasn't told him because he suffers a lot of PTSD issues. He has a lot of heavy depression. He's still on anxiety medications, 4 1/2 years later."

ing to allow servicemembers to carry concealed weapons on base. Current Army policy prohibits carrying concealed weapons on base and bars soldiers from carrying weapons they do own on base unless authorized by a senior commander.

But there is time later to focus on the public policy issues, Cruz said.

Perry agreed, saying now is the time to focus on the short-term needs of the survivors and the community.

"It's times like this that you see the resilience of the military family," Perry said. "They'll recover from this latest tragedy."

A memorial service for the victims is planned for Wednesday, Milley said.

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## AFGHAN ELECTION

# Hopeful Afghan voters go to the polls in droves

By HEATH DRUZIN  
AND JOSH SMITH  
Stars and Stripes

**KABUL** — On election day in this tense, war-weary capital, rolling afternoon thunder was the only boom heard in the city. Long lines at polling stations were the story on a day many feared violence would mar the vote for the country's next president.

After more than a week of steady attacks, Kabul was quiet as Afghans turned out in droves to vote in a presidential election that could see the first democratic transfer of power in the country's history, go a long way toward convincing donor countries to keep financing its impoverished government and mark a high point in an otherwise troubled, unpopular international military campaign.

Voting was extended by an hour to accommodate large crowds.

That is not to say the day went by without incident. Low turnout was reported in some of the more dangerous areas of the country; some stations ran out of ballots; and there were some deadly attacks in the provinces, though not nearly as many as the Taliban had promised in their furious threats against what they derided as "the fake election."

Still, turnout was high across the country. The director of the Independent Election Commission, Mohammad Yousef Nuristani, said 7 million people voted, which would mark about a 50 percent increase over the validated votes from 2009. About 1 million voters in that election — marred by allegations of fraud and vote-rigging — were thrown out.

Mohammed Younas patiently waited to vote for more than an hour in a line that snaked for hundreds of meters through muddy alleyways in western Kabul. He said the election process is a chance for Afghans to fix problems themselves. "If we see problems, then we must cast a vote for our future," Younas said.

Large numbers of women also waited to vote Saturday, though in separate lines from the men. The treatment and subjugation of women has been a long-standing issue in the deeply conservative country.

"Men and women have equal rights, and we all need to work for our rights," said Karima Hashemi, 37, a teacher at a polling station in eastern Kabul.

The biggest winner may have been the Afghan security forces, on their own to secure a free election for the first time, said Ahmad Majidyar, a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

"It was a major test for the Afghan government and the Afghan security forces, and they did a great job," he said.

Saturday's vote was just the beginning of what will be a long, tortuous process. Counting of ballots began at 5 p.m., when polls closed, and could continue until April 20. Preliminary results won't be released until April 24, though The Associated Press reported partial results were expected as soon as Sunday.

Because of the crowded field of front-runners, it's likely no one will win more than 50 percent of the vote, which would trigger a runoff election. The tentative date for that, should it be necessary, is May 28. Then the vote-counting and complaints process would start over again, meaning the political wrangling could last into the summer.

Even in Kabul, the capital, the president since the U.S. invaded the country in 2001, knocking out the Taliban government, and Saturday marked the first time ever that an Afghan leader has voted for his potential successor.

The vote follows a spirited campaign that saw hundreds of rallies for and against candidates and a lot of governance issues in the country have suffered."



HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

A woman prepares to vote at a polling station in eastern Kabul on Saturday.

with the field narrowing to three front-runners: Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister who was runner-up to Karzai in the 2009 election; Ashraf Ghani, a technocrat and former finance minister; and Zalmay Rassoul, a former foreign minister who is seen as Karzai's preferred candidate.

Seeing voters trudge through mud and waterlogged streets en masse on a soggy day, ignoring Taliban threats of mass violence, is a hopeful sign for the future of the country, said Shahla Fareed, an analyst and professor of political science at Kabul University.

"It's very good news for Afghanistan that the people, not guns, can hand power from one leader to another," she said.

A Stripes reporter was initially barred from a polling place in Pul-e Charki, a Kabul

suburb controlled by warlord and parliament member Afullah Tarekhi. Mohammedi that saw massive fraud in the 2009 election. Tarekhi insisted the reporter first meet with him in his compound before being allowed into his madrasa, which was also serving as a polling station. No election observers were in the

**'It's very good news for Afghanists that the people, not guns, can hand power from one leader to another.'**

Shahla Fareed

Kabul University professor

## Issues dominating Afghan elections

By KATHY GANNON  
The Associated Press

**KABUL** — Afghans faced several issues at the polls Saturday.

The most often mentioned concerns include:

■ **Security:** A spike in attacks ahead of the elections has highlighted the poor state of security in Afghanistan. While most people said it has hardened their determination to go to the polls, fear dominates their lives and the lives of their children. Stories abound of children whose artwork is seldom without helicopter gunships or soldiers with guns. Many candidates said improving security is the top concern.

■ **Corruption:** According to Transparency International, Afghanistan is one of the most corrupt countries in the world, along with North Korea and Somalia. According to most Afghans, corruption seeps into every facet of their life. Errands as simple as paying bills often require bribes. The most immediate worry of many Afghans is that fraud will again mar polling results.

■ **Economy:** Lack of jobs and widespread poverty has most Afghans wondering where billions of dollars in international aid that poured into Af-

ghanistan after the collapse of the Taliban have gone. The Asian Development Bank said the Afghan government twice missed its revenue targets last year. Foreign aid contributes upward of 90 percent of the government's overall budget. But there is some good news with the Asian Development Bank revising Afghanistan's growth rate this year upward to 5.3 percent.

■ **Women:** Afghan women have come a long way since the Taliban ruled the country and they were forced indoors and into the all-encompassing burqa. Today, girls are in school and women are in the workforce, some holding seats in parliament. Still, many female activists worry that the government's determination to protect their rights is waning. They worry going forward that their gains might be sacrificed in favor of an agreement with the Taliban.

■ **Future U.S. role:** Afghan President Hamid Karzai's deteriorating relations with Kabul's Western allies has Afghans worried that the further deterioration could leave them isolated once again. Karzai has refused to sign a security agreement with the United States, which is needed if a residual force of about 12,000 to 15,000 U.S. and NATO troops is to remain behind in Afghanistan next year.

For more extensive story and photo coverage of the Afghan elections, go to: [stripes.com/afghanistan](http://stripes.com/afghanistan)



station.

In some areas, the ballots never arrived because of insecurity. Munsef Bacha, who lives in the restive Uzbun area of Kabul province, said polling stations there never opened.

"There was no election in Uzbun," he said. "People thought the government might make a big effort to bring the ballots, but they didn't."

Some sat out the vote because they are disillusioned by politicians they see as ineffective and corrupt.

"I don't believe in these candidates," said Fahim, who like many Afghans goes by only one name. "They just make promises but don't actually act. If the coming government is like the past government, then I won't support them."

In addition to violence, fraud was the biggest worry going into the election. No one expected the election to be fraud-free, but the extent of irregularities is unlikely to be known for some time, as the lengthy process of vote-counting and complaints adjudication has just begun.

For the first time, Afghan election workers had tools such as ink only visible under ultraviolet light as a backup to the traditional fraud-fighting purple ink placed on voters' fingers to ensure they don't vote more than once, said Kit Spence, an election monitor with Democracy International.

He said while it is too early to draw any conclusions, initial impressions from the stations he observed in Kabul indicated that the process ran "quite well."

While the coming days will reveal whether concerns over fraud are fully founded, Spence noted that a high turnout could diminish the impact that any fraudulent ballots have on the results.

All of the major candidates have said they will not accept fraudulent results, and Afghans will be watching to see how the losers react when the votes are tallied.

Abdullah, a leading contender in many polls, said he was hopeful Saturday morning as he cast his own ballot at a Kabul high school.

"There have been problems and issues around the country," he told Stripes as he left the polling center. "But it is very early still, and we will see in coming days. We still need to be optimistic."

Washington, too, will be closely monitoring the results to see who their next partner will be.

The winner is unlikely to be announced for some time, but after more than a year of bitter acrimony between Karzai and America, the three front-runners have all said they would sign a long-sought security agreement with the U.S., which would pave the way for a small force of international troops to remain after all combat troops withdraw at the end of the year.

That means a possible thaw in relations with the United States, said Majidyar, of the AEI.

"I think the election and the coming into office of a new president provides a very good opportunity both for Kabul and for Washington to repair their damaged relations," he said. "The relationship has deteriorated, and as a result of that, the military mission and a lot of governance issues in the country have suffered."

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MILITARY

# Robert Gates discusses wars and Washington

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

Former Secretary of Defense Bob Gates talked to Stars and Stripes on Thursday about his new book, "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War." President Barack Obama and ongoing national security challenges.

Here is what he said:  
**You said in your book that Obama hasn't spoken publicly enough about the importance of the mission in Afghanistan. Having talked with a lot of troops during your visits to Afghanistan and elsewhere, did you get a sense that they don't believe that their commander-in-chief is fully supportive of them and their mission?**

I basically would hear that indirectly ... It was my own perception that if you're going to send troops in harm's way, you need to be vocal about why the mission is important, why the cause is just, and ... why it's worth the potential sacrifice for the troops who are carrying out the mission.

**And you felt Obama didn't take ownership of the war?**

Correct. Most of the time when he would speak about Afghanistan, it was when he was announcing a new strategy or a decision to deploy more troops or to begin drawing down troops; in other words, his public statements were linked to actions he was taking as opposed to appearing in groups — in front of groups of troops, or ... [sending] a message to the American people of why the war was important ... Nobody from the White House, including him, would go out to defend those decisions and say why they were important and why they were the correct decisions.

**Do you think that Obama's seeming reluctance to speak out about the importance of the mission had a negative impact on the morale of the troops?**

All I have is just anecdotal information. I think based on everything I saw that they were committed to the mission and they did their jobs and often with great courage. But I think that it just can't help but have an impact if the person who is asking you to make the sacrifice is telling you why it's worth it.

**In your book, you said you were brought on as secretary of defense to salvage the Iraq War. Ultimately, do you think the Iraq War was worth the cost in lives and treasure?**

I think that more time has to pass and we have to see how this period of conflict and turbulence in the Middle East sorts itself out. If in 15 or 20 years Iraq is a relatively democratic, stable society, then I think people will look back and say, well, this was worth the cost.

See more of our interview with ex-defense chief Robert Gates [stripes.com](#)

But ... our troops should be very proud of the kind of Iraq that our troops began to depart. The fact that the Iraqi government made mistakes after that ... particularly in the way that [Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki] has dealt with the Sunnis and so on, I think does not diminish the achievement of our troops in having brought Iraq to the point that it was by the end of 2008 and in 2009.

**You were a Russia specialist early in your national security career. How concerned should the U.S. and the West be about potential Russian invasion of Ukraine? What would the strategic consequences of that be?**

I think an actual invasion would be a very critical matter and a source of great concern ... The idea that you can settle for territorial disputes or old claims to territory by force is a huge problem when you consider all of the kinds of disputes there are like that, not only in Europe but in Asia and elsewhere. So you have disputes between China and Japan over the Senkaku Islands. What [Vladimir] Putin has done [by seizing Crimea] basically is to give the go-ahead to the Chinese and say, well, just take them by force if you think they belong to you. And I think that's a very bad message as well and is likely to lead to future crises and potentially armed conflict ... One of the reasons that I think we should have reacted more strongly is because once you let those principles go by the wayside, you're probably in for more crises and conflict.

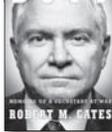
**In light of budget constraints and growing personnel costs, do you think that pay and benefits for servicemembers and veterans are too generous? If so, how do you think they should they be changed?**

When it comes to housing, when it comes to subsistence, when it comes to healthcare [inaudible], I really don't think any of the benefits for the active force are too generous, and I wouldn't change any of that ... [But] I would like to see [a system] that provides a retirement benefit for those who serve less than 20 years; that they can carry with them; and then second, a modest increase in the Tiers 1 and 2 pension for war-age retirees ... I think that the country has a contract with the members of the military — a moral contract — not to change the terms of the deal during their service. So any changes to the retirement system I would grandfather so that everybody who is on active duty or



MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS CHAD J. McNEEL/Courtesy of DOD

U.S. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., in 2011.



**veterans service organizations and their supporters on the Hill will block any efforts at meaningful compensation reform what comes to retirement benefits or other things like that?**

I think they will make every effort to do so ... I really applaud a lot of the things the VSOs do. But it seemed to me that when I wanted to make some changes that would benefit the troops who are on active duty, but it had any impact on veterans or retirees at all, the VSOs would oppose it. And that's what got under my skin. When I was trying to help the people on active duty, it seemed like they were of secondary importance to the VSOs compared to their constituents.

**Given all the budget cutbacks, combined with continued force requirements and crises in other parts of the world, is the military pivot to Asia still viable?**

I think so ... But it depends on how — I mean the problem is it makes it sound like we're sending, you know, the bulk of what we have to Asia. And the reality is you cannot ignore the crisis with Russia right now, you cannot ignore the instability and the risk in the Middle East right now, [and] you can't ignore the Iranian nuclear program. So the idea of significantly weakening our presence in Europe or in the Middle East today in order to send more forces to Asia concerns me, and that's why the budget cuts concern me ... The reality is you can't defy the laws of physics. And an aircraft carrier that's deployed in the South China Sea can't also be in the Persian Gulf. And so you get involved in the reality of the numbers in terms of the forces that you can actually have deployed.

**Current plans to shrink the Army to about 450,000 troops or possibly 420,000 if sequestration goes back into effect — may preclude the U.S.**

**retired today would be affected by the change.**  
**Do you think that the veterans service organizations and their supporters on the Hill will block any efforts at meaningful compensation reform what comes to retirement benefits or other things like that?**

**Do you think that the veterans service organizations and their supporters on the Hill will block any efforts at meaningful compensation reform what comes to retirement benefits or other things like that?**  
retired today would be affected by the change. Do you think that the veterans service organizations and their supporters on the Hill will block any efforts at meaningful compensation reform what comes to retirement benefits or other things like that?  
military from doing large counterinsurgency or stability operations. Is this huge force level cut a bad idea?  
Going down to [420,000] or something like that is very dangerous. Everybody talks about we're not going to do insurgency anymore, we're not going to fight certain kinds of wars anymore. And I always smile when I hear that because that's exactly what I heard after Vietnam: We're not going to do any of that anymore. And yet we did [in Iraq and Afghanistan]. And when it comes to predicting where and how we were going to use military force next over the last 40 years since Vietnam, we have a perfect record: we haven't gotten it right once.

**You are in a unique position of having served two presidents of differing parties as secretary of defense. How would you rate President Bush and President Obama as commanders-in-chief, respectively?**

Both of them never hesitated to make tough decisions. They both were willing to make decisions that they knew would be unpopular politically ... [But] I think President Bush was much more personally committed to the success of the mission in Iraq and Afghanistan than President Obama ... That's the only area in which I saw a difference between the two.

**Some people are critical of the fact that you published a memoir that criticizes a sitting president who took you into his confidence. What is your response to that criticism? Do you think that it's fair?**

It's a legitimate question ... [But] the book is about issues and problems that are right on our plate today: The Middle East, Iraq, Afghanistan, how we deal with Russia, how we deal with China, how we deal with Syria, how do you reform the defense budget with a parochial Congress that won't let programs in their districts be cut, how do you go ahead and make those cuts, how do you make government work. I did that. So I think sharing how I was able to cut all the programs that I did and reduce overhead — these are all lessons that I think are relevant to the public debate today, and not in 2017 [after Obama leaves office].

**In your book, you talked about the military-industrial complex. Do you think that the current system essentially countenances corruption when it comes to defense contractors making campaign contributions to members of Congress or the so-called "revolving door" between the Pentagon and the defense industry?**

I don't think it countenances it. I mean, it happens. But I think that can largely be dealt with through strong leadership. After all, I cut three dozen major military programs that affected almost every state in the Union and most members of Congress. And yet I was able to get the Congress either to acquiesce or support every single one of those. So I think you can do the right thing. It just takes some guts and the support of the president.

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## VETERANS POLL

# 'The war zone never left me'

## Poll: Despite problems, majority of veterans say they'd enlist again

### FROM FRONT PLACE

The veterans are often frustrated with the services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Pentagon and other government agencies. Almost 60 percent say the VA is doing an "only fair" or "poor" job in addressing their problems, and half say the military is lagging in its efforts to help them transition to civilian life, which has been difficult for 50 percent of those who have left active service.

Nearly 1.5 million of those who served in the wars believe the needs of their fellow vets are not being met by the government.

"When I raised my right hand and said, 'I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America,' when I gave them everything I could, I expect the same in return," said Christopher Stevens, a former Army staff sergeant who was among 819 vets polled.

He served in Iraq in 2003 and in Kuwait two years ago, where he was injured in a construction accident. Upon leaving the Army last summer, he filed a claim with the VA, seeking medical care and financial compensation. He has not yet received a response.

"It's ridiculous that I've been waiting seven months just to be examined by a doctor — absolutely ridiculous," he said.

Even so, the majority of recent veterans are not embittered or regretful. Considering everything they now know about war and military service, almost 90 percent would still have joined.

"What we did had a positive impact there," said Texas Army National Guard Sgt. David Moeller, who spent two yearlong tours in Iraq. "I don't regret it. It's something I'd do over and over again."

Drawing upon detailed interviews with randomly selected war veterans across all military branches, including those still serving and those no longer in the military, the nationwide poll provides an unprecedented glimpse into the lives and attitudes of modern

warriors — an all-volunteer cadre, most of whom signed up in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. That force, drawn from nearly every county in the nation and often sent on multiple-year combat tours, has included more than 280,000 women and thousands of 18-year-olds.

Although more than 6,800 U.S. servicemembers were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, advancements in body armor, transportation and battlefield medicine gave troops a better chance of coming home than any other generation of warfighters.

"They have come back to a nation that has embraced them — warmly, strongly, positively — and put tremendous value and appreciation into their service," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said. "That is so important."

Many are thriving — they are attending college, paid in full by the post-9/11 GI Bill; they are finding employers who covet their leadership skills and work ethic; they are receiving the medical attention they need.

But the poll also found that hundreds of thousands of others feel they have been left behind on an uncharted postwar landscape, fighting for benefits, struggling to land a job, wrestling with psychological demons unleashed by combat or coping with shattered families.

Their responses reveal nuanced views of their lives, their service and their treatment by the government.

Almost three in four believe the average American appreciates their service, but fewer — only 52 percent — like talking about their wartime experiences with casual acquaintances or strangers.

Nearly 90 percent performed actions in Iraq or Afghanistan that made them feel proud, yet only 35 percent believe both wars were worth fighting.

"I don't find that to be in any way a contradiction of data," said Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "I think that this aspect of service, and being true and trustworthy to the man or woman on your left or right, is probably what mostly drives the 90 percent figure. They're proud of what they did. They believe they did their job, and potentially the elected governments of Iraq and Afghanistan didn't do theirs."

Some of their present-day challenges — securing a well-paying career and coping with debt — mirror traits of American society as a whole, but other needs are unique consequences of this century's conflicts: diagnosing and treating traumatic brain injury, acquiring technical skills to compete in a transforming economy and addressing the stress on families from repeated combat tours. More than 600,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with physical or psychological wounds are receiving lifelong financial support from the government, a figure that could grow as new ailments are diagnosed and the VA processes a large claims backlog.

"What is different about this generation? We've asked them to do a lot more, in a smaller serving force, in some of the longest wars in our history," VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said. Multiple deployments have created what he calls "a compounding effect" to health problems and combat stress, with an unknown overall cost. "There's more work to be done in terms of research and understanding of what the full impact is going to be."

### 'A unique time'

For many vets, their times in Iraq and Afghanistan were searing experiences. One in three think about their deployments daily.

Among them is Nicholas Johnson, a former specialist in the Arkansas Army National Guard, who spent a year in Iraq starting in 2006.

His platoon was ordered to fill roadside bomb craters, which required him to jackhammer asphalt while wearing 50 pounds of gear.

He returned home with a fractured vertebra, three fused disks in his back, ringing ears and debilitating post-traumatic stress because of the frequent craneage he witnessed on Baghdad's roads.

"I can't get a good job now because ... I have to be upfront and say I have this disability, I have a torse-up back," he said. "So now, the factories here in Topeka, where I live now, they're like: 'Oh, wow, he has military experience. Great. He has managerial experience. Oh, that's good. Some college — all right. Oh, he tore his back up. Can't do that, you know.'"

Johnson, who is 32 "but going on 60," confronts the toll of his service on his drive to a just-over-minimum-wage job at Lowe's, when he has to avoid Interstate 70 because it reminds him of Baghdad's insurgent-riddled side roads, where he panics at the sight of trash on the street because that's what Iraqi guerrillas employed to conceal explosives, when he pops painkillers and anti-anxiety pills, when he has to use a cane or ask his fellow clerks for help moving boxes.

"I left the war zone," he said, "but the war zone never left me."

This generation's veterans are more diverse than any other contingent America has shipped to war. Thirty-five percent are non-white, more than one in 10 are women and a quarter are now 40 years or older.

But much of the force remains homogeneous: Half are Southerners, two-thirds lack a college degree and almost six in 10 live in a non-urban area.

More than eight in 10 vets served at least one tour in Iraq or in support of that war. Of those deployed to Iraq, 47 percent were sent on two or more deployments, and 29 percent — more than a half-million servicemembers — spent two years or more in the strife-torn country.

By contrast, 29 percent of vets who deployed to Afghanistan had two or more tours, and 16 percent spent at least two years there.

The entire group of 2.6 million post-9/11 vets includes hundreds of thousands of troops who did not serve within the borders of Iraq or Afghanistan but who worked in support of operations in those nations from bases and ships in the Middle East and South Asia.

SEE PAGE 7



Nicholas Johnson spent a year in Iraq with the Army National Guard. He returned with a fractured vertebra, three fused disks in his back, ringing ears and PTSD.

MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

# VETERANS POLL

**FROM PAGE 6**

Those deployments often were arduous and risky, and involved separation from families. In tallying those who served, the Defense Department does not distinguish between them and those who walked on the soil of Iraq or Afghanistan.

More than 730,000 went as members of the reserves or National Guard, forcing them to place their civilian lives on hold for as long as a year, sometimes more than once. It was the largest use of both forces since World War II, greater even than during the Vietnam and Korean wars.

The vets hail from families where service in the military is tradition: More than four in 10 have fathers who were in the military, and half have at least one grandparent who was. Almost 40 percent say all or most of their friends have served in the military. By contrast, a national Kaiser Family Foundation poll conducted in December found that 32 percent of U.S. adults had "hardly any" or no friends who have been in the military.

Slightly more than half year for their time in the wars. Of them, almost two-thirds cited the bonds they forged with fellow military personnel. "It was a unique time," said Kevin Ivey, a retired Army helicopter pilot who spent a year in Afghanistan starting in 2004. "I miss my crew, the folks I was with, the organization. You make lifelong friendships in war."

Many vets see themselves as a cut above the rest of American society, as noble volunteers who stepped up to promote and protect U.S. interests while the rest of the nation went about its business as usual. Sixty-three percent believe servicemembers are more patriotic than civilians; 54 percent think the average member of the military has better moral and ethical values than the general civilian population.

Almost seven in 10 believe that the average American routinely misunderstands their experience, and slightly more than four in 10 think the expressions of appreciation showered upon veterans are just saying what people want to hear. More than 1.4 million vets feel disconnected from civilian life.

"A lot of vets find it easier to talk to each other, especially about their wartime experiences," said Jennifer Smolen, who served in Iraq for a year with an Army Reserve engineer unit and is now an active member of a Seattle-area American Legion post. "There's a feeling that civilians who weren't there just don't get it."

Moeller, the Texas National Guard sergeant, returned from his first deployment to Iraq with back pain so severe he had to sleep sitting upright. In 2009, when his unit was mobilized again, he "could have waved the medical flag." But he wanted to head back out with his buddies "to complete the mission, because that's what I took an oath to do." So he kept quiet and toughed it out.

When his unit was called up again in 2012 to go to Afghanistan, he once

again tried to deploy. "I can make it one more time," he thought to himself. But an Army doctor thought otherwise. "Isn't it time you started taking care of yourself?" he suggested.

According to the Defense Department, 51,908 servicemembers were wounded in action in Iraq, Afghanistan or in missions to support the wars. That tally doesn't include Moeller — or hundreds of thousands of others — because the Pentagon counts only those injured as a "direct result of hostile action." If a wound did not occur on a combat operation, it does not make the list.

But in Iraq and Afghanistan, where there were no front lines, where improvised explosive devices were the enemy's weapon of choice, where troops wore bulky protective gear most of the time, wounds that do not fit the classic definition became the norm. Traumatic brain injury. Persistent ringing in the ears. Elevated blood pressure.

Once troops returned home and the adrenaline ebbed, they began to confront the cost of all they wore to protect them, of the bone-jarring trips in mine-resistant trucks, of inhaling desert sand pulverized into jagged particles by armored vehicles. Back pain. Blown-out knees. Headaches. Persistent coughs.

For more than 1.1 million vets, serving in the wars has left them in worse physical health, according to the poll. Eighteen percent — about 47,000 current and former servicemembers — reported being seriously injured while deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan or in support of the wars. Some of those wounds have been profoundly life-altering — lost limbs, widespread burns, massive brain damage. Others are more prosaic, often the results of accidents or wear and tear on the body.

Justin Peachee, a sergeant in the Texas Army National Guard, spent a year as an infantryman in Iraq, hauling a heavy rucksack, rifle and ammunition over his armored vest. His knees now have worn-out cartilage and leaking fluid sacks. He is 26. "I just want my knees to be my knees again," he said. "I don't want grandpa knees at this point."

One in three veterans surveyed by the Washington Post and Kaiser said the VA or the Defense Department has determined they have a service-connected disability, a ratio that is almost identical to the VA's overall tally. Most have no scars. Their physical wounds are under the skin, or they

are inside the brain.

The poll found that the wars have caused mental and emotional health problems in 31 percent of vets — more than 800,000 of them. When more specific questions were asked, the rates increased: 41 percent — more than 1 million — report having outbursts of anger; and 43 percent have relationship problems. Both are indicators of post-traumatic stress and could suggest that PTS rates might be higher than the government has forecast.

Although The Washington Post and Kaiser did not ask respondents the full battery of questions typically used to make PTS diagnoses, studies conducted for the Pentagon, including one by the RAND Corp. in 2008, have estimated rates of PTS at 14 percent. Time may explain some of the difference: Every servicemember experiences the stress of war differently, and some do not feel it for years.

For Adam Schiele, a former active-duty military police officer in the Army, it has taken a decade. In recent months,

he has been haunted by an Afghan man's plea for medical assistance for his badly wounded niece at the gate of a U.S. base — and the initial refusal of American medics, which he describes as callous. Nothing went boom. Nobody died. It happened a decade ago. But the incident was justified from the recesses of his mind in the wake of an assault on a fellow guard at the federal correctional institution where he works. Since then, Schiele, who now finds the memory more vivid than ever, has been placed on disability leave.

"I'm sitting at home, hoping it will go away," he said. "It's discouraging. It makes you feel inadequate."

Troops "don't need to be classified as wounded in action to have been wounded," he said. "A lot of us got hurt. Some more serious than others, but a lot of the sacrificed part of our bodies out there."

## Difficult transition

Iraq and Afghanistan vets are making unprecedented use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, largely because of an Obama administration decision to provide five years of free VA health care to all of them. Of the 1.7 million who are no longer serving in the active, Reserve or National Guard forces, more than 1 million have obtained health care services at least once from the VA since 2002 and about 45 percent of them have sought compensation for service-related disabilities. By comparison, about 21 percent of those who fought in the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War filed similar claims.

The difference between the nearly half seeking compensation and the third who have received it may help to explain why almost six in 10 vets believe the VA is doing an "only fair" or "poor" job in meeting the needs of their comrades.

Under President Barack Obama, the VA's budget has grown by more than 60 percent over the past six years, although congressional overseers and veterans' organizations complain that the department continues to be hobbled by what they consider a bloated and inefficient bureaucracy.

"There's always room for improvement," said Shinskie, who believes the widespread frustration is rooted not in the quality of service provided by the VA but by the delay in processing disability claims, which he has pledged to eliminate by the end of next year.

**SEE PAGE 8**

**"I just want my knees to be my knees again." — Justin Peachee**

Justin Peachee, 26, is a sergeant in the Texas Army National Guard who spent a year as an infantryman in Iraq.

MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post



# VETERANS POLL

## FROM PAGE 7

Despite the backlog, he emphasized that this generation of veterans has been provided benefits, including college tuition reimbursement through the GI Bill and free health care, "in ways that didn't happen after Vietnam."

"We've asked a lot of this generation," said Shineki, a Vietnam War veteran. "We owe it to them."

More than half of vets says the government is not doing a good job in addressing the requirements of this generation. But when asked to rate their own treatment, almost 60 percent say the government's response is "excellent" or "good." Vets give even higher marks when it comes to their own health care, with more than eight in 10 saying their physical, mental and emotional needs are being well met.

They are far less sanguine about the transition to civilian life. Half think the military is not doing enough to help vets adjust to the world beyond their U.S. and overseas bases, where men and women who never had to worry about where to live or how to write a resume now must learn to navigate American streets and survive job interviews.

Just as many say their own transition to civilian life was somewhat or very difficult.

Asked to describe why, slightly over a quarter said it was because of employment-related issues, such as adjusting to a civilian-run workplace. A similar percentage said the principal challenge involved the profound differences between civilian and military life. Among those still in the military, 43 percent expect a difficult transition to civilian life.

"There are those that are very much in need of help, but the majority — the vast majority — are less in need of a handout than simply a handshake, an opportunity," Dempsey said.

Two-thirds of vets believe they possess the skills and education required to be competitive in the civilian job market. But there is a significant difference in views between officers, who are required to have at least a bachelor's degree, and enlisted personnel, most of whom do not have a college degree. Almost a quarter of current and former enlisted troops think the skills they have acquired in the military have no use in civilian employment; only 2 percent of officers feel the same way.

Enlisted vets also report more severe economic challenges. Forty-three percent of them have taken an extra job or worked additional hours because they need the money, compared with just 16 percent of officers. A quarter of enlisted members have had trouble paying their rent or mortgage; only 11 percent of officers say the same.

Upon leaving the Marine Corps in 2012, April White figured she would find a steady job to support herself and her then-7-year-old son in North Carolina. Although enlisted, she had been a sergeant with supervisory experience, and she had military logistics skills, honed during a 2007 deployment to Iraq. She sent out applications for secretarial jobs and transportation-related work. She landed one interview, with an employer who was seeking someone with a college degree, which she lacks.

After four months on unemployment assistance, she signed up for the only option she could find — as a contractor in Afghanistan. "I thought once I got out [of the Marines], life was going to be normal," she said. Instead, she had to explain to her son that she was going away again. "I told him, 'I don't want to go to Afghanistan, but I need a job!'"

Now back in Jacksonville, N.C., White has opted to take advantage of the post-9/11 GI Bill to remain close to home, pay her bills and attend college, where she is taking engineering classes. The VA-administered program has been used by almost half of all Iraq and Afghanistan vets. For many, it has served as a hyperbaric chamber to adjust to civilian life, allowing them to stay busy and avoid poverty as they set out to find a post-military career.

"The days of getting out of the military and getting a job — a good job — right away are over," White said. "You have to study, and you have to be patient — and you have to be lucky."

## Mixed feelings

Despite their overwhelming pride and negligible regret, the veterans look back on the necessity of the conflicts with decidedly mixed feelings.

Only 53 percent of them believe the war in Afghanistan has been worth fighting, and just 44 percent say the same for Iraq. Slightly over a third — almost 900,000 vets — "strongly" believe the Iraq War was not worth it.

Those figures are moderately higher than the population as a whole, but they reveal a fundamental nuance in attitudes among the all-volunteer military: Many among this generation of vets regard their service as a profession — almost half signed up intending to serve for at least 20 years — and they have divorced their individual missions from the worthiness of the overall wars.

"Right, wrong or indifferent, it was something we signed up to do," said Kenneth Harmon, a retired Marine master sergeant who served for 23 years and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. "It was our job. We got orders. We followed them."

That detachment was easier for those who saw value in the wars. "When I see people smile because we're there, when I see kids happy that there are American troops with boots on the ground over there, it had always reaffirmed my belief that we were doing the right thing," said Santino Fort, a retired Air Force technical sergeant who deployed twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq.

Others have grown increasingly frustrated as they have heard of developments in both nations, of Afghan President Hamid Karzai refusing to sign a bilateral security agreement with the United States, of the Iraqi city of Fallujah falling to al-Qaida militants spilling over from Syria. For Peechee, Iraq now feels "like a big waste of time."

"We turned it over, and it's gone back to chaos and anarchy," he said. "The government and the citizenry don't have respect for anything that we fought for."

But that has not soured his view of the Guard. "I joined because I want to do interesting things," he said. A few months ago, he re-enlisted for six more years.

The military, which was showered with money to grow its ranks and acquire new equipment over the past decade, probably will be far smaller when his enlistment ends. And it almost certainly will include more women serving in ground combat roles, a change that half of all post-9/11 vets believe will "not make much difference" on military effectiveness.

Current and former members of the Navy were most supportive — almost two-thirds of them say the Pentagon's decision to roll back a ban on women in combat positions will not affect war fighting — while the Marines were the most skeptical: 45 percent of them feel that doing so would have a negative impact on the force.

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**"I don't want a hip replacement at 35."  
— Jeffrey Arena**

Jeffrey Arena spent nine years in the Army, including 38 months deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post



# VETERANS POLL

**FROM PAGE 8**

Although women were kept from ground combat jobs in Iraq and Afghanistan, many found themselves in harm's way. Thousands of others served in key positions on headquarters staffs, in hospitals and within support units. Some were generals.

Despite fielding the most gender-integrated force in U.S. history, almost half of female vets say the military is not doing enough to prevent sexual assault among servicemembers. Among men, four in 10 share that view.

In a recent VA survey of 1,500 women who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, one in four said they experienced sexual assault — defined as any unwanted contact from groping to rape — during their deployments.

"Just being a woman was an additional stressor," said Melissa Ross, one of the Post-Kaiser poll respondents, who deployed to Afghanistan as a staff sergeant three times and always wore an extra knife strapped to her back. "Just being a female. Just the amount of fear of 'What if?' — 'What if you have that one airman or Marine or Army guy who doesn't know you and looks at you just as a female?' That was the biggest stressor for me daily. That crossed my mind way more than, 'What if we hit an IED?'"

When it comes to their most-senior commander, the vets decisively prefer George W. Bush to Obama. Only a third approve of the way Obama is handling his job, and 42 percent of them think he has been a good commander-in-chief despite his decisions to bring troops home from Iraq, wind down the war in Afghanistan and increase resources for veterans. By contrast, nearly two-thirds of them think Bush, who

launched both wars, was a good commander-in-chief.

Their views of the two presidents appear to be shaped less by political affiliation than by concern over the Obama administration's plans to reduce the size of the military, trim benefits for future servicemembers and curtail the purchase of some new weapons systems. Nearly half of vets regard themselves as political independents. Among those who identify with a party, the Republican-Democratic split is 27 percent to 17 percent.

The vets' political philosophy is more striking: 44 percent describe themselves as conservative, and 29 percent say they are moderates. One-fifth are self-described liberals.

When asked if they would be willing, in these times of federal government deficits, to support a reduction in benefits to future generations of troops, they are overwhelmingly opposed, even if it contributes to budget shortfalls. Only 12 percent believe that benefits should be curtailed, despite warnings from Defense Department leaders that growing health

care and pension costs are eating into funds for training and equipment.

When it comes to sharing the responsibility of care with the private sector, 63 percent of vets think that they merit special advantages from employers when applying for jobs. By contrast, four-fifths of all Americans feel employers should provide advantages to vets during the hiring process, according to a separate Kaiser Family Foundation survey conducted in December.

The military's retirement program awards pensions and lifetime family health care to those who have served 20 years or more. The system, which provides nothing to those who spend less than two decades in uniform, has left many Iraq and Afghanistan vets without any retirement benefits.

The vets, however, do not see it as a trade-off. More than half feel the 20-year system provides "about the right amount" of compensation to retirees.

But they also want to increase benefits to those who served in the wars and then left before hitting the two-decade mark. Slightly over half say that group receives fewer benefits than they deserve.

Among them is Jeffrey Arena, a former Army sergeant in the 101st Airborne Division who had two year-long combat tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. He had planned to serve 20 years in the Army and then use his infantry skills to land a law-enforcement job. Last year, however, his hip and leg began to hurt during his morning physical-fitness routine. A doctor on Fort Campbell, Ky., told him that a leg injury he suffered in Iraq during a 2006 mission to pursue insurgents was far more serious than he had been told by field medics at the time: He had fractured his femur and torn cartilage in his hip.

The military offered him a hip replacement, which he turned down. "I'm only 35, and I don't want a hip replacement at 35," he said. "There would be no more running or jumping. I have three kids. I want to be active with them."

The diagnosis spelled the end of his military career. Because he was unable to pass his annual physical-fitness test, the Army moved to retire him on medical grounds. But it deemed him only 20 percent disabled, which meant that he would be ineligible for a military pension or lifetime health coverage, even though he spent 38 months at war and suffered a serious injury while deployed.

"I beat up my body for this nation," he said. "It should count for something."

Arena's last day as a soldier was Feb. 13. In the months leading up to his separation from the Army, he sought to participate in a military-funded internship program that allows departing troops to explore new civilian careers.

The initiative has been touted by Army generals as a key step in the transition from military life. But when he asked the commander of his unit for permission, he was turned down.

"They told me they didn't want to pay me for working at another job," he said. "The Army says, 'You can,' but my command said no."

Worried that his hip injury will disqualify him from law enforcement jobs, he plans to head to flight school in Arizona, where he will live out of a trailer for a year while his family remains at their home in Kentucky.

"In the Army, you're taught to never leave a man behind. Well, they're basically left a man behind," he said.

"It was easy to send us off to war. Taking care of those who need help — and there are lots of us — will be much tougher. But if our nation is going to send us to war, it has a responsibility to do right by us when we come home."

**"I thought once I got out, life was going to be normal."  
— April White**

April White spent nine years in the Marine Corps.

MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post



## MILITARY

# Australians expand options for US troops

## Job pool grows for Americans interested in serving Down Under

By Seth Robson  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIRBASE, Japan — The Australian Defence Force, which expects to double its budget over the next decade, is looking for even more foreign military members willing to serve Down Under.

A report in The Australian newspaper last month said the government plans to increase defense spending — estimated at \$26.5 billion this year — to \$50 billion by 2023.

More money means more troops will be needed, and the Aussies continue to look outside their own country for help filling the ranks.

In most cases, the Australian Defence Force looks to overseas candidates to fill gaps that are currently not being satisfied by standard recruitment practices, according to the Defence Force's website.

The Royal Australian Air Force, for example, is looking for overseas applicants to serve as fast jet pilots, air combat officers, electrical engineers, medical officers and intelligence analysts.

"We recognize that these candidates can bring skills and attributes to the Navy, Army and Air Force that will strengthen their overall operation and success rate," the ADF website states.

Defense officials say that hundreds of U.S., British, Canadian and New Zealand troops have transferred to the Australian military in recent years.

In the last 10 years, the Australian air force recruited more than 220 overseas personnel under the lateral transfer scheme, officials said. Since 2010, the Royal Australian Army has employed more than 100 foreign servicemembers through the program, according to the Australian Defence Ministry.

"Approximately 30 candidates ranked at captain to major and 35 candidates ranked at sergeant to master sergeant (equivalent) are recruited to the Australian Army from a range of overseas military forces each year," officials said.

Royal Australian Navy personnel director Commodore Peter Laver said his navy will grow over the next five years and that it's looking for officers and sailors to transfer from U.S. ranks. The Australians are particularly interested in submariners and people with experience in combat systems that are used in combined operations with the U.S. Navy, he said.

In the next decade the Australian Navy will develop new amphibious warfare, air warfare helicopter systems and submarine capabilities. It's using lateral recruitment to fill ranks and specializations that can enhance those capabilities.

"There are also ongoing opportunities at sea and ashore to support submarines, frigates, patrol boats as well as general engineering, project management and warfare capabilities," the Defence Force website states.

The introduction of three guided-missile destroyers this year also means the Australian navy is looking for personnel with Aegis Weapon System experience. Specifically, it is seeking specialists in Aegis computer networks, SPY 1 radar and Aegis fire control.

One former U.S. servicemember who joined the ADF through the program is Capt. Thomas Tilque.

A veteran of 10 years in the Marine Corps, Tilque was based in California and Okinawa and deployed to Iraq in 2003 and 2005 and Afghanistan in 2010 before transitioning to the

Read more about serving Down Under at [stars.com/go/servedunder](http://stars.com/go/servedunder)

reserves in 2011.

A 2012 Stars and Stripes story about Australian recruiting sparked Tilque's interest, he said.

"I saw it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he said.

Australian citizenship and the experience of working Down Under were part of the attraction, he said.

"If I had waited a couple of years I don't know if the program would still be around," he said. "I went to the Australian Defence Force lateral recruitment website and followed the steps."

In August 2012 Tilque travelled to England for a face-to-face interview. It took about 15 months to complete all of the paperwork and a visa application and he began serving in October last year.

Tilque was assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment in Brisbane, a large city on Australia's east coast.

Working with the Australians isn't vastly different than life in the Marine Corps, he said.

"We have a lot of the same equipment and we do a lot of the same tasks," he said.

Brisbane is "similar to San Diego," but hotter and more humid in summer, he said.

Pay and benefits in the Australian Defence Force — which include subsidized housing and free health care — are on par with what Tilque received as a Marine, he said.

Right now he's gearing up for his first field exercise with the Australians. He expects to be involved in exercises with coalition partners from the U.S., Britain and New Zealand, he said.

"There's a good chance he'll



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**As the U.S. military looks to trim its numbers, the Australian Defence Force is recruiting U.S. servicemembers join its ranks.**

run into U.S. Marines before too long. About 1,200 will deploy to the northern Australian city of Darwin this summer with plans to send 2,500-strong Marine Air Ground Task Forces there on six-month rotations each year from 2016.

"The Australians have been friendly and easy to talk to," Tilque said.

"A lot of Australians, whether civilians or military, have either visited the States or worked with U.S. forces in Iraq or Afghanistan," he said.

Tilque has signed up for six years — the standard commitment for officers — and plans to reassess his options after that.

Laver, the Australian Navy personnel director, said ADF personnel do not receive the sort of retirement benefits that U.S. personnel are eligible for after 20 years of service. Instead, they contribute part of their pay and receive a lump sum at the end of their service.

With the U.S. defense budget shrinking, thousands of U.S. troops will soon be forced to look elsewhere for a job. Heading Down Under might be just the answer, Tilque said.

"With the downturn in the U.S. military maybe people are looking to stay in a military environment," he said. "This is an opportunity that is unique in the world."

This year's deadline for lateral transfer applications for the Australian Army is May 31. Closing dates for Royal Australian Navy overseas recruiting applications this year are July 1 for submariners and Dec. 1 for other applicants, the website states.

Applicants must satisfy normal Australian citizenship conditions and will be required to complete a series of selection requirements. The Australian government covers the cost of visa applications and moving expenses.

American servicemembers recruited under the lateral transfer plan add new skills and experience to the Australian military, Laver said.

"Previous experience is an asset to their new employment," he said. "We have a lot to learn from their background and we teach them about life in Australia."

robson.seth@stripes.com



**Australian soldiers take a ride with members of the 1st Cavalry Division command staff and the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment on March 20.**

Courtesy of the U.S. Army

NATION

# Disputes over federal contracts increasing

By **CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT**  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Competition for government contracts is becoming more cutthroat as federal spending shrinks by billions of dollars, with big companies swooping in on smaller ones and bid protests on the rise.

Routine contracts that in years past would have attracted just a handful of companies have triggered high-stakes bidding wars. Contractors are making more aggressive offers, with slimmer margins. And industry officials say the gentlemen's agreement that often prevented losing companies from

filing bid protests has given way to a more desperate mentality.

The number of bid protests received by the Government Accountability Office, which handles the vast majority of them, increased from 1,352 in 2003 to 2,429 last year. Although that is a fraction of the total number of contracts awarded annually — about 1 percent, by one estimate — the cases often show how tight the market has become and the extreme measures companies will take to win.

"Budgets are going down, which means competition for what contracts remain has increased tremendously," said Jaime Gracia, president of Seville Government Con-

sulting. Companies "are making strategic decisions about protesting because they have to. A lot of companies can't afford to lose that contract."

Following Sept. 11, 2001, spending on contracting soared. Fueled by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it peaked in 2008 at about \$541 billion, according to the Office of Management and Budget. But as the budget cuts known as sequestration went into effect, the figure dropped to \$461 billion last year, and many predict it will continue to fall.

The shakeout has been drastic and sudden, forcing even big companies to battle for relatively small contracts. That, in turn, will force out many companies whose "sur-

vival depends on a level of demand that no longer exists," said Loren Thompson, a defense industry consultant.

In 2009, when the Department of Homeland Security requested proposals for all kinds of support services, it received an astounding 666 bids for 34 contracts. This year, as it prepares to rebid the program, it is warning companies the competition is going to be even fiercer.

But more competition can mean a better deal for taxpayers.

"This is a potential windfall for the government in that it gets a lot of choice and has the opportunity to book at remarkably low prices," Thompson said.

## Rescuers stabilize sick baby on boat in Pacific

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Rescuers stabilized the condition of a sick baby on a crippled sailboat hundreds of miles off the coast of Mexico and a U.S. Navy warship was steaming toward the vessel, officials said Friday night.

The 36-foot Rebel Heart was about 900 nautical miles southwest of Cabo San Lucas when it sent a satellite call for help to the U.S. Coast Guard Thursday morning that a 1-year-old girl aboard was ill.

The boat was owned by a San Diego family and was on a trip around the world, according to a website, therebelheart.com.

The California Air National Guard sent an aircraft with four pararescuemen from Moffett Federal Airfield near San Francisco, and they plunged into the water and reached the ship Thursday night, said 2nd Lt. Roderick B. Bersamina, spokesman for the Air National Guard's 129th

Rescue Wing.

The rescuers were able to stabilize the girl, get the boat turned around and it was moving "slowly but surely back to shore," Bersamina said.

Rebel Heart carried the girl, her parents and a sibling, Bersamina said.

Rescuers were staying aboard the boat until a Navy frigate, USS Vandegrift, reached the sailboat, which was expected Saturday night, and helicopters were stand-by in case they were needed, Bersamina said.

He said he had no information about what was wrong with the girl or the boat but a relative said a California Air National Guard officer called her Friday morning to provide some details.

"She had a rash covering most of her body, fever, vomiting and diarrhea" and had stopped responding to antibiotics, Sarah Kay English, a sister of the child's mother, told The Associated Press on Friday.



MARCUS YAM/AP

## Together in prayer

Several hundred people gathered Friday night at Haller Middle School in Arlington, Wash., for an interdenominational prayer service honoring the victims, families and rescuers affected by the deadly March 22 mudslide in Oso, Wash. Hanging at the front of the school gym where the service took place was a large banner that simply said "Together." The audience twice gave standing ovations to first responders who continue to search the debris for missing people. As of Friday, the toll stood at 30 people dead and 13 missing in the mudslide.

## Samsung adding anti-theft solutions to smartphones

By **TERRY COLLINS**  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Samsung Electronics will add two safeguards to its latest smartphones in an effort to deter rampant theft of the mobile devices nationwide, the company said Friday.

The world's largest mobile-phone maker said users will be able to activate for free its "Find My Mobile" and "RemoteWipe Lock" anti-theft features to protect the soon-to-be-released Galaxy 5 S.

The features that will lock the phone if there's an unauthorized attempt to reset it will be on models sold in wireless carriers Verizon and U.S. Cellular. The phones go on sale next week.

The announcement comes as San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and other U.S. law enforcement officials demand that manufactur-

ers create kill switches to combat using smartphone theft across the country.

Earlier this week, California legislators introduced a bill that, if passed, would require mobile devices sold in or shipped in the state be equipped with the anti-theft devices starting next year — a move that could be the first of its kind in the United States. Similar legislation is being considered in New York, Illinois, Minnesota, and bills have been introduced in both houses of Congress.

In July, Samsung officials told Gascon's office that the major carriers were resisting using kill switches. However, Gascon and Schneiderman said in a joint statement Friday that Samsung's latest move sends a strong message that the wireless industry can work together to make consumers safe.

The prosecutors have given the manufacturers a June deadline to find solutions to curb smartphone theft.

## SC woman gets 20 years in breast-feeding overdose

By **JEFFREY COLLINS**  
The Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — A judge sentenced a South Carolina woman to 20 years in prison Friday for killing her 6-week-old daughter with what prosecutors say was an overdose of morphine delivered through her breast milk.

A prosecutor said Stephanie Greene, 39, was a nurse and knew the dangers of taking painkillers while pregnant and breast-feeding, instead choosing to conceal her pregnancy from doctors so she could keep getting her prescriptions. She lost her nursing license in 2004 for trying to get drugs illegally.

Greene's lawyer said she was only trying to stop debilitating pain from a car crash more than a decade before and relied on her



Greene

The 20-year sentence was the minimum after a Spartanburg County jury found Greene guilty of homicide by child abuse Friday. She could have faced up to life behind bars. Greene will have to serve 16 years before she is eligible for parole. She said nothing in court and quietly shuffled out of the courtroom, her hands and feet shackled, after she was sentenced.

Her lawyer said she will appeal and it's likely the case will be tied up for years to come. Both the prosecutor and Greene's lawyer agree no mother has ever been prosecuted in the United States for killing her child through a substance transmitted in breast milk.

Also, prosecutors didn't prove how the baby got the morphine and there is little scientific evidence that enough morphine can gather in breast milk to kill an infant, Greene's lawyer Rach Wise said.

"The court can't punish her any more than she already has been by losing a child," Wise said. A toxicology report from the baby's autopsy found a level of morphine in the child's body that a pathologist testified could have been lethal for an adult, prosecutor Barry Barnett said.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## 5-year-old finds flaw in Xbox Live security

**CA** SAN DIEGO — A young San Diego boy has outwitted the sharpest minds at Microsoft — he's found a backdoor to the Xbox.

Kristoffer Von Hassel, 5, managed to log in to his father's Xbox Live account. When the password log-in screen appeared, Kristoffer simply hit the space button a few times and hit enter.

Robert Davies told KGTV-TV that just after Christmas, he noticed his son playing games he supposedly couldn't access.

Davies, who works in computer security, said he reported the issue to Microsoft, which fixed the bug and recently listed Kristoffer on its website as a "security researcher." Kristoffer's response: "I'm gonna be famous!"

## Clerk who mistook body for mannequin is fired

**FL** ST. PETERSBURG — A front-desk clerk at a Florida apartment complex has been fired after mistaking the body of a tenant for a mannequin and throwing it in a trash bin.

The Tampa Tribune reported that Ronald Benjamin, 61, told police he saw the body in the parking lot of the 16-story St. Petersburg apartment building early Wednesday and assumed someone put a mannequin there as part of an April Fool's Day prank.

A co-worker arrived and told him a body was in the parking lot, but he insisted it was a mannequin. He got a newspaper carrier and her son to help him toss the body in the garbage. A maintenance worker saw the body and called authorities.

Police said the body was that of a woman, 96, who jumped from her apartment balcony.

## Police: Row over man sparks rat retaliation

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia police are looking for several suspects in what appears to be a case of rat retaliation.

Investigators said an ongoing dispute over a man escalated late Wednesday when a woman in her 20s, her mother and a pack of eight or nine other women went to the victim's house with a baseball bat and a box containing an unknown number of white rats.

The group allegedly bashed in windows and the front door and then dumped the rodents into the home. Police said one woman in the group also punched the 30-year-old victim and took her purse.

Authorities are trying to track down the suspects.

## Rare 1775 American flag up for auction

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City auctioneer is offering for sale a rare Revolutionary War flag it says could bring between \$1 million and \$3 million.

Boyle New York said the 1775 Forster Flag is the earliest surviving flag representing the 13



JOHN MINICHELLO/AP

## 'Runyon Up'

A runner shows off her medal on the 72nd floor of 4 World Trade Center in New York during Thursday's "Runyon Up," a fundraiser for the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. More than 700 people took part in the climb, with the fastest male contender reaching the finish in just under 9 minutes and the first woman clocking in at just over 1.1 minutes.

original colonies.

The relic is named after Samuel Forster. He led the minutemen of the Manchester Militia Company in Massachusetts when they responded to the British march on Lexington on April 19, 1775.

It's being sold Wednesday to benefit the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

## Owners of pizza chain accused of tax evasion

**NJ** CAMDEN — The owners of a chain of landmark pizza shops on the New Jersey shore were arrested Thursday on charges that they failed to report nearly \$1 million in income over five years and evaded \$336,000 in

federal taxes.

Charles and Mary Bangle, owners of the Manco and Manco pizza parlors, appeared in federal court on Thursday afternoon to face the charges on the 30-count indictment. They were released on unsecured \$100,000 bonds. They are due back in court April 14 to enter pleas.

Authorities said they committed the crimes from 2007 through 2011, when they were employees of the chain, then known as Mack and Manco. His job was running the business; hers was handling payroll and cash.

The couple failed to report income totaling \$980,000, the indictment said. If they had reported the income, the government said the taxes would have been \$336,000.

Charles Bangle is also accused of moving \$340,000 over the span from business accounts to a personal account, all in increments of less than \$10,000 so their bank would not be required to report the transactions.

## Suspect in shooting at university in custody

**OH** KENT — A person suspected of firing a gunshot on the campus of Kent State University on Wednesday was captured later that night and was in custody at a hospital, campus officials said.

Campus police said the male suspect was in custody at Robinson Memorial Hospital in Ravenna. They did not say why he was

## THE CENSUS

# \$37K

The amount a malfunctioning Maine bank spilt out to a man who had requested \$140, South Portland police told WGME-TV that they responded to the TD Bank branch at about 5:30 a.m. Thursday after getting a call from a woman who said a man was spending an unusual amount of time at the ATM she was waiting to use. Responding officers found the man stuffing cash into a shopping bag. The money was returned to the bank, and bank officials said they don't want to press charges.



at the hospital and gave no other details.

The university posted a notice on its Twitter page Wednesday night saying the suspect had been apprehended and there was no longer a threat to anyone on campus.

A Kent State spokeswoman said the male suspect fired the shot into the ground around 9 p.m. near Bowman Hall, an academic building. No injuries were reported.

## Space station sidesteps space junk once again

**DC** WASHINGTON — The International Space Station had to dodge space junk again — the second time in less than three weeks.

NASA said the station fired its thrusters Thursday afternoon, moving up about half a mile to avoid some parts from an old Ariane 5 rocket. The European Space Agency launches Ariane rockets out of South America.

The junk would have come within 1,040 feet of the outpost. NASA said the six-man crew was never in danger.

NASA spokesman Kelly Humphries said the space agency has had to consider sidestepping space junk dozens of times since the outpost was launched in 1998, sometimes canceling the orbital dodge at the last moment.

## 3 meningitis deaths reported in county

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Three of eight people who contracted bacterial meningitis this year have died, and all three had sex with other men, Los Angeles County health officials said.

Thursday's confirmation came a day after the Department of Public Health urged gay men who had HIV or multiple partners to be vaccinated against the invasive meningococcal disease.

However, the department said the three men who died didn't have any direct contact with each other.

From wire reports

NATION

# Judge tosses suit over deadly drone strikes

By PETE YOST

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit against Obama administration officials for the 2011 drone-strike killings of three U.S. citizens in Yemen, including an al-Qaida cleric.

U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer said Friday the case raises serious constitutional issues and is not easy to answer, but that “on these facts and under this circuit’s precedent,” the court will grant the White House request.

The suit was against then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, then-CIA Director David Petraeus and two commanders in

the military’s Special Operations forces.

“Permitting a lawsuit against individual officials “under the circumstances of this case would impermissibly draw the court into ‘the heart of executive and military planning and deliberation,’” Collyer said. She said the suit would require the court to examine national security policy and the military chain of command as well as operational combat decisions regarding the designation of targets and how best to counter threats to the United States.

“Defendants must be trusted and expected to act in accordance with the U.S. Constitution when they intentionally target a U.S. citizen abroad at the direction of

the president and with the concurrence of Congress,” Collyer said. “They cannot be held personally responsible in monetary damages for conducting war.”

The lawsuit sought unspecified damages.

“We believe the court reached the right result,” Justice Department spokesman Brian Fallon said.

Hina Shamsi, director of the ACLU National Security Project, called it a “deeply troubling decision that treats the government’s allegations as proof while refusing to allow those allegations to be tested in court.”

“The court’s view is that it cannot provide a remedy for extrajudicial killings when the government

claims to be at war, even far from any battlefield, is profoundly at odds with the Constitution,” said Shamsi, one of the attorneys who argued the case.

At oral arguments last July, the judge challenged the Obama administration’s position repeatedly, asking “where was the due process in this case?” for the now-dead U.S. citizens targeted in the drone attacks.

When an administration lawyer said there were checks in place, including reviews done by the executive branch, Collyer said “No, no, no, no, no,” declaring that “the executive is not an effective check on the executive” when it comes to protecting constitutional rights. But in

Friday’s ruling, it was clear that the administration’s arguments had a strong impact on the judge, who was appointed by President George W. Bush.

The government argued that the issue is best left to Congress and the executive branch, not judges, and that courts have recognized that the defense of the nation should be left to those political branches.

Anwar al-Awlaki’s classification as a key leader raises fundamental questions regarding the conduct of armed conflict, Collyer’s 41-page opinion stated. The Constitution commits decision-making in this area to the president, as commander in chief, and to Congress, the judge said.



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry boards his plane Friday to leave Casablanca, Morocco, for a return to the United States after a 13-day trip abroad.

# Kerry: ‘Reality check’ time for flagging Mideast peace talks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With Mideast peace talks on the verge of collapse, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry declared Friday that “it’s reality check time” on whether an agreement can be reached anytime soon after decades of bitterness between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. The U.S. will re-evaluate its role as mediator, he said.

It was Kerry’s most pessimistic take yet on the peace effort after nearly nine months of frustrating talks with little progress to show.

Kerry made clear that his push for peace is not yet over, and he said both sides claim to want to continue negotiating. But he also said that continuing setbacks in the process — culminating last week with tit-for-tat moves by Israeli and Palestinian officials that have upended good-faith bargain-

ing — could force the U.S. to shift focus to other crises where Washington might have more success.

“We have an enormous amount on the plate,” Kerry told reporters during a diplomatic visit to Rabat, Morocco, the end of a marathon trip that saw him jumping back and forth between Israel, Ramallah and Europe. He noted that the U.S. is also dealing with challenges in Ukraine, Iran and Syria, and he said, “There are limits to the amount of time and effort the United States can spend if the parties themselves are unwilling to take constructive steps in order to be able to move forward.”

The nine months of talks are scheduled to end April 29, and Kerry has been pressing to have them continue through much of the rest of the year. “But we’re not going to sit here indefinitely,” he said. “So it’s reality check time, and we intend to evaluate precisely

what the next steps will be.”

Kerry has spent major portions of his 14 months as secretary of state pursuing an agreement despite the seemingly long odds. A collapse of the talks could be a diplomatic embarrassment for him and the administration — and a danger in the region as well. Failed efforts in the past have led to major outbreaks of violence. On Friday, Palestinians fired rockets at Israel, which responded with warplanes attacking military targets in the Gaza Strip.

Uzi Rabl, director of Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University, said it’s doubtful the two sides will broker a final peace agreement, given years of bitterness and sharp differences. But he said the talks should continue — if only to ward off a new Palestinian uprising against Israelis that would surely lead to a surge in violence.

# Lawmaker: US intel not sure of Putin’s next move

By DEREK WALLBANK

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Russian President Vladimir Putin annexed Crimea almost without warning, and U.S. intelligence agencies aren’t quite sure what he might do next, House Intelligence Chairman Mike Rogers says.

“You know, part of the problem has been that it is really difficult with Putin — he has continued to shrink,” Rogers, R-Mich., said in an interview for Bloomberg Television’s “Political Capital with Al Hunt” airing this weekend. “Those who made decisions, his inner circle has gotten very, very small.”

Asked if U.S. intelligence was sure that Putin’s next move might be, Rogers replied, “No, you can’t get in his head.”

If history is a guide, Rogers said of the Russian president, “there’s more that he’s going to do.”

“I believe he’ll probably try to create a land bridge from Transnistria down across the top of the Baltic Sea to Crimea,” Rogers said. “And so we have some concerns that he is trying to create land bridges from Russia to Armenia. In Georgia, we have some concerns that he’d try to create a land bridge in Ukraine.”

Rogers said lawmakers on his panel are reviewing Defense Department and CIA reports issued ahead of the Crimea takeover — “one of them got it completely wrong, one at least laid out the

scenario” — to find out what was missed.

“It could be a valuable lesson,” he said. “I think it [is], you know, a teaching moment for all of us.”

The Senate Intelligence Committee voted to release a report on the CIA that finds the agency exaggerated the effectiveness of torture techniques used to try to extract information after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and during the Iraq War.

The panel voted 11-3 Thursday to ask President Barack Obama to declassify the executive summary and 20 findings and conclusions from the 6,200-page report.

It would be the government’s most comprehensive public assessment of waterboarding, sleep deprivation, confinement in small spaces and other interrogation techniques used on suspected terrorists at secret prisons during President George W. Bush’s administration.

“The report exposes brutality that stands in stark contrast to our values as a nation,” Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the committee’s chairwoman, said in a statement.

Rogers said the “methodology of the report is flawed,” adding it’s “impossible to come to a conclusion without interviewing one single person involved in the program.” Rogers said he and Feinstein had “candid conversations” about releasing the summary and didn’t agree on releasing it.

# Official: Iran nuke deal to be drafted in May

WASHINGTON — World powers and Iran will start drafting a final nuclear agreement next month, a U.S. official said Friday in a surprisingly optimistic assessment that expressed hope that a comprehensive pact could be reached in July.

Negotiators were to meet again

next week in Vienna. The sides were making progress on talks, said the official, who was not authorized to be quoted by name and briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

The United States and its partners are trying to remove the threat of Iran assembling an atomic arsenal, which could have grave implications for the Middle East and beyond.

From The Associated Press

## WORLD

# Chinese ship reports signal in search for jet

BY NICK PERRY  
AND EILEEN NG  
*The Associated Press*

PERTH, Australia — A Chinese ship involved in the hunt for the missing Malaysian jetliner reported hearing a "pulse signal" Saturday in Indian Ocean waters with the same frequency emitted by the plane's data recorders, as Malaysia vowed not to give up the search for the jet.

Military and civilian planes, ships with deep-sea searching equipment and a British nuclear submarine scoured a remote patch of the southern Indian Ocean off Australia's west coast, in an increasingly urgent hunt for debris and the "black box" recorders that hold vital information about Malaysia Airlines

Flight 370's last hours.

After weeks of fruitless looking, officials face the daunting prospect that sound-emitting beacons in the flight and voice recorders will soon fall silent as their batteries die after sounding electronic "pings" for a month.

A Chinese ship that is part of the search effort detected a "pulse signal" in southern Indian Ocean waters, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. Xinhua, however, said it had not yet been determined whether the signal was related to the missing plane, citing the China Maritime Search and Rescue Center.

Xinhua said a black box detector deployed by the ship, Haixun 01, picked up a signal at 37.5 kilohertz, the same frequency emitted by flight data recorders.

Malaysia's civil aviation chief, Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, confirmed that the frequency emitted by Flight 370's black boxes were 37.5 kHz and said authorities were verifying the report. The Australian government agency coordinating the search would not immediately comment on it.

John Goglia, a former U.S. National Transportation Safety Board member, called the report "exciting," but cautioned that "there is an awful lot of noise in the ocean."

"One ship, one ping doesn't make a success story," he said. "It will have to be explored. I guarantee you there are other resources being moved into the area to see if it can be verified."

The Boeing 777 disappeared March 8 while en route from Kuala

Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing with 239 people aboard. So far, no trace of the jet has been found.

Hishammuddin Hussein, Malaysia's defense minister and acting transport minister, told reporters in Kuala Lumpur that the cost of mounting the search was immaterial compared with providing solace for the families of those on board by establishing what happened.

"I can only speak for Malaysia, and Malaysia will not stop looking for MH370," he said.

He said an independent investigator would be appointed to lead a team that will try to determine what happened to Flight 370. The team will include three groups: One will look at airworthiness, including maintenance, structures and systems; another will exam-

ine operations, such as flight recorders and meteorology; and a third will consider medical and human factors.

The investigation team will include officials and experts from several nations, including Australia — which as the nearest country to the search zone is currently heading the hunt — China, the United States, Britain and France, Hishammuddin said.

A multinational search team is desperately trying to find debris floating in the water or faint sound signals from the data recorders that could lead them to the missing plane and unravel the mystery of its fate.

Bacons in the black boxes emit "pings" so they can be more easily found, but the batteries last for only about a month.



EWREN GOSSEL/AP

## 3 dead in Indonesia train derailment

Workers prepare to remove rail cars Saturday after a passenger train hit mounds of mud triggered by a landslide and derailed late Friday in central Indonesia, killing at least three people and injuring seven. A landslide following torrential rains buried part of the tracks at a dark junction Tasikmalaya, a district on Java island, during a heavy downpour, and the train's brakes could not stop it from hitting the mud. Three coaches fell into a 32-foot-deep ravine, sending hundreds of panicked passengers running away.

## Thousands rally in Bahrain ahead of race

*The Associated Press*

MANAMA, Bahrain — Thousands have marched in the streets of Bahrain to voice their opposition to this weekend's Bahrain Grand Prix auto race.

Witnesses said protesters Friday carried banners and chanted slogans against the government

and the Formula One race, the tiny island kingdom's biggest international event of the year. Practice runs for Sunday's race went ahead amid tight security.

Groups of anti-government activists clashed with police following the largely peaceful rally outside the capital, Manama,

hurling gasoline bombs and blocking roadways with tires.

Bahrain is home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. The country has witnessed more than three years of unrest following a Shiite-led uprising calling for reforms and greater political freedoms from the Sunni monarchy.

# North Korea says US 'hell-bent on regime change'

BY CARA ANNA  
*The Associated Press*

UNITED NATIONS — North Korea on Friday accused the United States of being "hell-bent on regime change" and warned that any maneuvers with that intention will be viewed as a "red line" that will result in countermeasures.

Pyeongang's deputy U.N. ambassador Ri Tong Il also repeated that his government "made it very clear we will carry out a new form of nuclear test" but refused to elaborate, saying only that "I recommend you to wait and see what it is."

His comments came at North Korea's second news conference at the United Nations in two weeks, a surprising rate for the reclusive Communist regime.

Ri blamed the U.S. for aggravating tensions on the Korean Peninsula by continuing "very dangerous" military drills with South Korea, by pursuing action in the U.N. Security Council against his country's recent

ballistic missile launches and by going after Pyongyang's human rights performance.

Ri also accused the U.S. of blocking a resumption of six-party talks on its nuclear program by settling preconditions and said Washington's primary goal is to maintain tensions and prevent denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

A U.S. diplomat who was not authorized to comment publicly later responded: "We have long made clear — in close consultation with our allies — that we are open to improved relations with the DPRK if it is willing to take clear actions to live up to its international obligations and commitments."

North Korea walked away from the six-party nuclear disarmament talks in 2009 over disagreements on how to verify steps the North was meant to take to end its nuclear programs. The U.S. and its allies are demanding that the North demonstrate its sincerity in ending its drive to acquire nuclear weapons.

## Ukraine arrests eastern coup plot suspects

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's security service says it has detained a 15-strong armed gang planning to seize power in an eastern province on the border with Russia.

The Security Service of Ukraine said Saturday that it seized 300 machine guns, an anti-tank grenade launcher, a large number of grenades, five hand-guns and petrol bombs.

It said the group intended to mount a grab for power in the Luhansk province on April 10

by sowing panic among the local population. No names or additional details were provided.

Luhansk and neighboring mainly Russian-speaking eastern provinces have seen active calls for separatism following February's toppling of President Viktor Yanukovich. Ukraine's pro-European interim government accuses Russia of fomenting secessionist sentiments.

The Crimean Peninsula was annexed by Russia last month following a contentious referendum.

From The Associated Press

LIFESTYLE



COURTESY OF SAMUEL ADAMS/AP

Co-founder of the Boston Beer Co., Jim Koch, left, and Marty St. George, senior vice president of marketing at JetBlue, hand out Boston Lager cans on the inaugural JetBlue flight from Boston to New York. Boston Beer Co. makes Samuel Adams beer.

# Craft beer makes skies friendlier

## Airlines see opportunity to tap into market for specialty brews

BY MICHAEL FELBERBAUM  
The Associated Press

**A**tention passengers! Craft beer has reached 35,000 feet over America.

As the U.S. airline industry works to improve its food and beverage options, a new trend has emerged — airlines adding craft beers to their in-flight offerings.

The assumption is that as more drinkers switch from mass-market beers to specialty brews, they'll be happier if they don't have to give up the good stuff when they're in the air. "We already had our drinkers on airplanes, we just didn't have the beer," says Jim Koch, co-founder of the Boston Beer Co., maker of Samuel Adams. "They want to drink in the air what they're drinking on the ground."

It's another sign that airlines are getting better at responding to changing consumer tastes. And Americans certainly have developed a taste for craft beer. U.S. craft beer retail sales reached \$14.3 billion in 2013, an increase of 20 percent from a year earlier, according to the Brewers Association, the trade group for the majority of U.S. brewing companies. The move also helps craft brewers gain brand awareness.

While some Delta shuttle flights have offered Samuel Adams in

bottles for about 20 years and Virgin America has offered beer from San Francisco's 21st Amendment Brewery for a few years, a critical mass of other airlines has joined them recently.

**'We already had our drinkers on airplanes, we just didn't have the beer. They want to drink in the air what they're drinking on the ground.'**

**Jim Koch**  
Boston Beer Co.

store on drink carts — as well as greater availability of the beers.

Southwest Airlines began selling cans of New Belgium Brewing Co.'s Fat Tire on its nearly 700 Southwest and AirTran planes earlier this year. Cans of Samuel Adams joined the mile-high club with JetBlue over the summer, Alaska Airlines and its sister carrier Horizon Air offer brews from the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii, and last month regional carrier Sun Country partnered



COURTESY OF SUN COUNTRY AIRLINES/AP

Coffee, tea or craft beer? As the airline industry works to improve in-flight sales, a new trend has emerged — adding craft beers, like those brewed at Surly Brewing Co., to their offerings.

with Minneapolis' Surly Brewing Co. to sell craft beer from its home base.

"Pretty much any time there's an opportunity to have a beer, whether it be at a sports venue, or at a club, or on a plane, I'd like to be able to have some craft beer," said Omar Ansari, founder of Surly Brewing Co. "One of the big pieces to making that all work is that we finally have enough beer... There's a demand for it, and a lot of breweries are making a lot more beer."

That's what passengers are telling airlines, too.

Customers "began asking more and more for craft beer," says Sonya Lacore, senior director of base operations for Southwest. "We're running out of Fat Tire right now... It's clear that they are really going all out for it."

Of course, it's not all good news.

Much like the taste of food generally suffers in flight, craft brews also lose a little oomph at that altitude.

Drinkers' sense of taste can be a little dulled to the aromatics of the beers, and bitterness can be accentuated, reducing the overall taste, says Koch. Naturally, he said, a balanced malty and hoppy beer is best.

"It is interesting, your taste buds operate slightly differently" in the air, Koch said.

Still, beer isn't typically the most popular alcoholic beverage sold on airplanes.

Passengers aboard six North American airlines spent more than \$11.3 million on beer during a five-month period last year, according to GuestLogix, which processes about 90 percent of

onboard credit card transactions for North American carriers. By comparison, liquor sales neared \$38 million and wine sales topped \$14 million during that same period.

On Southwest, where all of its alcohol is priced at \$5, beer runs neck-and-neck with its liquor sales, Lacore said.

But Koch says the size of the in-flight beer business is smaller than the statement being made about demand for craft beer. And the growing interest in craft beer could help send sales on planes soaring.

Koch predicts that most flights that have beer will offer craft beer by the end of next year.

"This is one more step for craft beer becoming a more widely accepted experience for people," Koch said.

# AFGHAN ELECTION

## Ballots, not bullets

**P**re-election violence prompted fears of Taliban attacks when Afghans cast their votes Saturday.

However, election day was relatively peaceful as crowds of Afghans cast their ballots in what would be the nation's first democratic transition of power.

Voters were choosing a successor to President Hamid Karzai, who has led Afghanistan since the ouster of the Taliban regime.



An election worker prepares a stack of ballots before opening the polls at a station in Kabul on Saturday.

JOSH SMITH  
Stars and Stripes



JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah displays his ink-stained finger before voting at a high school in central Kabul.

An Afghan woman casts the last ballot at a high school in central Kabul during the national elections held Saturday. Women made up a significant part of the turnout at polling stations across the city.

JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes



JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Kabul resident Gul Mohammed displays his voter registration card before voting at a mosque.



HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

Many polling stations in Kabul saw huge lines.

For additional photos of the election go to [stripes.com/afghanistan](http://stripes.com/afghanistan)



LIFESTYLE

# Earning while learning

## Colleges allow students to pay for their schooling by working on campus

By LISA RATHKE  
The Associated Press

Many students spend years after college working off tens of thousands of dollars in school debt. But at seven "work colleges" around the U.S., students are required to work on campus as part of their studies — doing everything from landscaping, growing and cooking food

**The Work Colleges Consortium reports that 75 percent of graduates believe their college work helped prepare them for their first job.**

to public relations and feeding farm animals — to pay off at least some of their tuition before they graduate. The arrangement not only makes college more affordable for students who otherwise might not be able to go, it also gives them real-life experience, teaches them responsibility and how to work together, officials said.

"I love it," said Melissa Eckstrom of Philadelphia, an assistant garden manager at Sterling College in Craftsbury, Vt., where she's studying sustainable agriculture. "It's really satisfying to work in the garden and do all this hands-on, you know, dirty work — and I go to the kitchen and sit down for a meal and I'm like, 'I grew this.' It can't get more full circle than that."

With rising college costs and a national student loan debt reaching more than \$1 trillion, "earning while learning" is becoming more appealing for some students. The work college program is different from the federal work study program, which is an optional voluntary program that offers funds for part-time jobs for needy students.

The seven so-called work colleges are Sterling College; Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Ky.; Berea College in Berea, Ky.; Blackburn College in Carlinville, Ill.; College of the Ozarks in Lookout, Mo.; Ecclesias College in Springdale, Ark.; and Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C. At these schools, work is required and relied upon for the daily operation of the institution, no matter what the students' background. The students are then evaluated on their performance.

"It's a core component of the educational program," said Robin Tafler, executive director of the Work Colleges Consortium.



CHRISTIAN FEUERSTEIN, STERLING COLLEGE/AP

Student Melissa Eckstrom of Philadelphia turns earth for better planting on the Sterling College farm in Craftsbury, Vt. At Sterling and six other schools across the country, students are required to work as part of their education, which helps them pay their tuition. Some students graduate debt free.

"It does not differentiate between those that can afford to pay for their education from those that must work to cover their educational costs," she said. "And that's a big deal. No student can buy their way out of this work program. So this essentially levels the playing field because everybody is doing a job."

Eckstrom works up to 100 hours a semester at \$11.10 an hour, so the pay helps with her school costs, she said. She also

gets tuition credit for coming a week early for training before the start of the school year.

The average debt of work colleges graduates in 2010 was \$12,121 compared with \$21,740 for public college graduates, \$27,710 for private nonprofit college graduates, and \$33,050 for graduates of private, for-profit colleges, according to the Work Colleges Consortium. Sterling's average loan debt is \$16,800.

Three of the work colleges

— Alice Lloyd, Berea College and College of the Ozarks — fully cover tuition, through work, grants and donations.

The schools save on staffing costs by having students run the daily operation, Tafler said. But that doesn't mean the work program is inexpensive for the schools to operate. Some funding is available through the federal work colleges program, but the schools must match it dollar for dollar.

The "earning while learning" concept appears to appeal to students, judging by enrollment figures.

At Sterling College, enrollment was up 26 percent in the fall of 2013, while the rate of applications rose 38 percent from last March to now. The number of applications to Berea College has steadily increased from 1,362 in 2009 to 1,620 in 2013.

The Work Colleges Consortium reports that 75 percent of graduates believe their college work helped prepare them for their first job, and 84 percent said it helped them to get along with people with different attitudes and opinions. Seventy-five percent of graduates said their work experience helped them to understand the importance of service to others.

Charles Elliott, of Huntsville, Texas, will graduate debt-free this year from the College of the Ozarks, a private Christian school, called "Hard Work U." He's worked as a cook in the school's restaurant, as a waiter in the dining room, and as a landscaper, and now holds a job in the public relations office. It's taught him how to juggle his time between studies and work and has given him experience that has helped in finding a job with a software development company.

"I've had opportunities to work in four different places here on campus," he said. "I'm getting much more experience in different fields. It's a really great thing."



Student Weylin Garnett, left, of Corinth, N.Y., and Sterling College President Matthew Derr install a new sign on the Logging Shop during the Fall 2013 All-College Work Day at the college in Craftsbury, Vt.

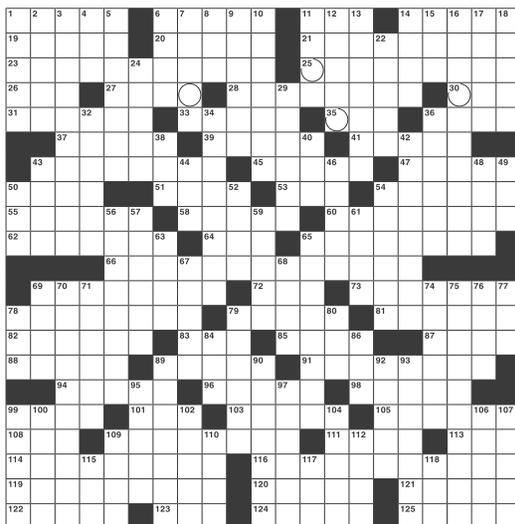
# CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### MUSICAL INTERPRETATION

BY PETER A. COLLINS / EDITED BY WILL SHURTZ

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## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



**KNOWLEDGE**

**IS POWER.**

THE RUPTURED DUCK

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PACIFIC SPORTSBLOG

PACIFIC STORM TRACKER

OMBUDSMAN

## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Enlisted' producers clean up their act

## Military-themed sitcom takes criticism seriously, improves accuracy by hiring consultants

By SABA HAMEDY  
Los Angeles Times

**W**riter-producers Kevin Biegel and Mike Royce decided in 2012 to create a TV workplace comedy about the military.

The odds were not in their favor.

Prime-time television, once home to madcap military adventures like Sgt. Bilko on "The Phil Silvers Show," "Gomer Pyle, USMC," "Hogan's Heroes" and "M\*A\*S\*H," hadn't supported a military comedy in years.

"It's basically a workplace that is very important to America and has disappeared from television," said Royce.

That might have been in part because the U.S. had been at war for more than a decade. Maybe the Army just wasn't funny anymore.

"It was kind of sacred ground," Biegel said. "People were like, 'Maybe you should't do that.' But for us it was the opposite. We thought, 'Of course we should.'"

The duo made their sale on the first pitch, to Fox executives who embraced the concept heartily.

"Why isn't this show on the air right now?" Jonathan Davis, president of creative affairs at 20th Century Fox, remembers asking himself. "Why isn't anyone doing this yet?"

The resulting night show, "Enlisted," premiered in January. The ensemble comedy follows a serviceman who is demoted after socking a superior officer and reassigned to lead a group of Army misfits. Prior to "Enlisted," Biegel co-created "Cougar Town" and wrote for "Scrubs." Royce was a producer for "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "Men of a Certain Age."

The goal with "Enlisted" was "to show, just like any good workplace comedy, how these people grow and bond and how they live their lives every day in this workplace," Royce said.

Trouble was, though Biegel grew up with two brothers and a father in the armed forces, neither he nor Royce had served in the military. As a result, the pilot was sprinkled with inaccuracies. The soldiers' hair was too long. Their uniforms were not to code. They didn't salute senior officers when they should.

Leery of producing a show that was disrespectful — "We're not trying to poke fun at the institution," Biegel said — the "Enlisted" men reached out for help.

After the pilot was shot, they hired Greg Bishop, an adviser at Musa Military Entertainment Consulting, who viewed the show and found it ... lacking.

"There were a lot of things wrong with the pilot, not done out of disrespect, but done out of not knowing," Bishop said. "We said, 'Wow! They could use our help.'"

Bishop worked with the creators to make the show more authentic and also helped with publicity by reaching out to military members. Changes to the show included perfecting the uniform (such as putting badges in the right place, and making sure actors wore their hats inside and outside) and helping with set details (including adding stock numbers on grease barrels that appear in the background). It even meant putting some cast members through several days of a mini boot camp in El Paso.

The actors stayed in barracks, wore uniforms, did basic



Geoff Stults, left, trains the platoon for a parade in an episode of "Enlisted," which also stars Chris Lowell, center, and Parker Young. The sitcom debuted to tough reviews from critics and audiences.

training, and underwent surprise checks for contraband such as books, cell phones, laptops and candy. Some of the cast members were even shunned for not flushing their toilets.

The improvements in accuracy didn't make for a hit. The first of the season's 13 episodes averaged just 2.4 million viewers and got a weak rating of 0.7 in the advertiser-desired 18-to-49 demographic.

Military members and their families who were not pleased with the inaccuracies took to social media to complain. A Facebook page, "Petition to Cancel TV Show Enlisted," reads: "This tv show is an insult to say the least to all military personnel. It satirizes our way of life and has no place on Fox or any other tv channel."

Biegel and Royce said Twitter was also full of people bashing the pilot. So they took to social media to turn the show around. "I probably contacted at least 200 military people on Twitter over direct message," Biegel said. "I would say, 'Hey, my name is Kevin. I created the show. Please give it another chance.'"

"It was a matter of going through every medium — blogs, podcasts, websites — to get in there and explain where we're coming from," Royce added.

After several episodes, the creators said their outreach effort and changes to fix the show have helped. Fox officials said the show now has an average of 3.1 million viewers. The show's Facebook page has over more than 60,000 "likes," and the Twitter account has over more than 7,000 followers.

People have used those websites to comment on the show's progress and suggest further changes.

"Really glad the show's getting better as we go along," one Facebook fan commented, but then criticized the show for featuring female soldiers wearing earrings.

The "Enlisted" Facebook page replied: "Good eye, soldier! We appreciate it!"

Though Fox has not announced whether the show will be renewed, those involved remain hopeful.

"We really believe in this show and think it deserves a second season," Davis said.

**“I probably contacted at least 200 military people on Twitter over direct message. I would say, ‘Hey, my name is Kevin. I created the show. Please give it another chance.’”**

## MOVIES

# Epic journey to theaters

Director Darren Aronofsky floats a fuller version of the Bible's Noah tale

By JOHN HORN  
Los Angeles Times

It was easy to get lost on Darren Aronofsky's ark.

Inside a converted Brooklyn armory in late 2012, Aronofsky was shooting "Noah" on a massive vessel that matched the biblical dimensions of the boat, its rough beams lashed together and the hull sealed with pitch. In every corner of the three-story structure rested packs of ersatz animals — insects on one level, snakes and turtles in another corner and, around the bend, lions quite literally lying with lambs. "Animals are fragile. Please do not touch," a sign warned visitors.

It took production designer Mark Friedberg's team four months to construct the interior ark set for "Noah" (he built another, for exterior shots, near Long Island Sound) and much longer for Industrial Light and Magic and Look Effects to create living, albeit digital, creatures that would walk, fly and breathe, two by two, into the ark.

Yet those tasks were ultimately footnotes in the film's epic journey to the screen, as Aronofsky and screenwriter Ari Handel labored to expand a brief but revered story into a full-length movie, all without estranging their financiers and the faithful, both of whom worried that "Noah" would be heretical.

The \$130-million production marks a departure not only for Aronofsky, whose previous films, including "Black Swan" and "The Wrestler," were more modest undertakings, but also for Hollywood itself, which in recent decades has exhibited negligible interest in overtly religious stories. The few scriptural hits, including Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" and the new "Son of God," were produced independently.

If "Noah" attracts a torrent of moviegoers, and early box-office results suggest it will (nearly \$44 million for its opening weekend in the States), the film could bolster the prospects for the industry's unusually large religious slate, a roster that includes "Heaven Is for Real," "Exodus," "Last Days in the Desert" and "Mary."

But first, Aronofsky's movie has to prove its doubters wrong.

"Once people start seeing the film, believers and nonbelievers will all be able to have conversations about it that I believe will be interesting," an exhausted but positive Aronofsky said after "Noah" had its world premiere in Mexico City. "But you have to go into the film recognizing that your expectations are going to be rattled."

15 years ago, as Aronofsky's experimental sci-fi story "Pi" was about to hit theaters, the filmmaker visited the Museum of Jurassic Technology in Culver City, Calif. Dedicated to the Earth's history, the fanciful and scientifically creative museum was displaying a small diorama based on Noah's ark.

"It was a cool little sculpture," the 45-year-old Aronofsky recalled. "And I said to myself, 'It's strange that the biblical epic has been dead for 50 years.' This was clearly a true genre with some of the biggest movies ever made. But at



NIKO TAVERNISE, PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

Darren Aronofsky, left, and actor Russell Crowe on the set of Aronofsky's \$130 million production, "Noah."

the time the Old Testament hadn't been touched in years."

Soon thereafter, he successfully pitched his flood idea to producer Lynda Obst, but when a Jon Voight television miniseries called "Noah's Ark" came out — replete with an attack on the prophet from a "Waterworld"-like pirate ship — Aronofsky's "Noah" ran aground before he could even write it.

By 2003, after the filmmaker's "Requiem for a Dream" was completed, Aronofsky began working with screenwriter Ari Handel (a college classmate and former neuroscientist) on a "Noah" script. But it was not until after the director's long-delayed "The Fountain" was released in 2006 that Aronofsky started taking the story around town.

It didn't start well. "Noah" briefly was set up at Universal but lost momentum when studio chief Stacey Snider departed and Universal's "Evan Almighty," a \$175-million Steve Carrell comedy set on an ark, bombed in 2007. Rather than

watch their screenplay perish, Aronofsky and Handel turned to Canadian comic book artist Niko Henrichon, who in 2008 began a painstaking effort to transform their script into a series of graphic novels (initially in French but now compiled into one English-language volume).

When Aronofsky's "Black Swan" became a commercial hit with more than \$329 million in worldwide ticket sales and an Oscar winner for actress Natalie Portman, "Noah" suddenly had fresh energy. In early 2011, producer Arnon Milchan's Regency Enterprises agreed to share equally in financing the production with Paramount Pictures. Russell Crowe was cast as Noah, with Jennifer Connelly playing his wife, Naameh, and Logan Lerman (Ham), Douglas Booth (Shem) and Leo McGough Carroll (Japheth) as their sons.

To help dramatize how mankind had fallen, Aronof-

sky cast the Earth as a character, using exteriors in Iceland to show the planet as barren. The world, and everything in it, was in need of new stewardship, and that environmental message resonated — in mostly the wrong way — with conservative critics. The deluge of doubters ultimately included his own studio.

The film's physical production wasn't particularly smooth. In late 2012, Hurricane Sandy briefly shut down production, with the homes of some New York crew — including producer Scott Franklin — directly in the storm's path. "It brought us together," Franklin said, "to go through something like that."

The real trouble was on the horizon, when Paramount grew anxious that "Noah" might offend some on the religious right and started testing its own cut of the movie while Aronofsky raced to finish his. Franklin said that even with unfinished visual effects and a rough score, Aronofsky's version tested better than Paramount's, even though the studio had fewer missing pieces and was more polished.

Even so, Paramount again blindsided its filmmakers by agreeing in late February to add a disclaimer to "Noah's" marketing materials without giving Aronofsky a heads-up.

The movie came after several Christian groups, including the National Religious Broadcasters, objected to how Aronofsky was interpreting scripture.

**"Once people start seeing the film, believers and nonbelievers will all be able to have conversations about it that I believe will be interesting."**

Darren Aronofsky



# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## US regains jobs lost during recession

By Christopher S. Rugaber  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy has reached a milestone: It has finally regained all the private-sector jobs it lost during the Great Recession.

Yet it took a painfully slow six years, and unemployment remains stubbornly high at 6.7 percent. The comeback figures were contained in a government report Friday that showed a solid, if unspectacular, month of job growth in March.

Businesses and nonprofits shed 8.8 million jobs during the 2007-09 recession; they have since hired 8.9 million. But because the population has grown since the big downturn, the economy is still millions of jobs short of where it should be by now.

Also, government jobs are still 535,000 below the level they were at when the recession began in December 2007. That's why the overall economy still has 422,000 fewer jobs than it did then.

As a result, most analysts were hardly celebrating the milestone. Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the Liberal Economic Policy Institute, called it a "pretty meaningless benchmark economically."

"The potential labor force is growing all the time, so the private sector should have added millions of jobs over the last six-plus years," she said.

U.S. employers did add a seasonally adjusted 192,000 jobs in March, just below February's 197,000, which was revised higher. March's figure nearly matched last year's average monthly gain, suggesting that the economy has recovered from the hiring slowdown caused by severe weather in December and January.

"We're seeing sustained improvement," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West. "But we're not really that much stronger than we were last year. And we need more improvement for a stronger economy to come to fruition."

The March figures did signal that stronger gains could lie ahead: More Americans without jobs are starting to look for them, and paychecks are growing.

Most economists expect job growth to pick a bit to a monthly pace of 225,000 or more. One reason: Americans have reduced their debts and benefited from rising home prices and a rising stock market. Better household finances should translate into more spending.

And a major drag on growth — federal spending cuts and tax increases — will fade this year, most likely boosting the economy. Budget battles and government shutdowns that have eroded business and consumer confidence since the recession ended are unlikely this year.

"Enough repair has happened in damaged sectors and there's enough calm ... so we can have a real recovery," said Ethan Harris, global economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

The U.S. unemployment rate has been stuck at 6.7 percent since December, but that partly reflects a positive trend: More Americans, particularly younger people, are either working or looking for work.

So far this year, about 1.3 million people have started looking for jobs, and most have found them. Last year, by contrast, the number of people either working or looking for work had shrunk by roughly 500,000.

### EXCHANGE RATES

<b>Military rates</b>	
Euro costs (April 7)	\$1.4049
Dollar buys (April 7)	€0.7118
British pound (April 7)	\$1.70
Japanese yen (April 7)	101.00
South Korean won (April 7)	1,030.00

<b>Commercial rates</b>	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6579/1.6032
Canada (dollar)	1.0984
China (Yuan)	6.2102
Denmark (Krone)	5.4483
Egypt (Pound)	6.9747
Euro	\$1.3702/1.2234
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7565
Hungary (Forint)	239.18
Israel (Shekel)	3.4801
Japan (Yen)	103.22
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2828
Norway (Krone)	6.0020
Philippines (Peso)	44.98
Poland (Zloty)	3.40
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7205
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2586
South Korea (Won)	1,052.43
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8919
Thailand (Baht)	32.48
Turkey (New Lira)	1,138.00

### MARKET WATCH

April 4, 2014

<b>Dow Jones Industrials</b>	-159.84
	16,412.71
<b>Nasdaq composite</b>	-110.01
	4,127.73
<b>Standard &amp; Poor's 500</b>	-23.68
	1,865.09
<b>Russell 2000</b>	-27.74
	1,153.38

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one euro, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	3.58

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

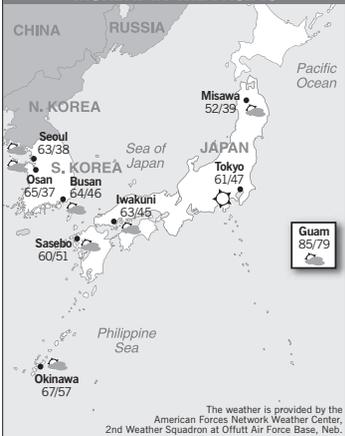
### SUNDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### SUNDAY IN EUROPE



### MONDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

### Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Arlington, Va.	64	46	Cldy	Chicago	57	32	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	56	29	Pcldy	Louisville	62	36	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	56	29	Cldy	Cincinnati	60	35	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	54	26	Pcldy	Madison	59	31	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	54	26	Cldy	Cleveland	51	28	Cldy	Green Bay	53	31	Cldy	Medford	70	48	Cldy
Albuquerque	63	39	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	51	32	Cldy	Great Falls	51	36	Cldy	Memphis	64	44	Rain
Allentown, Pa.	60	28	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	63	49	Cldy	Green Bay	53	31	Cldy	Miami Beach	84	71	Cldy
Amarillo	59	35	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	68	53	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	61	41	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	70	48	Cldy
Anchorage	60	39	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	59	30	Cldy	Hartford	59	30	Cldy	Milwaukee	56	32	Cldy
Ashville	60	39	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	51	30	Cldy	Harrisburg	61	31	Cldy	Missoula	53	34	Snow
Atlanta	56	32	Cldy	Corpus Christi	78	61	Cldy	Helena	54	35	Cldy	Mobile	83	70	Cldy
Atlantic City	59	35	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	48	Rain	Honolulu	83	70	Cldy	Montgomery	65	52	Rain
Baltimore	59	33	Cldy	Dayton	58	31	Pcldy	Houston	72	55	Rain	Nashville	68	40	Cldy
Baton Rouge	75	55	Rain	Daytona Beach	82	63	Cldy	Indianapolis	59	34	Pcldy	New Orleans	76	59	Rain
Bilings	62	35	Rain	Denver	51	30	Cldy	Jacksonville	64	51	Rain	New York City	58	35	Cldy
Birmingham	62	49	Rain	Des Moines	59	41	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	80	61	Cldy	Newark	57	34	Cldy
Bismarck	51	25	Cldy	Detroit	53	30	Cldy	Janeau	44	36	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	53	34	Cldy
Bismarck	60	39	Cldy	El Paso	72	48	Pcldy	Kansas City	62	41	Cldy	North Platte	57	34	Cldy
Boston	52	35	Cldy	Elkins	65	38	Pcldy	Key West	84	74	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	60	43	Cldy
Bridgeport	56	33	Cldy	Erie	48	27	Cldy	Knoxville	65	40	Cldy	Omaha	60	41	Cldy
Brownsville	82	68	Cldy	Eugene	63	49	Cldy	Lake Charles	72	56	Rain	Orlando	87	65	Pcldy
Buffalo	53	27	Cldy	Evansville	62	36	Pcldy	Lansing	57	33	Cldy	Padsuah	63	37	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	47	29	Cldy	Fairbanks	35	17	Snow	Las Vegas	77	53	Cldy	Pendleton	63	41	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	41	31	Pcldy	Fargo	51	29	Pcldy	Lexington	62	35	Pcldy	Peoria	58	34	Cldy
Casper, Wyo.	50	29	Rain	Flagstaff	56	27	Cldy	Lincoln	60	40	Cldy	Philadelphia	59	35	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	64	55	Rain	Flint	57	25	Cldy	Little Rock	61	44	Rain	Phoenix	83	57	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	69	34	Pcldy	Fort Smith	59	43	Rain	Los Angeles	78	54	Cldy	Pittsburgh	59	29	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	64	44	Cldy												

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Fr., 90, New Bern, N.C.  
Lo: Fr., -16, Antero Reservoir, Colo.

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Health care data of dubious value

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN

It was a notable week for the Obama administration. In the waning hours of March 31 the "official" deadline for open enrollment — the White House released a big number: 7.1 million Americans had selected a private health insurance plan through the new health insurance marketplace created by the health care law.

This was no small feat for an administration that has spent the past several months moving the goal posts.

So it was understandable when on Tuesday afternoon, a visibly relieved President Barack Obama took what even the law's detractors might concede was a deserved opportunity to spike the football.

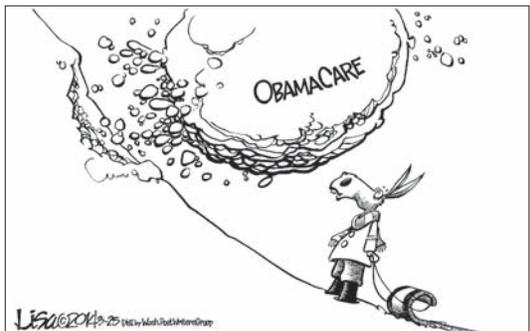
But the euphoric declarations from the Rose Garden were vaguely reminiscent of President George W. Bush's ill-fated and imprudent "Mission Accomplished" speech given after the U.S. toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein: premature and end of context.

Kind of like a touchdown dance after a field goal.

The 7.1 million figure, which the president says is "on top of the more than 3 million young adults who have gained insurance under the law by signing on their family's plan, and millions more who have gained access through Medicaid expansion and the Children's Health Insurance Program," is of dubious consequence.

Not to mention that the curious release of such a precise number after months of insisting that exact enrollment figures were unavailable is cause enough for suspicion. As *The Wall Street Journal* editorialized, "Regardless of your partisan sympathies, the White House's selective disclosure is a crime against transparency and accountability." The figure itself caused *National Journal's* Ron Fournier to ask: "What are the real numbers? We won't know for weeks whether the administration accomplished its goal of adding 7 million people to the insurance rolls, including a plurality of healthy young adults. The numbers announced Tuesday, while impressive, are incomplete and misleading."

And while the *Los Angeles Times* report-



ed that a mysteriously still-unpublished survey by the RAND Corp. estimates a total of 9.5 million previously uninsured people having gained coverage under the new law (through private insurance, Medicaid expansion and young adults through parents' plans), only a third of those who signed up in the exchanges are newly insured, and just half have actually paid their premiums, a necessary component of obtaining coverage.

Then there is the question of how many people who have signed up for insurance will stay insured by consistently paying their premiums, which are expected to rise in 2015.

Further calling into question the credibility of any health-care-related numbers, Bloomberg columnist Megan McArdle points out the last-minute enrollment surge — an "amazingly powerful testament to the American powers of procrastination" — has probably "blown to hell" all the enrollment data anyway.

Hmmm.

Even if we are to stipulate that millions more Americans have obtained coverage, the reported number of newly insured Americans is still a fraction of the number

Obama initially claimed he wanted to cover (30 million) and well below the expected reduction in the percentage of uninsured Americans the Congressional Budget Office had originally projected.

To millions of disillusioned Americans, the only number that matters is that following the dollar sign on their insurance bill, which has remained stubbornly high, and for many conjures memories of the president's trifecta of broken promises — you can keep your plan, you can keep your doctors, your premiums will go down.

Based on current data, however it shakes out, it's unlikely that the president's signature law will be a spectacular failure but it's just as unlikely to be a spectacular success.

But repair is unlikely to come in Washington while, as Fournier puts it, "the win-at-all-cost mentality (that) helped create a culture in which a partisan-line vote was deemed sufficient for passing transcendent legislation," remains unchallenged.

And so for the president as for Congress, the next Obamacare-related numbers of significance will come at the polls this November.

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Ernie Gates

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Working moms — new twist on old debate

By ANNE MICHAUD

A survey released this week by the Working Mother Research Institute, which has been advocating for better job conditions for parents of young children, says three generations how they felt about their mothers working outside the home.

More millennials than other groups said they were proud of Mom's career. Born between 1981 and 2000, 45 percent of the 2,163 respondents expressed pride, compared with 37 percent of Generation X (born 1965-1980) and 34 percent of baby boomers (born 1946 to 1964). Hooray for working moms, right?

Not so fast. At the same time, more millennials — 31 percent — wished that their moms could have stayed home with them, compared with 22 percent of Gen Xers and 17 percent of baby boomers.

If millennials are divided about their mothers' choices, they're also conflicted about their own lives. More than the other two generations, moms who are millennials describe themselves as career-oriented, while also being the group most likely to believe — at 60 percent — that one parent should be home to care for children.

Astutely enough, Republicans and Democrats have sensed that they could grab opposite hands of this conflicted fe-

male electorate and began pulling in either direction.

A panel of prominent female conservatives, speaking Monday at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, said what women need more of are husbands. Over the last 40 years — coincidentally the time frame of the current wave of feminism — women have lost their peace of mind, the panelists said.

Citing data from the General Social Survey, a poll of Americans conducted every two years, the panelists said that a quarter of women are taking antidepressants, and most women with a high school degree or less will have a first child before marriage. Married women are also richer.

For their part, Democrats are tugging in the direction of easing the working part of women's lives. They're speaking up about income inequality between the genders, as well as flexible jobs and the minimum wage. Two-thirds of the minimum-wage workforce is female.

It's unfortunate that such a painful personal question — whether a woman's life is for achievement or caregiving or both — is being probed by partisans as a way to gain an advantage with women voters. But where there are votes, there's fire. President Barack Obama had a 36-point lead among unmarried women in the last elec-

tion, which put him 11 percentage points ahead of Mitt Romney among women in general.

Will the GOP's call to marry inspire women? Maybe Republicans can start an online matchmaking service. On the third date, you cast your ballot.

A few years ago, writer David Paul Deavel remarked that ethics students had begun answering a fundamental question differently. Asked what they would like to be able to say about themselves at age 80, many in the past gave sensitive responses about virtue and character. But by 2005, many more began answering that they'd want to have no regrets.

This is the emotion that underlies families' conflict about whether mom — or any parent — will work outside the home or stay home and raise children. Which path will reap the least regret? I dearly wish this wasn't the zeitgeist, because it is so distressing, causes us to retreat from each other, and has had us defensively guarding "mommy wars" territory.

In truth, there's value in different approaches to life. But don't tell that to the political parties. They're busy trying to win.

Anne Michaud is interactive editor for Newsday Opinion and a member of the Newsday editorial board.

OPINION

# Lawmaker rolls tax reform boulder up mountain

By GEORGE F. WILL

**T**he Sisyphean task of tax reform should be tried only by someone who will not flinch from igniting some highly flammable people — those who believe that whatever wrinkle in the tax code benefits them is an eternal entitlement. Tax reform's Senate champion is Ron Wyden, the affable, cerebral and tall Oregon Democrat who once wanted to be the NBA's greatest Jewish power forward since ... never mind.

Anyway, a serious Republican reform plan has been produced by Rep. Dave Camp, of Michigan, who is retiring from Congress but will probably be succeeded as chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee by Paul Ryan, who has a wholesome monomania about promoting economic growth. Conservatives should rejoice that the Senate's most important chairmanship, that of the Finance Committee, has come to Wyden, whose progressive credentials are impeccable but who says, "We like expanding the winners' circle," and who believes that economic growth of 4 percent is not only feasible but urgent.

Furthermore, the Congressional Budget Office might do "dynamic scoring" rather than "static scoring" of tax reform. That is, the CBO would consider probable behavioral changes — by workers, business executives, investors, savers and consumers — when projecting the revenue results of reforms that change incentives. If the reforms were likely to increase economic growth, the CBO would estimate increased government revenues, reducing resistance to tax cuts.

Although Wyden, 64, is in only his third full term in the Senate, he is the Senate's seventh senior Democrat. If Republicans then control the Senate, Wyden will be the ranking Democrat on Finance, which probably will be chaired by Utah's Orrin Hatch, who is the most senior Republican and second most (behind Vermont Democrat Pat Leahy) senior senator.



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

In only his third full term, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., will be the Senate's seventh-most senior Democrat in January.

Wyden comes from Portland, the Vatican of progressivism, so Democrats may tolerate him collaborating with Hatch and Ryan — adult supervision for the congressional sandbox — in crafting tax reforms that respond to the CBO's recent ominous economic outlook for 2014-2024.

It projects growth through this year of about 3 percent. This would be "the largest rise in nearly a decade" but would be anemic continued, considering that the unprecedented weak recovery from the recession has left median household income 3.3 percent lower than when the recovery began almost five years ago. The CBO says that after 2017, "growth will diminish to a

pace that is well below the average seen over the past several decades." It cites "long-term trends — particularly, slower growth in the labor force" as the population ages.

The CBO also mentions other reasons the growth potential is "much slower than the average since 1950": "Changes in people's economic incentives caused by federal tax and spending policies set in current law are expected to keep hours worked and potential output ... lower than they would be otherwise."

Growth-igniting tax reform is required to rescue the nation from a "new normal" of appalling underemployment. Wyden,

whose state produces wood products, says "housing is a very real economic multiplier — it cannot be outsourced," so do not expect him to favor substantial curtailment of the deductibility of mortgage interest payments, a \$70 billion benefit disproportionately benefiting affluent homeowners.

Wyden's party will insist on preserving the deductibility of state and local taxes, a nearly \$80 billion benefit that encourages state and local spending. Unions, especially, will fight for the \$260 billion benefit of not taxing as compensation, which it obviously is, employer-provided health insurance. "You never," says Wyden equably, "get to start from scratch in Washington."

Of the nation's embarrassing down-at-the-heels infrastructure — roads, airports, harbors — Wyden says, "You can't have a big-league quality of life and big-league economic growth with little league infrastructure." He has a plan ("Build America Bonds") for getting "billions of private dollars off the sidelines" and into infrastructure investments.

In addition to minimizing growth-suppressing economic distortions, tax simplification would reform politics by shrinking opportunities for transactions between private factions and the political class. This class confers favors as much with the tax code as with appropriations. "You can drain the swamp," says Wyden. "They did it in '86."

Yes, Congress simplified the code, eliminating preferences to pay for lower rates, but the swamp was unimpressed. Since then, the code has been replicated more than 15,000 times. Still, Wyden, ebullient in the face of daunting evidence, will, like Sisyphus, roll the reform boulder up the mountain, challenging the axiom that tax reform cannot be done in an election year or the year before one, which are the only years we have.

George Will is a member of The Washington Post Writers Group.

# Is US able to commit to practicing core values preached?

By MARTIN SCHRAM

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

**W**e begin by lifting today's bottom line right to the top. After years of ducking, dodging, disclaiming and self-deceiving, Washington is about to be ramrodded into finally confronting, under democracy's spotlight, the central war and peace controversy of our post-9/11 times: whether our nation is tough enough to commit itself to practice the core values it preaches about.

The long-standing bitter battle between the CIA and Senate exploded all over our front pages this week as McClatchy and other media organizations revealed that a five-year investigation by the Senate Intelligence Committee had discovered a number of new brutal interrogation practices, some of which go beyond the well-known practice of waterboarding inflicted upon prisoners by CIA operatives.

And most importantly, the Senate investigators reportedly concluded that the CIA operatives did not obtain new vital information from prisoners who were subjected to these previously undisclosed interrogation techniques that the world would see as torture. CIA officials dispute that conclusion, but the whole controversy has so far been inconclusive since the details are so fully classified.

The central players in the angry and by

**America is better than those who jettisoned our core values by torturing our enemies in dark places in the intelligence netherworld.**

now bitter war between the branches are CIA Director John Brennan — who by the way was a key player in years in which President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney instituted the policies at the heart of today's controversy — and Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Diane Feinstein, D-Calif.

But the conscience of our nation's capital in this epic clash is Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was among our military's finest and heroically withstood years of torture by North Vietnamese jailers in what became known as the Hanoi Hilton.

So McCain needs no lectures on what it means to be tough (even though he has grown fond of lecturing presidents, especially the incumbent, on just that). While he has demonstrated that he has the grit to do what is needed to keep Americans safe, McCain has worked to chart a course of global respect for congressional colleagues by proclaiming torture has no place along America's path to peace.

"What I have learned confirms for me what I have always believed and insisted

to be true — that the cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners is not only wrong in principle and a stain on our country's conscience but also an ineffective and unreliable means of gathering intelligence," he told the Senate in 2012.

McCain's message has long been that torture has nothing to do with toughness. Having been among the POWs who endured terrible abuses by captors, he speaks with an authority that demands our attention — especially when he and so many others warn that when Americans inflict abuses upon their prisoners, it will inevitably lead future enemies to do the same to captured Americans.

Perhaps you have noticed that over the decades, the CIA seems unable to prevent itself from blundering into controversies with Congress (see also: controversies the CIA cannot win and never does). Most recently, Senate Intelligence Committee investigators worked out an agreement with then-CIA Director Leon Panetta to work at a secured facility, where they were given computers the CIA promised it would not

invade. But then, somehow, one of the CIA's most secret internal documents — especially one detailing what CIA officials listed for their bosses as their agency's most controversial episodes — showed up on the Senate probers' computer. Then it disappeared, leading Feinstein to go, understandably, senatorially apoplectic at what appeared to be a CIA breaking and entering of the Senate's computer.

Now the Senate intelligence chair wants the summary of the committee's completed report declassified. And the CIA director wants to keep its findings and conclusions secret — no surprise, since it seems to contradict repeated no-problem assurances given by his Bush-Cheney-era colleagues.

If the Senate can declassify this report," Feinstein said recently, "we will be able to ensure that an un-American, brutal program of detention and interrogation will never again be considered or permitted."

She is right. McCain is, too. And mainly, America is better than those who jettisoned our core values by torturing our enemies in dark places in the intelligence netherworld.

America is also better than those who authorized and concealed those fundamentally un-American activities in their misguided zeal to safeguard us all.

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

# SCOREBOARD

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## Auto racing

### O'Reilly Auto Parts 300

**NASCAR Nationwide Series**  
**At Texas Motor Speedway**  
**Friday**  
**Full length: 185 miles**  
**Start (position in parentheses)**  
 1. (6) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 200 laps, 127.5 rating, 47 points, \$72,094.  
 2. (38) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 200, 126.3, 0, \$50,375.  
 3. (7) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 200, 113.1, 0, \$40,875.  
 4. (1) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 200, 134.0, \$64,475.  
 5. (14) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 200, 120.0, \$52,229.  
 6. (2) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 200, 104.2, 0, \$26,625.  
 7. (3) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 200, 99.1, 0, \$28,928.  
 8. (29) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 200, 91.4, 36, \$28,328.  
 9. (20) Elliott Sadler, Toyota, 200, 91.2, 34, \$28,328.  
 10. (42) Brendan Gaughan, Chevrolet, 200, 89.3, 35, \$27,628.  
 11. (24) Brian Scott, Chevrolet, 200, 93.2, \$27,628.  
 12. (13) James Buescher, Toyota, 200, 84.3, \$26,883.  
 14. (10) Dylan Kwasniewski, Chevrolet, 200, 82.0, \$25,155.  
 15. (12) David Starr, Toyota, 199, 75.5, 30, \$26,398.  
 16. (17) J.J. Yeley, Dodge, 199, 76.5, 29, \$26,398.  
 17. (11) Ryan Segal, Chevrolet, 199, 70.2, 28, \$25,688.  
 18. (24) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 198, 65.26, \$25,303.  
 19. (27) Robert Richardson Jr., Chevrolet, 198, 66.25, \$25,158.  
 20. (46) Ryan Reed, Ford, 196, 65, 24, \$25,158.  
 21. (20) Josh Wise, Chevrolet, 195, 57.2, 0, \$24,948.  
 22. (25) Dakota Armstrong, Ford, 195, 57.2, \$24,948.  
 23. (6) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 195, 71.7, 21, \$24,948.  
 24. (29) Eric McClure, Toyota, 194, 43.5, 20, \$24,328.  
 25. (24) Kevin Lepage, Chevrolet, 194, 54.4, 19, \$24,328.  
 26. (27) Joey Gas, Chevrolet, 191, 45.5, 18, \$24,328.  
 27. (29) Chris Buescher, Ford, 191, 45.5, 16, \$24,328.  
 28. (16) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 191, 45.5, 16, \$24,328.  
 29. (33) Mike Harmon, Dodge, 190, 45.5, 16, \$24,328.  
 30. (30) Tanner Berryhill, Dodge, 190, 45.5, 16, \$24,328.  
 31. (14) Chad Boat, Toyota, 189, 45.5, 12, \$23,538.  
 32. (15) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 189, 45.5, 12, \$23,538.  
 33. (6) Brandon Cassill, Chevrolet, 189, 45.5, 11, \$16,995.  
 34. (31) Robert Richardson Jr., Chevrolet, 189, 45.5, 10, \$23,312.  
 35. (18) Kenny Lee Martins, Dodge, 189, 45.5, 9, \$16,755.  
 36. (32) Mike Bliss, Toyota, 119, 45.5, 12, \$23,538.  
 37. (6) Brandon Cassill, Chevrolet, 189, 45.5, 11, \$16,995.  
 38. (34) Derrick Coe, Chevrolet, 189, 45.5, 10, \$16,995.  
 39. (28) Matt DiBenedetto, Chevrolet, 189, 45.5, 9, \$16,995.  
 40. (40) Blake Koch, Toyota, 189, 45.5, 9, \$16,995.  
 41. (32) Mike Wallace, Toyota, 189, 45.5, 9, \$16,995.  
 42. (31) Robert Richardson Jr., Chevrolet, 189, 45.5, 9, \$16,995.  
 43. (28) Matt DiBenedetto, Chevrolet, 189, 45.5, 9, \$16,995.  
 44. (40) Blake Koch, Toyota, 189, 45.5, 9, \$16,995.  
 45. (32) Mike Wallace, Toyota, 189, 45.5, 9, \$16,995.

**Leaders Summary (Driver, Time, Laps, Lead)**  
 1. Elliott, 4 times for 38 laps  
 2. Harvick, 3 times for 12 laps  
 3. Elliott, 4 times for 38 laps  
 4. Busch, 3 times for 12 laps  
 5. Elliott, 4 times for 38 laps  
 6. Elliott, 4 times for 38 laps  
 7. Elliott, 4 times for 38 laps  
 8. Elliott, 4 times for 38 laps  
 9. Elliott, 4 times for 38 laps  
 10. Elliott, 4 times for 38 laps

**Margin of Victory: 2.666 seconds**  
**Fastest Lap: 1:12.488**  
**Lead Changes: 14 among 18 drivers**  
**Yellow 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Green 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Red 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Black 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**White 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Blue 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Purple 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Orange 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Green 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Yellow 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Red 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Black 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**White 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Blue 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
**Purple 103 laps: 1:12.488**  
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SPORTS BRIEFS

# Elliott earns first career Nationwide win

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — When qualifying ended at Texas Motor Speedway, Chase Elliott hopped a fence and went on his way without a single fan bothering to stop him for an autograph or picture.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. watched the 18-year-old go by largely ignored and figured those days were numbered.

"I thought to myself, 'I know he's going to win one day or another, and then just start railing off run after run after run and become the next best thing,'" Earnhardt said hours later. "It ain't going to be long until he's going to be swarmed with attention."

Boy, Earnhardt had that pegged.

Elliott used a strong move on the outside to pass Kevin Harvick for the lead Friday night and then sailed away for his first career Nationwide Series victory.

The 18-year-old won in his sixth career start and is the second youngest winner in series history. He's roughly four months older than Joey Logano, who was 18 years and 21 days when he won his first career Nationwide race in 2008.

Elliott won in a Chevrolet for JR Motorsports, driving the No. 9 as a tribute to his father, 1988 Cup champion Bill Elliott.

"I can't believe it, just to have the opportunity to race with these guys at JR Motorsports, just to have this opportunity is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for any racer who wants to make it to the top," Elliott said. "It just means the world for me to be here."

Kyle Busch, a 65-time race winner in the Nationwide Series, finished second.

**Source: Broncos, Fox agree on 3-year deal**

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — A person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Friday that coach John Fox has agreed to a new three-year con-



Chase Elliott, left, talks with team owner Dale Earnhardt Jr. in Victory Lane after Elliott won the NASCAR Nationwide Series race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas.

RALPH LAUER/AP

tract with the Denver Broncos.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal hasn't been announced, said the team ripped up Fox's 2014 contract and replaced it with a deal that runs through 2016.

GM John Elway said in early February that Fox would get a new deal this offseason.

Fox has gone 37-17 with three AFC West titles in his three seasons in Denver.

He overcame a heart operation in November to lead the Broncos to an appearance in the Super Bowl, where they lost 43-8 to Seattle.

In other NFL news: ■ Eagles linebacker Jake Knott was suspended Friday for the first four games of the 2014 season for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing substances.

Knott played 12 games mostly on special teams and made six tackles last season as an undrafted rookie out of Iowa State. He is allowed to participate in offseason activities and preseason games.

**Garcia moves to top of Houston Open field**

HUMBLE, Texas — Sergio Garcia surged to the top of the leaderboard by shooting a 7-under par 65 in the second round of the Houston Open on Friday.

The Spaniard's 12-under overall score matches the 36-hole low at the 7,441-yard Golf Club of Houston and gives him a one shot lead over American Matt Kuchar (11-under).

Garcia, opening on the back nine, climbed the leaderboard with a birdie-eagle-birdie stretch on his front nine. His eagle on No. 13 came after sticking his 282-yard second shot to 5 feet.

First-round co-leader Bill Haas followed his opening 65 with a 2-over 74 in gusty conditions. The other first-round leader, Charley Hoffman, fell to 3-under overall.

Phil Mickelson shot a 2-under 70 and is 6 under overall, six shots back of Garcia.

In other golf news: ■ Lexi Thompson found a putting touch to match her power

game Friday in the Kraft Nabisco Championship.

The 19-year-old Thompson, already a three-time winner on the LPGA Tour, shot a bogey-free 8-under 64 at Mission Hills for a share of the second-round lead with Se Ri Pak.

Thompson birdied eight of the last 13 holes and had only 25 putts after taking 35 in a first-round 73. Pak had a 70 to match Thompson at 7-under 137 in the first major championship of the year.

Michelle Wie was a stroke back after a 71.

**Yankees place Teixeira on 15-day disabled list**

TORONTO — The New York Yankees placed first baseman Mark Teixeira on the 15-day disabled list Saturday with a strained right hamstring and recalled catcher Austin Romine from Triple-A Scranton.

Teixeira left Friday's game in the second inning after he was injured while trying to field a foul grounder. Kelly Johnson moved from second base to first and Brian Roberts came in to play second.

Manager Joe Girardi said Teixeira will undergo an MRI exam when the Yankees return home.

Johnson started at first base Saturday, and Girardi said Johnson will get the bulk of the playing time in Teixeira's absence. Dean Anna, Francisco Cervelli and Yangervis Solarte could also see time at first.

In other baseball news: ■ Baltimore Orioles slugger Eddie Murray and St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Ozzie Smith are among six Hall of Famers returning for the annual Hall of Fame game at Doubleday Field in Cooperstown.

Joining them for the game on Memorial Day weekend will be Hall of Famers Roberto Alomar, Andre Dawson, Rollie Fingers and Phil Niekro.

The teams will be made up of recently retired players repre-

senting the 30 major league clubs. The list features two who won Most Valuable Player awards, three World Series MVPs, two All-Star Game MVPs, a combined 56 All-Star Game selections, 18 Gold Glove Awards and a member of the 600 home run club.

Among those scheduled to participate May 24 are Jim Thome, Steve Garvey, Hideki Matsui, Alex Gonzalez, Luis Gonzalez, Ivan Rodriguez and Brad Lidge.

**Top seeds Jankovic, Errani eliminated**

CHARLESTON, S.C. — It proved tough to be a top seed at the Family Circle Cup this week.

No. 2 seed Jelena Jankovic and No. 3 seed Sara Errani were both upset Friday in the quarterfinals, leaving sixth-seeded Eugenie Bouchard as the lone top-10 seed left in the semifinals.

Jankovic fell to Bouchard 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 to start the round of eight before 17-year-old qualifier Belinda Bencic pulled off an even bigger shocker by eliminating Errani, a runner-up at the French Open in 2012.

Bencic, who had to win twice last weekend simply to make the field, took over in the final two sets for a 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 victory over the 26-year-old Italian. Bencic hadn't made it past the second round in two previous WTA events this year.

**Wings sign Glendening to 3-year extension**

DETROIT — The Detroit Red Wings signed center Luke Glendening to a three-year contract extension Saturday.

The Red Wings announced the move a day after beating Buffalo to strengthen their position as a wild-card team in the playoffs.

Glendening has no goals and six assists in 51 games this season as a rookie. With 78 hits and 32 blocked shots, he has earned ice time this season for a team that has been hit hard by injuries.

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MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

Table with columns: Team, East Division, West Division, National League, and scores for various games.

Friday

Table with columns: Team, Mets 4, Reds 3, Rockies 12, Diamondbacks 2, and scores for various games.

Indians 7, Twins 2

Table with columns: Team, Indians 7, Twins 2, and scores for various games.

Table with columns: Team, San Diego, Baltimore, Detroit, and scores for various games.

National League

Table with columns: Team, East Division, West Division, and scores for various games.

Rays 8, Rangers 1

Table with columns: Team, Rays 8, Rangers 1, and scores for various games.

Braves 2, Nationals 1

Table with columns: Team, Braves 2, Nationals 1, and scores for various games.

Tigers 10, Orioles 4

Table with columns: Team, Tigers 10, Orioles 4, and scores for various games.

Saturday's games

Table with columns: Team, Minnesota, Baltimore, Chicago, and scores for various games.

Sunday's games

Table with columns: Team, Minnesota, Baltimore, Chicago, and scores for various games.

Phillies 7, Cubs 2

Table with columns: Team, Phillies 7, Cubs 2, and scores for various games.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 3

Table with columns: Team, Yankees 7, Blue Jays 3, and scores for various games.

Monday's games

Table with columns: Team, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, and scores for various games.

Tuesday's games

Table with columns: Team, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, and scores for various games.

Wednesday's games

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MLB

Statistics

American League

TEAM BATTING									
AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg				
Detroit	101	16	31	14	30.1				
Chicago	147	26	44	6	25.9				
Cleveland	138	18	36	1	26.3				
Boston	138	13	38	4	11.275				
Tampa Bay	163	26	44	2	23.279				
New York	137	14	36	0	13.263				
Kansas	104	11	26	0	10.253				
Minnesota	148	21	37	2	21.250				
Cleveland	132	16	32	5	14.290				
Los Angeles	137	19	32	5	18.234				
Oakland	135	13	30	2	13.222				
Seattle	138	18	39	2	17.211				
Houston	123	12	26	4	12.211				
Toronto	135	14	33	5	14.290				

INDIVIDUAL BATTING									
AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg				
Sperez CWJ	10	2	6	0	1.600				
Flowers JWS	14	2	8	0	0.571				
Harris LA	10	1	3	0	0.462				
Longoria TB	18	4	8	0	1.444				
Gioabelli MN	14	2	6	0	0.429				
Airraunb CWS	14	2	6	0	2.429				
Troy LAA	14	3	6	0	0.429				
Pedroia Bos	12	2	8	0	0.421				
MiCabrera Det	19	1	3	4	0.417				
Jackson Det	12	3	0	0	0.412				
Kazuki Min	12	0	5	0	0.417				
Rios Tex	12	1	6	0	0.400				
Castellanos Det	10	1	3	0	0.400				
Infante KC	13	1	4	0	0.385				
Maxwell Hou	13	1	4	0	0.385				
Boggs Bos	13	2	5	0	0.385				
Chapman KC	13	2	5	0	0.385				
Hosmer KC	11	1	4	0	0.364				
Kinsler Det	10	2	3	0	0.357				
Beltre Tex	14	2	5	0	0.357				
Ortiz Bos	17	1	3	0	0.353				
Smoot KC	15	1	3	0	0.333				
Branley Cle	15	0	5	0	0.333				
LeCain KC	12	2	4	0	0.333				
Willingham Min	12	2	4	0	0.333				
Crisp Oak	12	3	3	0	0.333				
McClellan Tor	22	3	7	0	0.333				
DeJennings TB	16	4	3	0	0.316				
Abreu CWS	16	3	6	0	0.316				
Ackley Sea	16	3	5	0	0.313				
Eaton CWS	16	4	5	0	0.313				
Meyers TB	16	3	5	0	0.313				
McCann NYY	13	0	4	0	0.308				
Moss oak	13	0	4	0	0.308				
Santana Cle	13	0	4	0	0.308				
Almonse Sea	17	1	2	0	0.286				
Zunino Sea	14	2	4	0	0.286				
Gardner NYY	14	2	4	0	0.286				
Moreland Tex	14	2	4	0	0.286				
Ellsbury NYY	11	3	3	0	0.273				
De Aze CWS	15	2	4	0	0.267				
Ahicks Min	15	2	4	0	0.267				
BMiller Sea	20	4	2	0	0.259				
Andrus Tex	16	1	4	0	0.259				
Cespedes Oak	16	1	4	0	0.259				
Felder Tex	16	1	4	0	0.259				
TorHunter Det	12	2	3	0	0.259				
N Cruz Bal	12	2	3	0	0.259				
Teixeira NYY	12	3	2	0	0.250				
Noronca Cle	12	2	3	0	0.250				
Yesocbar TB	17	0	4	0	0.235				
Zobrist TB	17	0	4	0	0.235				
Aoki KC	13	3	3	0	0.235				
VJornes Det	13	1	3	0	0.231				
Clavis Bal	13	1	3	0	0.231				
Almaraz Bal	13	1	3	0	0.231				
Matt Kemp Los	13	1	3	0	0.231				
Roberts NYY	13	1	3	0	0.231				
Swisher Sea	18	2	4	0	0.221				
Hart KC	14	2	3	0	0.221				
Choo Tex	14	2	3	0	0.214				
Lowe Oak	14	2	3	0	0.214				
Napoli Bos	14	2	3	0	0.214				
Bautista Tor	14	2	3	0	0.214				
Navarro Tor	20	1	4	0	0.200				
Beltran NYY	15	0	3	0	0.200				
Butler KC	15	0	3	0	0.200				
Adunn CWS	16	3	3	0	0.188				
Wright KC	16	3	3	0	0.188				
Kipnis Cle	16	3	3	0	0.188				
Agordon KC	11	1	2	0	0.182				

Pujols LAA

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg
Calhoun LAA	17	2	3	0	1.176
Dozier Min	18	3	3	0	0.167
AdArca CWS	12	1	0	0	0.167
Karkakis Bal	18	1	2	0	0.167
DuMurry Cle	18	1	2	0	0.167
Phillips LAA	12	0	1	0	0.143
Yanby LAA	13	3	2	0	0.154
Loney Tex	13	0	3	0	0.154
Francisco Tor	20	1	3	0	0.150
Acabera Cle	14	2	0	0	0.143
Wright KC	14	2	0	0	0.143
Grossman Hou	14	0	0	0	0.143
Wright KC	15	0	2	0	0.133
Kendrick LAA	15	2	0	0	0.133
Mauer Min	16	3	2	0	0.125
Redick Oak	16	3	2	0	0.125
Avila Det	8	2	1	0	0.125
Navas Bos	18	2	2	0	0.111
Arca Min	18	2	2	0	0.111
Donaldson Oak	18	2	2	0	0.111

TEAM PITCHING									
ERA	IP	H	ER	BB	SO	SV			
Harris LA	2.13	28	9	14	42	0			
Detroit	2.25	20	17	10	17	0			
Oakland	2.31	28	10	14	30	0			
Tampa Bay	2.40	33	12	18	35	0			
Cleveland	2.63	33	11	12	30	2			
Kansas City	3.33	23	10	20	20	0			
Boston	3.34	33	13	18	32	0			
Houston	4.50	35	18	14	28	0			
Toronto	5.23	49	28	23	42	0			
Chicago	5.35	41	22	20	34	0			
Baltimore	6.40	50	21	9	40	0			
Texas	6.47	45	16	23	0				
Los Angeles	6.50	41	26	22	0				
Minnesota	6.81	45	27	13	0				

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING									
IP	H	ER	BB	SO	SV	L	ERA		
Masterson Cle	3	1	4	0	0.00	0	0.00		
Hutchinson Tor	3	2	2	3	0.00	0	0.00		
Feldman Hou	3	2	0	5	1.00	0	0.00		
Kazmir Oak	3	3	0	5	1.00	0	0.00		
Buehler Tor	3	4	1	11	1.00	0	0.00		
Cosart Hou	3	4	1	3	1.00	0	0.00		
Ozordiz TB	6	3	3	4	0.00	0	0.00		
Doolittle Oak	4	2	0	0	0.00	0	0.00		
Paxton Sea	4	2	0	0	0.00	0	0.00		
Gray Oak	6	5	3	7	0.00	0	0.00		
Britton Bal	2	1	0	0	0.00	0	0.00		
Smyly Det	1	1	3	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Vargas KC	3	5	1	6	0.00	1	0.00		
Chavez Oak	6	5	2	4	0.00	1	0.00		
Paulino CWS	2	2	0	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Elias Sea	2	2	1	4	0.00	0	0.00		
Tillman Bal	3	3	1	4	0.00	0	0.00		
Richards LAA	5	5	5	5	0.00	0	0.00		
Price TB	7	6	1	6	1.00	0	0.00		
Stinson Bal	6	8	1	6	0.00	0	0.00		
Er Ramirez Sea	7	6	0	0	0.00	1	0.00		
Lester Bos	7	6	1	8	0.00	1	0.00		
W Davis KC	3	3	1	2	0.00	0	0.00		
Tanksy NYY	4	2	0	2	0.00	0	0.00		
Wadswick KC	3	3	1	2	0.00	0	0.00		
Quintana CWS	6	6	3	2	0.00	0	0.00		
Archer TB	6	3	1	6	1.00	0	0.00		
Rockey Bos	6	3	1	6	1.00	0	0.00		
Correia Min	1	1	5	0	0.00	0	0.00		
Franhardz Sea	6	3	1	5	0.00	0	0.00		
Kuroda NYY	6	3	1	5	0.00	0	0.00		
Quintana CWS	6	3	1	5	0.00	0	0.00		
Moore TB	6	6	3	4	0.00	0	0.00		
Salazar Cle	6	6	5	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Novo NYY	6	6	5	1	0.00	0	0.00		
M Perez Tex	6	7	7	0	0.00	0	0.00		
Rross Tex	6	7	7	0	0.00	0	0.00		
Sale CWS	7	7	5	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Indrmanq Oak	6	6	5	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Shields KC	6	6	5	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Weaver LAA	6	6	6	3	0.00	0	0.00		
Santuz Det	6	6	6	3	0.00	0	0.00		
Orbortztor Hou	6	6	5	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Jimenez Bos	5	5	3	3	0.00	0	0.00		
Pelfrey Min	5	5	3	3	0.00	0	0.00		
Dumont Bal	4	4	3	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Guthrie KC	4	4	3	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Chen Bal	6	6	6	1	0.00	0	0.00		
McArthur Cle	6	6	6	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Hsantiago LAA	5	5	7	3	0.00	0	0.00		
Wright KC	5	5	7	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Hughes Min	5	5	7	1	0.00	0	0.00		
Cobb TB	5	5	4	3	0.00	0	0.00		

National League

TEAM BATTING									
AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg				
Atlanta SD	188	35	53	3	24.215				
Miami	178	27	54	4	26.303				
Philadelphia	122	10	28	0	12.278				
Washington	146	23	63	5	21.295				
Arizona	244	26	69	5	25.246				
San Francisco	172	17	42	0	12.278				
Pittsburgh	150	19	36	4	17.240				
Arenas Wash	202	23	48	2	19.243				
San Diego	125	10	28	2	10.224				
San Francisco	134	10	27	1	14.227				
Los Angeles	154	8	31	3	7.201				
San Diego	126	8	24	2	7.192				
San Francisco	131	10	28	1					

MLB

AL roundup

# Overbay's double sparks Brewers

The Associated Press

**BOSTON** — Lyle Overbay watched the Red Sox receive their championship rings, knowing how close he came to getting one.

Then he got back at the team that released him five days before the start of last season, hitting a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning of the first game at Fenway Park since Boston won the World Series last October.

That sparked a four-run inning against Edward Mujica that lifted the Milwaukee Brewers to a 6-2 win Friday.

**Yankees 7, Blue Jays 3:** Masahiro Tanaka pitched seven innings to win his major league debut and Jacoby Ellsbury had three hits for visiting New York.

Staked to a 2-0 lead before taking the mound, Tanaka (1-0) got a startling welcome to the major leagues when the Japanese right-hander surrendered a home run to Toronto's Melky Cabrera on his third pitch. It was Cabrera's first homer of the season and the second leadoff shot of his career.

**Tigers 10, Orioles 4:** Miguel Cabrera homered in the eighth inning for his 2,000th career

hit to help lead host Detroit past Baltimore.

Cabrera also hit three singles. His two-run drive made him the ninth player to reach 2,000 hits before turning 31.

**Indians 7, Twins 2:** Nick Swisher hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning, two batters after Yan Gomes connected for a solo shot in Cleveland's win over Minnesota.

Swisher's homer off Mike Pelfrey (0-1) allowed the Indians to cap a day of pomp and pageantry as they celebrated Progressive Field's 20th anniversary. Before the sixth, the Indians had been shut out by Pelfrey and were in danger of disappointing a sellout crowd that stuck around following a 2-hour, 13-minute rain delay.

**Royals 7, White Sox 5:** Alex Gordon drove in three runs and Jeremy Guthrie (1-0) pitched effectively into the sixth inning as Kansas City picked up a win at home.

The Royals jumped on White Sox rookie right-hander Erik Johnson (0-1) for six hits and four runs in the first two innings. Johnson retired only 14 of the 28 batters he faced, yielding seven



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

The Milwaukee Brewers' Scooter Gennett, center, slides safely into home, scoring on a double by Lyle Overbay, as Kris Davis, left, and Carlos Gomez react during the ninth inning of Friday's game against the Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston.

runs on 10 hits, three walks and a hit batter to take the loss.

**Rays 8, Rangers 1:** Sean Rodriguez homered and tied a career high with four RBIs. Jake Odorizzi got his first major league win, and host Tampa Bay routed Texas.

Rodriguez got a two-out RBI in the first when he was hit by a

pitch with the bases loaded, and hit a three-run homer during the third that put the Rays up 4-0. He was back in the lineup after missing Thursday night's 7-2 win over Toronto for the birth of his son.

**Angels 11, Astros 1:** Mike Trout, Josh Hamilton and Kole Calhoun homered to help visiting

Los Angeles get its first win of the season.

Trout hit a solo homer in the first inning and Hamilton hit a three-run drive in the sixth off Jerome Williams that made it 8-1. After Erick Aybar's RBI single, Calhoun added a two-run shot off Williams.

NL roundup

# Atlanta hands Washington first loss of season

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Benefiting from the decision to overturn Ian Desmond's inside-the-park homer on replay review, the Atlanta Braves beat Washington 2-1 Friday, spoiling the Nationals' home opener and giving rookie manager Matt Williams his first loss.

Desmond's shot down the left-field line in the fifth inning, which appeared to tie the game at 1-1, was switched to a ground-rule double after a five-minute delay after Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez requested the review. Desmond was sent back to second base and wound up getting caught in a rundown while trying to steal.

Washington did eventually even the score, but Atlanta's Chris Johnson delivered a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth off reliever Tyler Clippard (0-1).

Luis Avilan (1-0) got one out in the seventh for the win, and Craig Kimbrel earned his third save.

**Phillies 7, Cubs 2:** Chase Utley hit a two-run homer and an RBI single, helping Philadelphia win the opener of Wrigley Field's 100th anniversary season.

John Mayberry Jr. also had a two-run drive for his fourth career pinch-hit homer as Philadelphia bounced back after dropping two straight.

Welington Castillo had a solo homer for the Cubs, who have dropped four consecutive home openers for the first time since 1991-94. Travis Wood (0-1) struck out eight in 6½ innings, but was charged with four



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Nationals first baseman Adam LaRoche is tagged out at home by Braves catcher Evan Gattis on a Ryan Zimmerman double during the fourth inning of Friday's home opener at Nationals Park in Washington.

runs, three earned, and six hits.

**Rockies 12, Diamondbacks 2:** Charlie Blackmon tied a team record with six hits and drove in five runs.

Blackmon finished 6-for-6 with three doubles and a two-run homer. The only other Rockies player with six hits in a game was Andres Galarraga against Houston on

July 3, 1995.

**Giants 8, Dodgers 4:** Michael Morse keyed a six-run first inning with a two-run single, and San Francisco spoiled Los Angeles' home opener nearly two weeks after it began the season in Australia.

David Huff (1-0) got the victory, allow-

ing two hits in 1½ innings of relief while striking out three.

**Mets 4, Reds 3:** Lucas Duda hit a pair of two-run homers only hours after host New York gave him the starting job at first base.

Replacement closer Jose Valverde struck out Jay Bruce with two on to end it, and the Mets avoided their first 0-4 start since opening with five consecutive losses in 2005.

**Pirates 12, Cardinals 2:** Pedro Alvarez homered twice and scored three runs for host Pittsburgh.

Alvarez hit long solo shots in the second and fourth off Shelby Miller (0-1) and broke open a close game with a rare stolen base he converted into a run.

Travis Ishikawa added his first major league home run in nearly two years for Pittsburgh. Gerrit Cole (1-0) gave up two runs in seven innings in his first start since losing the deciding Game 5 of the NL division series to St. Louis last October.

**Marlins 8, Padres 2:** Giancarlo Stanton hit a long home run for host Miami.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia had three hits and drove in two runs and Adeiny Hechavarria had a career-high four hits for the Marlins, who have won four of five games.

Yasmani Grandal and Jedd Gyorko each had two hits for the Padres, who have lost three straight. Eric Stults (0-1) allowed five runs in four innings.

Stanton's two-run blast traveled an estimated 458 feet to left field, nearly leaving the stadium and giving the Marlins a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

NHL

Scoreboard

**Eastern Conference**

**Atlantic Division**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
y-Boston	77	52	18	7	111	246	163
x-Montreal	78	44	27	7	95	207	196
x-Tampa Bay	77	42	26	6	92	207	206

**Metropolitan Division**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
y-Pittsburgh	77	49	23	5	103	237	191
N.Y. Rangers	78	43	30	9	91	210	187
Philadelphia	77	39	28	9	87	213	213

**Wild Card**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Detroit	77	37	26	14	88	208	217
Columbus	77	39	31	7	85	215	207

**Western Conference**

**Central Division**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-St. Louis	76	52	17	7	111	243	169
x-Colorado	76	49	21	6	104	233	206
x-Chicago	76	44	19	15	103	255	205

**Pacific Division**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Anaheim	77	50	19	8	108	249	198
x-San Jose	78	49	20	9	107	239	189
x-Los Angeles	78	45	27	6	96	196	164

**Wild Card**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Minnesota	77	37	26	12	90	191	194
Phoenix	77	38	28	14	86	209	221

**Note:** Top three teams in each division and two wild-card teams with the most points qualify for the playoffs. Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

x-clinched playoff spot  
y-clinched division title

**Friday's games**  
Edmonton 3, Phoenix 2, 50  
Ottawa 2, Washington 1  
Chicago 4, Columbus 3  
New Jersey 2, Washington 1  
Detroit 3, Buffalo 2  
Calgary 2, Florida 2

**Saturday's games**  
Philadelphia at Boston  
Colorado at St. Louis  
Washington at N.Y. Islanders  
Winnipeg at Toronto  
Detroit at Montreal  
Dallas at Tampa Bay  
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers  
New Jersey at Carolina  
Pittsburgh at Minnesota  
Los Angeles at Vancouver  
Nashville at San Jose

**Sunday's games**  
St. Louis at Florida  
Washington at Columbus  
Buffalo at Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh at Colorado  
Anaheim at Edmonton  
Minnesota at Winnipeg  
Calgary at New Jersey  
Anaheim at Vancouver

**Friday**  
**Canadiens 7, Senators 4**

**Montreal** 3 2 2-7  
1 1-4  
**First Period**—1, Ottawa, Smith 12 (Philly), 2:28, 2, Ottawa, Hensky 12 (Philly), 4:52, 3, Ottawa, Smith 13 (Zibanejad), Neil, 5:04, Montreal, Marquis (Goswami), 7:22, 5, Montreal, Weaver 1 (Plekanec, Pacioretty), 9:06, 6, Montreal, Pacioretty 35 (Vaneek, 5:52), 7:22, 7, Montreal, Pacioretty 37 (15:25).  
**Second Period**—7, Montreal, Eller 17 (20:00), 8, Montreal, Pacioretty 37 (22:15).  
**Third Period**—9, Montreal, Pacioretty 38 (Desharnais, Vaneek), 1:09, 10, Montreal, Desharnais 16 (Pacioretty, Vaneek), 9:07, 11, Montreal, Zibanejad 15 (Turris), 14:07.  
**Shots on Goal**—Montreal 115-7-23, Ottawa 13-15-43.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Montreal 0 of 2; Ottawa 0 of 2.  
**Goals**—Montreal, Bada 10-8-2 (43 shots, 25 goals), Ottawa, Anderson 23-16-8 (23-16).  
A—19,241 (19,153), T—2,388.

**Blackhawks 4, Blue Jackets 3**

**Chicago** 1 2 1-4  
1 1-2  
**First Period**—1, Columbus, MacKenzie 9 (Goswami, Bull), 1:01, Chicago, Morin 2 (Roszival, Sharp), 17:16.  
**Second Period**—3, Columbus, Johansson 21 (Goswami, Bull), 3:36, 4, Chicago, Sharp 32 (Keith), 4:14, (pp), 5, Chicago, Sharp 32 (Goswami, Bull), 10:42, 6, Columbus, Antkowiak 21 (Wisniewski, Johnson), 12:47 (pp).  
**Third Period**—Chicago, B.Smith 12 (Keith, Seabrook), 19:56.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Chicago 1 of 2; Columbus 1 of 3.  
**Goals**—Chicago, Raanta 13-4-4 (27 shots, 13 goals), Columbus, Bobrovsky 28-20-5 (38-34).  
A—18,695 (18,144), T—2,225.

**Devils 2, Capitals 1**

**Washington** 1 0 0-1  
**New Jersey** 0 1 1-2  
**First Period**—1, Washington, Ovechkin 49 (Grabovski, Backstrom), 10:12.  
**Second Period**—2, New Jersey, Ruutu 8 (Gelinis, T.Zajac), 12:21.  
**Third Period**—5, New Jersey, Carter 6 (Zlicek, Harrold), 15:06.  
**Shots on Goal**—Washington 8-7-10-25, New Jersey 7-14-10-33.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Washington 0 of 3; New Jersey 5 of 5.  
**Goals**—Washington, Halak 28-13-7 (31 shots-29 saves), New Jersey, Schneider 15-14-11 (25-24).  
A—15,218 (17,625), T—2:22.

**Red Wings 3, Sabres 2**

**Buffalo** 0 1 1-2  
**Detroit** 3 0 0-3  
**First Period**—1, Detroit, Helm 11 (Glen-dening, DeKeyser), 5:47, 2, Detroit, Jurco 7 (DeKeyser, Alfredsson), 14:12 (pp), 3, Detroit, Alfredsson 18 (Kindl, Abdelkader), 15:28.  
**Second Period**—4, Buffalo, McBain 5 (Ruhwedler, Leino), 12:28 (pp).  
**Third Period**—5, Buffalo, Deslauriers 1 (Larsson), 6:40.  
**Shots on Goal**—Buffalo 7-7-9-33, Detroit 12-9-10-31.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Buffalo 1 of 3; Detroit 1 of 2.  
**Goals**—Buffalo, Hackett 1-3-1 (31 shots-28 saves), Detroit, Howard 20-18-11 (23-21).  
A—20,066 (20,066), T—2:26.

**Flames 2, Panthers 1**

**Calgary** 0 2 0-2  
**Florida** 1 0 0-3  
**First Period**—1, Calgary, Agostino 1 (McCrattan, Billins), 1:34, 2, Florida, Trochec 4 (Rau, Pirt), 2:21, 2-3, Calgary, Cammalleri 26 (Hudler), 6:09.  
**Second Period**—None.  
**Shots on Goal**—Calgary 6-6-5-17, Florida 0-7-7-15.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Calgary 0 of 4; Florida 0 of 2.  
**Goals**—Calgary, MacDonald 5-4-1 (35 shots-34 saves), Florida, Luongo 23-22-7 (17-15).  
A—12,055 (17,040), T—2:18.

**Oilers 3, Coyotes 2 (SO)**

**Edmonton** 1 0 1 0-3  
**Phoenix** 0 1 1 0-2  
**Edmonton won shootout 4-3.**  
**First Period**—1, Edmonton, Schultz 10 (Eberle, Hall), 19:35.  
**Second Period**—3, Phoenix, Ekman-Larsson 14 (Vande, Boediker), 14:32 (pp).  
**Third Period**—3, Phoenix, Chichirua 5 (Erat, Ekman-Larsson), 12:42, 4, Edmonton, Gagner (Eberle), 19:15.  
**Shootout**—Edmonton, 19:15 (Eberle, NG, Perron, NG, Hendricks, NG, Gagner, G), Phoenix 0 (Boediker, NG, Vrntata, NG, Vermette, NG, Ekman-Larsson NG).  
**Shots on Goal**—Edmonton 9-6-10-11-26, Phoenix 6-10-9-11-26.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Edmonton 0 of 4; Phoenix 1 of 2.  
**Goals**—Edmonton, Scrivens 15-15-4 (26 shots-24 saves), Phoenix, Greiss 9-9-4 (26-24).  
A—14,732 (17,125), T—2:44.

**Predators 5, Ducks 2**

**Nashville** 4 1 0-5  
**Calgary** 1 1 0-2  
**First Period**—1, Nashville, Wilson 9 (Gos), 5:26, 2, Nashville, Wilson 10 (Hornqvist, Elin), 12:24, 3, Nashville, Fisher 19 (Hornqvist, Cullen), 13:52, 4, Anaheim, Pastrick 13 (Maroon, Perris), 15:00, 5, Nashville, Hornqvist 18 (Cullen, Fisher), 17:05.  
**Second Period**—6, Anaheim, Winnik 5 (Shelton), 3:18, 7, Nashville, Fisher 20 (Weber, Pastrick), 16:09.  
**Third Period**—3, Nashville, 9-7-8-24, Anaheim 6-10-11-26.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Nashville 0 of 4; Anaheim 2 of 2.  
**Goals**—Nashville, Rinne 8-10-2 (29 shots-27 saves), Anaheim, Hiller 29-12-7 (30-28).  
A—17,174 (17,174), T—2:23.

**Scoring leaders**

Through April 4

Player	G	A	Pts
Sidney Crosby, Pit	77	36	66
Ryan Getzlaf, Anh	77	36	60
Phil Kessel, Tor	78	34	43
Corey Perry, Anh	77	41	37
Tyler Segen, Dal	74	34	44
Claude Giroux, Phi	76	25	53
Joe Pavelski, Chi	78	37	57
Patrick Sharp, Chi	78	32	45
Max Pacioretty, Mon	77	39	47
Nicklas Backstrom, Was	77	14	60
Joe Thornton, S.J.	78	11	63
David Legwand, Was	76	23	49
Evgeni Malkin, Pit	76	30	41
Janie Beaulac, Dal	76	30	41

2 tied with 70 pts.

**Calendar**

April 13 — Last day of regular season.  
**April 16** — Stanley Cup Playoffs begin.  
**June 25** — NHL Cup, San Jose.  
**June 18** — Last possible day for Stanley Cup finals.  
**June 25** — NHL awards, Las Vegas.  
**June 27-28** — NHL Draft, Philadelphia.  
**July 1** — Free agency begins.



Jay LaPrete/AP

Chicago's Peter Regin, right, Ben Smith, left, and Bryan Bickell celebrate Smith's goal during the third period of Friday's game against Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. Chicago won the game 4-3.

**Roundup**

**Smith's late goal lifts Chicago over Columbus**

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ben Smith had the closest look and he likened it to mayhem.  
Antti Raanta had the worst view on the ice and to him it was a thing of beauty.  
Smith tapped in a rebound with 3.7 seconds left on a wild scrum to give the Chicago Blackhawks a 4-3 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Friday night.

With time running out, Duncan Keith threw the puck on net and goalie Sergei Bobrovsky blocked it with his arm but it popped out of his reach. While he and two teammates scrambled to get to the loose puck, Smith got a stick on it and pushed it into the net.  
“(Keith) is so good at getting pucks through — that first shot almost went in. I don't think he saw it,” Smith said of Bobrovsky. “It was just kind of a mad scramble in front with people going to the net. Somehow, the puck found its way in.”

When the official pointed to the puck to signify the goal was good, it touched off a wild celebration from a large throng of Chicago fans in the capacity crowd. It also deflated the playoff hopes of the Blue Jackets, not to mention the thousands of their fans in a crowd of 18,695.

“We came up 3 seconds short,” said Columbus defenseman Dalton Prout, part of the pile of players trying to clear the puck as time sifted away.  
At the far end of the rink, Raanta, giving front-line netminder Corey Crawford a night off by making 24 saves, flashed a wide smile when Smith's inside work paid off.

**Flames 2, Panthers 1:** Mike Cammalleri scored the tiebreaking goal in the second period and visiting Calgary beat Florida.  
Kenny Agostino also scored for the Flames and Joey MacDonald stopped 34 shots.

Vincent Trocheck scored for the Panthers, and Roberto Luongo made 15 saves.

**Devils 2, Capitals 1:** Ryan Carter scored the tiebreaking goal with 4:54 remaining to lift host New Jersey.  
Tuomo Ruutu also scored for the Devils, and Cory Schneider made 24 saves.  
Alex Ovechkin scored for Washington, which lost its fifth straight. Jaroslav Halak stopped 29 shots.  
**Red Wings 3, Sabres 2:** Daniel Alfredsson had a goal and an assist and host Detroit held off Buffalo.  
Darren Helm and Tomas Jurco also scored for Detroit. Danny DeKeyser had two assists and Jimmy Howard made 21 saves.  
Jamie McBain scored and Nicolas Deslauriers got his first career goal for Buffalo, which has the NHL's worst record. Matt Hackett stopped 28 shots.  
**Canadiens 7, Senators 4:** Max Pacioretty had a hat trick as host Montreal scored seven straight goals to rally past Ottawa.  
Andreï Markov, Mike Weaver, Lars Eller and David Desharnais also scored for Montreal, which trailed 3-0 less than 6 minutes into the game. Peter Buda stopped 39 shots for his 10th win of the season for the Canadiens.  
Zack Smith had two goals for Ottawa, while Alex Hensky and Mika Zibanejad also scored. Craig Anderson stopped 16 of the 23 shots he faced.  
**Predators 5, Ducks 2:** Mike Fisher had two goals and an assist, Colin Wilson also scored twice and visiting Nashville beat Anaheim.  
Patrick Hornqvist also scored and had two assists and Matt Cullen added two assists as Nashville snapped a six-game losing streak to the Ducks and preserved its playoff chances with five games to play.  
Hornqvist has 13 points (six goals and seven assists) in his last 10 games.  
**Oilers 3, Coyotes 2 (SO):** Sam Gagner got the tying goal with 40.4 seconds to play in regulation, then scored the winner in the fourth round of the shootout to lift visiting Edmonton over Phoenix.  
Oilers defenseman Justin Schultz also scored and Ben Scrivens stopped 24 shots through overtime.  
Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored the tying goal for the Coyotes in the second period, and Kyle Chipchura put them ahead with 7:18 left in the third. Thomas Greiss also stopped 24 shots for Phoenix.



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Fun tournament can't obscure NCAA's issues

## Unionization, lawsuit threaten very foundation of collegiate athletics

By EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The tournament that began with the lure of a billion-dollar bracket will end at a billion-dollar stadium outside of Dallas.

Big as March Madness and the Final Four have become, they're not big enough to blot out the storm clouds on the horizon. The NCAA has issues looming — among them, the possible unionization of players and a lawsuit challenging the NCAA's ban on paying players.

If the NCAA loses either case, it would threaten almost everything. That includes its most lucrative and intoxicating event: The basketball tournament, which is celebrating best-in-a-generation TV ratings, a record number of overtime games and a staple of big-name programs in the Final Four — Florida, Wisconsin, Connecticut and Kentucky.

If the NCAA loses, you've opened a Pandora's box that will generate problems, questions and concerns for decades," says Arthur Miller, the chairman of New York University's Sports and Society program. "It may be the end of the NCAA. It certainly will reduce the power of the NCAA."

For the last three weeks, the NCAA's sway over America has been strong as ever.

The average 9.8 million viewers are the highest in 21 years. The 6.2 rating is tied with last season as the best for the tournament since 2005.

The NCAA's 14-year, \$140 billion TV contract made every game available on a national telecast and there was plenty to watch,

including a record-tying seven overtimes and about as many games that came down to a made or missed shot at the buzzer.

Meanwhile, Warren Buffett's offer of \$1 billion to anyone who could fill out a perfect bracket served to bring more casual fans into the mix. Nobody won.

But the billions really at stake are those the NCAA distributes to its member schools from the TV deal. That cash makes the system run, and it is in limbo while the unwieldy organization, made up of 351 schools with very different missions, tries to resolve issues on several fronts.

"It doesn't look good for them," said civil engineering professor Timothy Ross, the University of New Mexico's representative at the reform-minded Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. "They don't have much of a leg to stand on. The whole situation gets worse and worse every year. Coaches make more money, universities make more money, the way the athletes are treated is a joke. It's embarrassing from a university standpoint."

Last week, a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board ruled that Northwestern football players had a right to unionize and likened college players to full-time employees. Players are seeking better health care and more protection after they graduate, along with a stake in the profits.

There are similar stakes involved in the lawsuit filed by former UCLA player Ed O'Bannon. The trial is scheduled for June and an NCAA loss there could force a complete rewriting of the current relationship between the NCAA,



PAUL BEATTY/AP

The College Athletes Players Association president Ramogi Huma speaks during a news conference in Chicago. March Madness blew up big as ever in 2014, with improved TV ratings, a record number of overtime games and big-name programs at the Final Four. All the fun, though, isn't enough to blot out the storm clouds on the horizon. The NCAA has major issues ahead — among them, the possible unionization of players and a lawsuit challenging the NCAA's ban on paying players.

its schools and their players.

Earlier this year at the NCAA convention, ideas were shared about giving the five power conferences — ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC — more autonomy within the current system. A key goal would be to make it possible for players at bigger schools to receive a stipend. The idea of a \$2,000 stipend was on the table but got voted down by smaller schools that don't have huge moneymaking basketball and football teams to buttress the entire ath-

letics program.

If those reforms fail, there's a chance the five conferences might peel away, much the way the big powers did in college football three decades ago.

A split like that would end the NCAA tournament as we know it. What's March Madness, after all, without the prospect of a Butler or Dayton or Wichita State crashing the party?

It will all play out starting Saturday in the \$1.3 billion AT&T Stadium, the colossus built by Cowboys

owner Jerry Jones. It hosted a Super Bowl three years ago. Now, it gets arguably the nation's second-biggest sports weekend.

"I remember when I was playing in college, when we went to the tournament, we weren't playing in venues like this," said UConn coach Kevin Ollie, who played for the Huskies in the early 1990s. "Everything has changed and evolved, and, in some way, the student-athlete, that dynamic has to evolve and change, too."

# Talented group of coaches in women's Final Four

By DOUG FEINBERG  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Geno Auriemma, Tara VanDerveer, Muffet McGraw and Brenda Frese have all won national championships, using their own styles to get the most out of their teams.

Now, they all hope they can coax two more victories to win another title.

Both Auriemma and VanDerveer are enshrined in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. The pair, as well as McGraw, have also been inducted into the women's basketball Hall of Fame. All four have been honored by the AP as coaches of the Year.

This year's Final Four is one of the rare times that all four coaches have won national championships.

Auriemma leads the way with eight titles and can break a tie with Pat Summitt for most if the Huskies can repeat as champions.

"It's hard for us to get cocky when you have a coach like him



AP Photos

In a rare occurrence, all four of this season's Final Four coaches have won national championships. Pictured, from left: South Carolina coach Tara VanDerveer, UConn coach Geno Auriemma, Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw and Maryland coach Brenda Frese.

who kind of lets you know your weaknesses and makes sure you work on them all the time," UConn senior guard Brian Hartley said.

VanDerveer takes a more cerebral approach with her team. She's won two national championships, been to the Final Four in six of the past seven years and won the 900th game of her career early this season.

"Tara teaches you how to watch film, to make sure you pay attention to details," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "To be disciplined in what you're doing. She taught me how to do that."

McGraw, who a national championship in 2001, has guided the Irish to four straight Final Fours. She's led the team to unprecedented heights this season with

a 36-0 record — the first undefeated season in school history. Now she'll have to rally her team after losing senior leader Natalie Achonwa to a torn ACL in the regional final game.

"She's so intense and on us," Irish senior Kayla McBride said. "It doesn't matter who we're playing she wants us to do the same thing against every single team."

Frese tends to be a player's coach. She played a practical joke on star Alyssa Thomas before telling her that they were going to put her number in the arena's rafters. Thomas got her back by filling Frese's office with balloons.

"She has such a passion and really relates well with her team," Duke coach Joanne P. McCallie said.

# SPORTS

**Overbay's ninth**

Late-game double sparks Brewers to win over BoSox | **Page 28**



# Bad moon rising

March Madness and the Final Four are in full swing, but big issues loom on horizon for collegiate sports

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

Smith's goal lifts Blackhawks over Blue Jackets  
**NHL roundup, Page 29**

Elliott cruises to first career Nationwide victory  
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