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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Free to Deployed Areas

Tommy Caldwell raises his arms after reaching the summit of El Capitan with Kevin Jorgeson, bottom, not far behind on Wednesday in Yosemite National Park, Calif. The two spent 19 days scaling the rock formation.

Ben Margot/AP



# SHEER COURAGE

Friends make history with 'impossible' Yosemite climb

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## USAREUR to drivers: Stay off roads if license is not up to date

By JOHN VANDIVER AND MARCUS KLOECKNER  
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army Europe is cautioning personnel without a currently valid state-side driver's license to avoid driving on public roads while the U.S. seeks to clarify a dispute with Germany over a new policy governing driving rules in the country.

However, the German Foreign Ministry made clear in a statement that it did not perceive there to be a dispute, saying the decision to require a valid stateside license in conjunction with a USAREUR license was made two years ago and that U.S. authorities were informed at the time.

A USAREUR advisory posted Thursday said the U.S. considers this a new policy and said the issue has been raised with the German government.

"This new policy is based on a recent unilateral change in interpretation of the German Supplementary Agreement to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement by host nation authorities," USAREUR said. "The U.S. Forces dispute this new interpretation, and have raised the matter via the U.S. Embassy in Berlin to the German Federal Government.

"However, U.S. Forces authorities currently have no control over the application of this policy by the German authorities," USAREUR said.

The German Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the federal government is not responsible for driver's license issues and that they are determined by the country's 16 states.

SEE LICENSE ON PAGE 2



JOSHUA L. DeMOTTs/Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and Germany are in dispute over whether a U.S. Army Europe driver's license is valid if the bearer's U.S. state license has expired.

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The U.S.-led coalition airstrikes turned the balance. ... The peshmerga did play a role, but it was mostly the airstrikes."

— Wladimir van Wilgenburg, an expert on Kurdish politics, discussing the battle in Kobani, Syria

See story on Page 12

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1. German police call into question validity of USAREUR license
2. First female officer reports to submarine USS Minnesota
3. Chris Kyle's widow: 'I think they nailed it'
4. Video shows airman implicating himself in death of AFN broadcaster
5. US Navy aircraft join Scottish coastal search

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Shifting Gears  
Trikes get powerful makeover for 2015

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# MILITARY

## 2 killed in Belgium anti-terrorism raid

Stripes and wire reports

BRUSSELS — At least two people are dead after a police counterterrorism raid on a suspected terrorist cell in the eastern Belgian town of Verviers.

The prosecutor and police couldn't immediately confirm the reports of dead, but local media were reporting witnesses saying two people were killed and one wounded during Thursday's raid in Verviers, some 70 miles from Brussels and 12 miles from the German border. Another witness described explosions and detonations near the train station.

CNN was reporting that the targets of the raid were an "ISIS-directed" group, who were ordered to conduct attacks in Belgium for that country's participation in the coalition launching air attacks on the militant group in Iraq and

Syria.

Belgian news service Le Soir was reporting that three people were killed in Verviers, with ongoing operations in Vilvoorde, Brussels and Molenbeek-Saint-Jean.

Le Soir also reported security forces were pursuing a man who shouted "Allahu Akbar" at the Ribaucourt subway station in Brussels.

The operation comes the same day Belgian police arrested a man accused of selling weapons to Amedy Coulibaly, who was killed by police after he attacked a Paris kosher shop last week and after the deadly attack on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. Explosions and detonations reverberated near the train station in Verviers, a witness told RTBF. Three or four blasts and tens of gunshots were heard.

## Army opens grueling Ranger job to women

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army will allow as many as 60 women to participate in the next Ranger course, allowing women for the first time to compete in the grueling two-month combat school. It is considered one of the first steps into the military special operations field.

Army Secretary John McHugh approved the change that would allow women in the course beginning in late April. While completing the leadership course would let women wear the coveted Ranger tab, it does not let them become members of the Ranger regiment. Currently, only men can be in the 75th Ranger Regiment — the special operations forces unit based at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Joining the regiment requires additional schooling

that is physically, emotionally and mentally challenging.

Women and men preparing for the Ranger course will be able to participate in a 16-day training and assessment school that would train women on some of the infantry and combat skills that they would not already have.

By January 2016, the military must open all combat jobs to women or explain why any must remain closed. The Pentagon lifted its ban on women in combat jobs in 2012 but gave the military services time to gradually and systematically integrate women into the male-only frontline positions.

Special operations jobs are some of the last to be addressed, as commanders review the qualifications needed and assess the impact of bringing women in.

## License: Extent to which policy is enforced remains unclear

FROM FRONT PAGE

"In line with the common practice of U.S. authorities toward members of the German military in the U.S., the (German) states decided in spring 2013 that valid drivers' licenses are to be required from the U.S. military. The U.S. Embassy was informed of this in spring 2013."

No one could be reached at the U.S. Embassy Thursday evening for comment.

USAREUR said this policy had begun to be enforced only recently, but cautioned USAREUR license holders that they would be legal on the roads only if in possession of both a valid U.S. license and the USAREUR license.

"If the U.S. driver's license has expired, the individual is considered to be operating the vehicle without license, regardless of a valid USAREUR license. In Germany, driving without license is a criminal offense," USAREUR said.

Drivers should renew their licenses "in a timely manner," and if the license has already expired, check with the issuing state to see

if they are entitled to an automatic extension while stationed abroad, USAREUR advised.

"If the U.S. state license has expired, and an automatic extension is not available, the safest course of action is not to operate privately owned vehicles in German public traffic until the current dispute regarding the validity of expired U.S. state licenses under the applicable international agreements has been resolved with the German federal government," USAREUR said.

The extent to which the policy is being enforced is unclear. At least one DOD civilian has had his keys taken away and been ordered by German police to stay off the road or risk having his car impounded.

Herman-Josef Decker, deputy chief of police in Baumholder, said a person found to be driving without a valid license would be prohibited from driving any further and the military police would be called. The car might be impounded or towed. Punishment could involve a fine or, by repeat offense, confinement, Decker said, but that would be determined by legal authorities.

USAREUR said it has been informed that other German states intend to take a position similar to that of Rheinland-Palatinate, which so far is the only jurisdiction that has enforced the policy. But in Bavaria, Christian Simon, a police officer in Eschenbach, said a valid USAREUR license would be "totally sufficient" and that he had not heard anything about a new policy.

Among concerns raised over the new policy was whether drivers would be covered by insurance in the event of an accident if German authorities determined the driver was not in possession of a valid driver's license.

"I don't think I want to open up that can of worms," said Michael Spears, a longtime civilian at Ramstein Air Base whose Texas license expired last year. "I've been driving over here for 35 years, with the military and as a civilian, and nobody has ever said anything. It's never been an issue until now."

Some German law enforcement officials are now warning drivers without a current U.S. license that they risk being held financially

liable should they crash on the road.

"This could have far-reaching effects for the driver because the insurance company can make a claim against the driver," Decker said.

However, employees at two auto insurance companies, AIG in Stuttgart and Geico in Kaiserslautern, said on Thursday that a USAREUR driver's license continues to be sufficient to secure insurance coverage.

"You are required to have USAREUR drivers license to have insurance with our company — does not matter if you have a U.S. license or not," AIG stated in an email.

It is unclear whether a new German policy could at some point alter rules governing insurance eligibility.

U.S. personnel who have been charged for driving without a license should contact the local legal office for assistance, USAREUR said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jennifer Swan contributed to this report. vandiver.john@stripes.com

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## MILITARY



# OUT TO SEA



Sailors controlling the rudder of the Stennis Navy aircraft carrier watch from the bridge as the ship departs from Naval Base Kitsap.

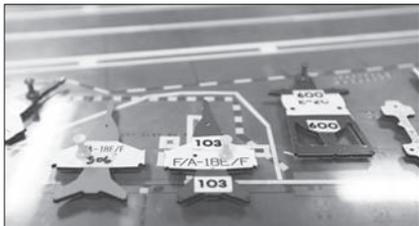
## USS John Stennis heads to training mission following \$240M overhaul

BREMERTON, Wash. — The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS John Stennis has left Puget Sound for a training mission after a \$240 million overhaul. The Stennis is 1,092 feet long with a 4.5-acre flight deck and can carry as many as 6,000 sailors and Marines. It has its own hospital, operating room, fire department and post office.

The first stop for the 20-year-old Stennis after leaving Bremerton Monday was Naval Magazine Indian Island, where it was scheduled to pick up 6 million pounds of ammunition. That process was expected to take three days and more than 1,400 crane lifts.

The Stennis returned from its last mission supporting the war in Afghanistan in May 2013 and underwent a 16-month, \$240 million overhaul at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

— The Associated Press



Scale models of airplanes, used to keep track of flight deck positioning when planes are present, are displayed on the Stennis.



A sailor walks in front of a hanger bay door on the aircraft carrier as it moves from Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, Wash.



Petty Officer Ayesah McDonald, a galley supervisor, checks a giant vat of baked beans being cooked onboard the Stennis.

## MILITARY



JON HARPER/Stars and Stripes

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel speaks to troops aboard the USS America off the coast of California.

## Hagel visits USS America, touts Marine Corps' high-tech future

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS AMERICA — The Marine Corps' future will be high-tech and amphibious, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said Wednesday while visiting the Navy's newest amphibious assault ship.

For more than a decade, the Marines have been sloggling through counterinsurgency wars and essentially serving as a second land army. Now that they are out of Afghanistan and pivoting to the Pacific, the service is transitioning back to an emergency response force that operates from the sea.

As Marines return to their roots, their tools will be cutting-edge, Hagel said on what is expected to be his last trip as Pentagon leader. He visited the USS America to discuss what lies ahead for the military.

"You run, maintain and sail one of the most sophisticated Navy platforms we have, with more capabilities than almost anything

else," he told troops aboard the ship, which is undergoing sea trials off the California coast. "Capabilities represented on this ship [showcase] the amphibious possibilities that our Marines are getting back to after 13 years of long war. ... What you're doing here represents that in every way."

The America, commissioned in October, is designed to carry Marines and their most technologically advanced aircraft, including the F-35B Lightning II fighter jet and the MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor troop transport. Both can take off and land vertically.

The America's design is different than previous amphibious assault ships. It has an enlarged hangar deck and no well deck, which frees up space for aircraft. It is as large as the aircraft carriers of some nations.

The realignment and expansion of aviation maintenance facilities provides a significant increase in available stowage for parts, support equipment and aviation fuel. Having two hangar bay areas with overhead cranes instead of

just one greatly speeds up and facilitates aircraft maintenance, according to Navy Chief Petty Officer Leandro Suarez.

Capt. Michael Baze, the ship's executive officer, said the America is optimized for aviation and "being able to deliver Marines very fast over great distance."

He said the Osprey in particular "allows you the flexibility and maneuverability that you might not have with ... a traditional landing force on the beach."

The America can hold up to 31 aircraft, depending on the types in the mix, according to Baze.

"It's awesome. I've got to pinch myself every once in a while," he said.

He noted that, when deployed, The America will likely be the flagship of an amphibious ready group, which would include ships that could not Marines ashore using traditional sea-to-land connector vessels.

Baze anticipates the ship's first deployment will come next year.

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## Contractor at center of Navy bribery scandal expected to plead guilty

By JULIE WATSON  
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A contractor at the center of a massive Navy bribery case, who prosecutors allege used illegal information to bilk the U.S. out of at least \$20 million, has scheduled a change-of-plea hearing Thursday.

Leonard Glenn Francis, a Malaysian defense contractor known in military circles as "Fat Leonard," is expected in federal court in San Diego. His lawyer could not be reached for comment Wednesday, and prosecutors declined to comment.

Francis has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy in a bribery case that has led to the arrest of Navy commanders and rocked the military branch.

Prosecutors say Francis, chief executive of Singapore-based Glenn Defense Marine Asia Ltd., or GDMA, bought information from Navy officials that allowed his company to overbill the military branch by at least \$20 million for services it provided to Navy ships at Asian ports since 2009.

Francis paid for plane tickets, hotels and prostitutes for Navy officials who helped him, according to prosecutors. GDMA has provided fuel, food and supplies for Navy ships for 25 years. He was arrested in 2013 on a trip to San Diego.

The hearing comes barely a week after a Navy commander acknowledged sharing confidential information with Francis.

Jose Luis Sanchez said he provided shipping schedules and other information to Francis in exchange for bribes. He became the highest-ranking Navy official to plead guilty in the case after



Courtesy of the Navy League of the U.S., Singapore Council

**Former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, left, poses with Leonard Francis, the man allegedly behind the Navy bribery scandal involving prostitutes and luxury travel. Roughead has not been implicated in the case.**

Daniel Layug, a petty officer who admitted providing classified shipping schedules and other internal Navy information to Francis.

Sanchez faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison when he is sentenced March 27 for bribery and conspiracy to commit bribery.

Sanchez admitted taking bribes valued between \$30,000 and \$120,000 from 2009 to 2013, a prostitute, \$7,500 to travel from Asia to the U.S. and five days at Singapore's luxury Shangri-La Hotel, according to a 24-page plea agreement. In exchange, he provided classified Navy ship and submarine schedules and other internal information to Francis.

Cmdr. Michael Vannak Khem Misiewicz, has pleaded not guilty to accepting bribes in exchange for providing confidential information to Francis. He was indicted last week on an additional seven counts of bribery.

## Army IDs Fort Hood soldier found dead

The Army has released the name of the Fort Hood soldier who was found dead outside his off-post home Tuesday morning.

Spc. Kendrick Vernell Sneed, 24, was pronounced dead at 8:26 a.m. Because he had recently returned from West Africa and his cause of death was unknown, authorities in Killeen, Texas, ordered an autopsy and sent his body to the hospital at Fort Hood to be tested for signs of Ebola.

Both Ebola tests came back negative.

Sneed, from Bossier City, La., joined the Army in June 2009 as an automated logistics specialist. He had been with the Fort Hood-based 62nd Engineer Company, 36th Engineer Brigade since June 2012.

Sneed deployed to Afghanistan from February 2011 to January 2012 and again from May to December 2013. He deployed to West Africa from October 2014 to January of this year.

The circumstances of his death are still under investigation.

From staff reports

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## MILITARY

## Doggedness pays off in Agent Orange struggle

By TOM PHILPOTT

Retired Air Force Reserve Maj. Wes Carter almost didn't travel last week to Washington where, to his surprise, he heard an independent panel of scientists verify what he had dogged the Air Force and Department of Veterans Affairs about for almost four years.

The Institute of Medicine said Carter and up to 2,100 other former reserve air crewmen and maintainers of C-123 aircraft, flown for a decade after the Vietnam War, were indeed exposed to toxic residue from Agent Orange herbicide sprayed from some of the same aircraft during the war.

The institute also found it plausible that exposure "exceeded health guidelines for workers in enclosed settings." The findings likely mean that the VA will find more of those reservists eligible for medical care and disability compensation if they suffer from one of 14 ailments presumed to be caused by Agent Orange.

Dr. Ralph L. Erickson, VA director of Pre-9/11-Era Post-Deployment Health, said Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson and other senior staff were briefed on the IOM findings before public release. A "technical work group" of scientists, physicians and experts on VA regulations and benefits held the first of a series of meetings

to review and interpret the report and make recommendations to VA Secretary Bob McDonald.

Erickson noted that it was the VA that ordered the IOM study and it welcomes the findings "because the better we understand environmental issues, the better we're able to care for these veterans."

The IOM findings reflect a deeper understanding of how dioxin contamination on interior surfaces of these aircraft behaved, he said.

"Though we thought before — and this certainly was the Air Force position — that a dry residue was rock solid and it wasn't going anywhere and it wouldn't be available to contaminate a crewmember, there's now science available that leads us to understand that, in fact, there is this dynamic equilibrium of the solid residue with the air above the residue. . ."

The bottom line, it seems, is the VA accepts the possibility Agent Orange residue could have become airborne and harmed reservists.

Carter said he found VA and Air Force officials more close-minded during a four-year slough to try to win Agent Orange-related care and disability compensation for crews and maintainers who were assigned to reserve squadrons that operated at three bases from 1972 to 1982.

Ill, fatigued and in chronic pain,

## MILITARY UPDATE

Carter said he fell victim to dark moments after the IOM last fall delayed release of its report by three months. Carter worried that if the institute decided against the crewmen and their claims, he might not be strong enough to continue the fight.

Since 2011, Carter has led an intense bureaucratic battle with his parent service and the VA, writing scores of letters, compiling scientific records and internal reports from multiple agencies, contacting news media, creating a C-123 Veterans Association website and blog to explain what the latest evidence showed and how former crewmen were suffering, and posting all documents online for scientists and the public to study.

Carter, now 68, did all that having nothing to gain personally. He has been rated 100 percent disabled since 1990 when he suffered spinal injuries in a fall off an Army truck on the last day of the Persian Gulf War.

Carter also has three illnesses tied to Agent Orange. Peripheral neuropathy was diagnosed in

1978 after he began losing feeling in his feet at age 32. By 2011 he had prostate cancer and needed heart surgery. When a C-123 crewmate died suddenly, Carter queried other former crewmen and learned of more with illnesses associated with Agent Orange.

Claims those reservists filed with the VA routinely were denied because the Air Force maintained that the former "spray birds" had posed no environmental hazard to reserve crews, having been decontaminated during conversion for reserve missions.

Through a Freedom of Information Act request, however, Carter got an Air Force report from 1994 showing one aircraft he had flown on, nicknamed Patches, was described as "heavily contaminated" with dioxin, enough so that work crews preparing it for display at a museum wore protective suits.

Carter also discovered that in 1996 the Air Force tried to stop a contract to sell C-123s because of contamination. Another document showed officials struggling with how to dispose of the retired aircraft because even burying them could contaminate the ground. They were broken apart and melted.

Carter's work on the C-123 issue grew from about 15 hours a week that first year in 2010. He has spent thousands of dollars on travel,

postage and other costs. As the VA continued to deny claims, Carter urged other scientists at universities and government agencies to review air and surface samples collected from a few C-123s in the mid-1990s and one as late as 2009. In 2013 an agency of the Centers for Disease Control weighed in and also found crew exposure to dioxin. Members of Congress began to press officials to explain what Carter and others found.

One Senate staffer who worked with Carter noted his passion and that he was "on the right side of the science and facts here."

By December, with the IOM release date reset, Carter told his wife, Joan, he would skip the trip east and listen from their home in Colorado. But she said she should be in that room, whatever the decision, to support former crewmen who might be there supporting him. Wes asked Joan to join him.

"It felt wonderful to have her in the room when that report was read," Carter said. "She gave up a lot."

Looking back, he said, it should have been VA officials fighting for C-123 veterans, not one of their own rated by the VA as catastrophically disabled.

To comment, email milupdate@aol.com; write to Military Update, P.O. Box 23111, Centreville, VA, 20120-1111; or visit [www.militaryupdate.com](http://www.militaryupdate.com).

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VETERANS

# Vets groups: VA health care still needs more funding

By Travis J. Tritten  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Four of the nation's top veterans service organizations said Thursday that the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system is still underfunded and running the risk of new delays for care, despite a \$1.63 billion shot in the arm last summer.

The nationwide system of hospitals serving nearly 9 million vets annually will run about \$2 billion short of the money it needs this fiscal year — and could be significantly more after a wait-list scandal revealed much higher demand than the VA had acknowledged, according to American Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the VFW.

Furthermore, expanded vet access to outside care runs the risk of creating more delays without proper management and oversight, they said.

The concerns are part of the groups' Independent Budget, a collaborative list of policy recommendations for the VA and Congress that has been published annually for the past three decades. The document focuses on access, claims, infrastructure, caregiver support and women's issues.

The shortfalls in VA funding "is a problem that has compounded over time" and began as early as 2000, said Carl Blake, associate executive director of government relations for Paralyzed Veterans of America.

The \$1.63 billion Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act was an emergency measure that drastically increased the funding but is not enough to dig the department out of its funding hole, according to Blake.

The VA overhaul act was passed in a bipartisan vote in Congress after revelations of long waits at hospitals and clinics across the country and of manipulation of appointment records by management and staff to hide the delays. The law pumped money into the VA's health care capacity, including \$10 billion for veterans who needed to seek outside treatment due to long delays at department facilities.

The VA's admission rate last year that it needs to hire as many as 28,000 new health care providers including doctors, nurses and therapists "clearly reflects the fact that VA has been left wanting for resources to appropriately build its capacity," according to the policy document.

The groups acknowledge that the federal government is under pressure to trim its spending and that Congress has attempted more spending restraint. They said vet health care outweighs those concerns.

"We certainly appreciate the fact that Congress provided approximately \$5 billion to expand internal capacity, as well as supported other priorities" as part of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act passed in August, the groups said. "However, we also recognize that these

resources will be released only slowly over an extended period of time while demand for health care services will continue to grow. To satisfy this increased demand, new and sufficient resources must be found."

The VA has offered outside referrals to veterans who need specialty care not available in its system. The overhaul passed last summer dramatically increases access to that outside care to vets who wait too long or who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility.

The newly expanded program could cause "referral backlogs and persistent billing problems" that cause more access problems if the VA does not provide appropriate staffing and oversight, the veterans groups said.

Increasing outside care could also undercut VA health treatment that cannot be found in civilian care, such as treatment for spinal cord injuries, they said.

"By sending veterans out of the system, they are abandoning a system that veterans rely on," Blake said.

The department has launched a number of initiatives to hire more staff and reform its health care system to avoid the delays and records manipulation rampant a year ago.

Congress and its veterans affairs committees will likely look to the veterans organizations recommendations as it sets out on a new session and begins considering oversight of the overhaul law passed in August.

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## THE PRIORITIES

Four top veterans service organizations on Thursday released their annual list of priorities for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress. Here are some highlights from the 29th edition of the groups' Independent Budget:

- 1. Timely access to VA health care**  
  - ✓ Congress should invest significant new funding in the VA — likely more than \$500 million in the coming fiscal year — to grow capacity with new staff and up-to-date facilities.
  - ✓ The VA should better monitor how patients are referred to non-VA health care providers, especially through the newly created Veterans Choice Card, to make sure the system is not creating more referral backlogs, veteran billing problems and access issues.
- 2. Vet claims and appeals**  
  - ✓ The department must "openly and honestly" reassess whether its goal, created five years ago, that all claims would be completed within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy by the end of 2015 remains realistic and achievable.
  - ✓ Congress should pass legislation for an appeals pilot program that would streamline the process for vets willing to collect private evidence to justify their appeals, a change that could save years off the process.
- 3. Buildings and maintenance**  
  - ✓ The VA must begin requesting more funding to close \$56 billion to \$68 billion worth of gaps in safety, condition, access and utilization among its buildings, and give Congress a five- and 10-year plan that will systematically describe when and how the VA plans to close each gap. In maintenance alone, the VA must increase its annual budget from \$462 million to \$1.35 billion.
- 4. Caregiver support**  
  - ✓ Include veterans who incurred a service-connected injury or illness prior to 9/11 in the Caregiver Support Program, which is designed to educate and foster the assistance.
  - ✓ Congress and the VA should conduct a national survey of family caregivers for seriously disabled veterans to determine caregiver satisfaction.
  - ✓ The VA should amend its caregiver education and training program to account for the primary caregiver's experience and be more transparent with the application process and details about the program.
- 5. Female veterans**  
  - ✓ The VA should work to reverse a veteran culture that women often perceive as unwelcoming and unequal.
  - ✓ Female veterans more often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and other service-related conditions, and the VA and Defense Department should create pilot programs that cater more directly to them, such as teleconference group therapy.

SOURCE: The Independent Budget — Veterans Agenda for the 114th Congress

# Detailed study confirms high suicide rate among recent veterans

From wire reports

Recent veterans have committed suicide at a much higher rate than people who never served in the military, according to a new analysis that provides the most thorough accounting so far of the problem.

The rate was slightly higher among veterans who never deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq, suggesting that the causes extend beyond the trauma of war.

"People's natural instinct is to explain military suicide by the war-is-hell theory of the world," said Michael Schoenbaum, an epidemiologist and military suicide expert at the National Institute of Mental Health who was not involved in the study. "But it's more complicated."

The study brings precision to a question

that has never been definitively answered: the actual number of suicides in a given period since the start of the recent wars.

Though past research has also found elevated suicide rates, those results were estimates based on smaller samples and less reliable methods to identify veteran deaths. The government has not systematically tracked servicemembers after they leave the military.

The new analysis, which will be published in the February issue of the Annals of Epidemiology, included all 1,282,074 veterans who served in active-duty units between 2001 and 2007 and left the military during that period.

The analysis matched military records with the National Death Index, which col-

lects data on every U.S. death. It tracked the veterans after service until the end of the 2009, finding a total of 1,868 suicides.

That equates to an annual suicide rate of 29.5 per 100,000 veterans, or roughly 50 percent higher than the rate among other civilians with similar demographic characteristics. The issue of veteran suicide has become a political cause. One statistic has become a rallying cry: 22 veterans take their own lives each day.

That figure is a national estimate based on a Department of Veterans Affairs analysis of death records from 21 states. Though it is usually cited in the context of the recent wars, most of those suicides involved older veterans, who account for the majority of the nation's 22 million former servicemem-

bers. Among veterans in the current study, there was one suicide a day. The rates were highest during the first three years out of the military.

Veterans who had been enlisted in the rank-and-file committed suicide at nearly twice the rate of former officers. Keeping with patterns in the general population, being white, unmarried and male were also risk factors. Men accounted for 83 percent of the veterans in the study and all but 124 of the suicides. They were three times more likely than women to take their own lives.

Female veterans, however, killed themselves at more than twice the rate of other women — a difference much bigger than the gap between male veterans and nonveterans.

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## PACIFIC

# N. Korea's willingness to talk raises questions

By PAUL ALEXANDER  
Stars and Stripes

North Korea appears to be thinking about agreeing to international talks for the first time since 2007, although what it wants, what it's willing to give up and whom it would meet are unclear.

In the past, the North has used brinkmanship to obtain food, fuel and other aid from the West in exchange for promises to freeze or curtail its worrisome nuclear program. Each time, it has broken its promises and the aid has been cut off, with international sanctions imposed.

George W. Bush was president the last time that North Korea was willing to sit down almost eight years ago for six-party talks with South Korea, the U.S., Japan, China and Russia on its nuclear weapons.

The last North-South summit was held later in 2007, focusing on improving relations with a goal toward reunification.

Since then, Pyongyang has conducted two increasingly powerful underground nuclear tests and

two failed rocket launches before finally succeeding two years ago. It has sunk a South Korean navy ship and killed civilians on a border island. Suspected North Korean drone surveillance aircraft have been found crashed in the South, one with photos of the presidential palace.

U.S. military officials have called 2013 the most dangerous period on the peninsula since the Korean War, with rising tit-for-tat actions with the North, which threatened to use nuclear weapons on both South Korea and the U.S. mainland.

While tensions have eased since then, the North continues to stage provocations, and the two Koreas have exchanged fire along their maritime border as recently as last fall. The possibility of similar small-scale confrontations spiraling into all-out war remains a key concern for the U.S. and South Korea.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama has followed a strategy of "strategic patience" that has fundamentally meant no engagement with North Korea, which some analysts have criticized as giving North Korea time to improve its

nuclear and missile technology, possibly in concert with Iran.

There has been speculation that Pyongyang no longer is willing to negotiate shelving its programs and instead wants to be accepted as a world nuclear power, possibly as a precondition for talks. Most recently, it has offered to stop its underground testing only in exchange for a halt to joint U.S.-South Korean nuclear exercises, which Washington has rejected and called a veiled threat.

The U.S. and South Korea clearly don't trust the North, as shown by Seoul's reluctance to take over operational control of the allies' forces in the event of war and U.S. Forces Korea's decision to leave behind a residual force near the demilitarized zone when most American troops are relocated to regional bases south of the capital, planned for next year.

But Washington recently said it's now open to talks with Pyongyang, and South Korean President Park Geun-hye said Monday that she was willing to hold a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with no preconditions, though both say they would bring up denuclearization. That leaves

the possibility of one-on-one talks between the North and either the South or the U.S. or some tripartite arrangement.

When North Korea dropped out of the six-party talks, it swore it would never rejoin them, but gave indications in 2012 and 2014 that it might be willing. There also have been unconfirmed reports that Kim may make his first foreign visit soon — to Russia.

While it isn't as desperate for aid as during famine that reportedly devastated the country in 1994-98, the communist North remains one of the world's poorest countries and likely would be looking at aid of some sort and a relaxation of sanctions and might be interested in expanding the joint economic zone arrangement with the South to bring in hard currency.

One of the more intriguing recent statements from North Korea was a vow to have reunification with the South this year — although it didn't spell out how.

In his New Year's Day speech, Kim said he was open to a meeting with South Korea's president "depending on the mood and circumstances to be created."

It remains unclear if Pyongyang is willing to negotiate on the issue with the South, where sentiment for a reunified Korea remains strong, particularly as relatives separated during the Korean War age and die.

Park reiterated her desire to work toward reunification during her new year's address Monday.

The question is whether reunification has the same definition in both countries.

It's hard to imagine that North Korean leaders would be willing to give up their power and system, particularly since they reportedly have been telling their people, who have little to no access to news from outside the country, that as bad as things are there, they're worse in the rest of the world.

Whatever happens, full reunification would likely take years to implement since no one really wants a sudden collapse of the North Korean regime and the nightmares that could mean, from massive waves of refugees trying to cross the borders to possession of the North's nuclear weapons and fissile materials.

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## South Korean officers joining 2ID as part of combined division

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — About 30 South Korean officers, including a one-star general, became part of the 2nd Infantry Division's headquarters staff Thursday as part of the formation of a combined division.

The integration is one of the first concrete steps the two militaries have taken toward the historic restructuring since the initiative was announced last September.

"U.S. and Korean soldiers will literally operate as one unit with one unified effort," 2ID commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Vandal was quoted as saying in a statement. "Nowhere else has this been attempted to the extent that we are going to implement, and the fact that we are able to make this happen is momentous."

The combined division will fall under the 8th Army and include 2ID forces and South Korea's 16th Brigade. It will be led by the 2ID commander and a South Korean one-star general — initially Brig. Gen. Yin Sung-hwan — acting as deputy commander. Many of the South Korean officers joining the headquarters staff, composed of approximately 750 U.S. troops, will begin integration training next week, according to the statement.

Officials have said the combined division will improve the allies' warfighting capabilities and create more opportunities for joint training. South Korea's Ministry of National Defense previously said that during peacetime, troops from each country will live at separate bases and train

together as needed.

2ID spokesman Lt. Col. Scott Rawlinson said 2ID will have a "habitual training relationship" with the 16th Brigade, but will not be directly attached to the American unit.

"They'll always be part of our training events," he said. "Should hostilities occur, they'll be operationally controlled by the division commander."

The combined division will take part in this spring's annual Key Resolve exercise, he said.

For now, he said, "We're just getting (the combined division) kicked off. There's some integration training, and we're doing administrative stuff like getting email accounts and office space."

The combined division and its headquarters will initially be located at Camp Red Cloud in Uijeongbu until forces move to Pyeongtaek, home to Camp Humphreys, as part of the larger consolidation and relocation of U.S. forces on the peninsula. Humphreys will eventually replace U.S. Army Garrison Yongson in Seoul as the flagship U.S. military installation on the peninsula, with much of the timing of the

relocation hinging on the pace of expansion at the base.

Construction of 2ID headquarters and office housing facilities at Humphreys is scheduled to be

completed in 2016, though the U.S. and South Korea agreed last fall that an American brigade will remain behind in Dongducheon after the relocation.

Rawlinson said there will be no movement of 16th Brigade personnel as part of the formation of the combined division.

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## MILITARY

# Friend says Oliver admitted to killing of AFN technician

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** — A close friend of an Air Force staff sergeant accused of premeditated murder said in a court-martial Thursday that he knows the airman committed the killing because “he told me.”

Army Pvt. Cody Kramer, a technician for the American Forces Network, was one of the last people to see Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov alive before he was strangled Dec. 14, 2013.

Testifying at the trial of AFN technician Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver, Kramer did not hesitate to name his former AFN colleague and point him out as the person who alone killed Chepusov.

Asked by a prosecutor how he knew that, Kramer said, “He told me, sir.”

Kramer testified that after hearing a scuffle and breaking glass, he went into the kitchen of the apartment where he and other work friends and colleagues were hanging out after a night of drinking.

Oliver was in there with Chepusov, he knew, because he’d left them in there together moments earlier. Kramer opened the door and saw Oliver on top of Chepusov, he said.

Kramer said Oliver’s back was to him, but Oliver turned his head and told Kramer to “Go away.”

Later, after everyone else had either left or gone to sleep, Oliver showed Kramer Chepusov’s body, which was stashed in a bathroom.

Kramer said Oliver asked for help cleaning up and moving the body, but he refused, telling Oliver, “You screwed up, man. This is it.”

Kramer was also charged in Chepusov’s murder, though most of the charges were later dropped and he pleaded guilty to making a false official statement as part of a plea agreement that guaranteed him immunity from further prosecution if he testified truthfully in Oliver’s court-martial.

The trial recessed before Oliver’s defense had an opportunity to cross-examine Kramer, who said he acted alone in lying to investigators because he was trying not to get involved. Kramer was witness to another murder investigation as a child, when his 3-year-old sister was murdered by a relative.

The panel of officers and enlisted men who will decide Oliver’s fate also heard Thursday from Chepusov’s estranged wife, Karla Alejandra Zolezzi. Chepusov wanted a divorce, Zolezzi said, and the two had wrangled over a separation agreement.

Kramer said Chepusov had encouraged his wife’s relationship with Oliver, but at some point that changed. Chepusov, an AFN broadcaster, intended to have Zolezzi sent back to the U.S., known as an “early return of dependents,” Kramer said.

Zolezzi and Oliver both admitted — Oliver in a statement to Air Force investigators and Zolezzi in testimony Thursday — to having a sexual relationship that began in November 2013. Zolezzi appeared to dispute that the romance was continuing at the time of her husband’s death. She said she could not recall the last time she had sex with Oliver.

Kramer testified that he was out to dinner with Oliver, Zolezzi and Thomas Skinkle — whose apartment was the scene of Chepusov’s death — a week before the killing, and that Zolezzi and Oliver were kissing and holding hands that evening. At the dinner, they had a “joking conversation” that everyone would be better off without Chepusov, who Kramer said was often offensive. Someone in the conversation said Zolezzi would be better off without Chepusov because she’d get his \$400,000 life insurance policy. Kramer said she objected to that, telling the others she “still loved” Chepusov.

Zolezzi testified that she did receive the life insurance payout, but that she was not aware that Chepusov had listed her as the policy’s beneficiary.

The defense is expected to question Kramer on Friday.

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This building that is deteriorating because of water penetration was an example of the damage cited in a report released Thursday by the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction on the Afghan Special Police Training Center’s dry fire range in Wardak province.

Courtesy of SIGAR

# Report cites poor work, lack of project oversight

By JENNIFER HLAD  
Stars and Stripes

A dry fire range at the Afghan Special Police Training Center in Wardak province is disintegrating because of shoddy construction materials, the builder’s failure to meet contract requirements and insufficient oversight by U.S. officials, according to a report released Thursday by the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction.

The adobe-style brick buildings, meant to replicate a typical Afghan village and used to train police for search-and-clearance exercises, were “melting,” John F. Sopko wrote in the report, and the Afghans recently began a project to rebuild them.

“Although this project may have been well-intentioned, the fact that the Afghans had to demolish and rebuild the [dry fire range] is not only an embarrassment, but, more significantly, a waste of U.S. taxpayer’s money,” the report concludes.

The \$457,000 facility was built in 2012 and accepted by the U.S. government on Oct. 20, 2012, beginning a one-year warranty period, according to the report. The contractor, Qesmatullah Nasrat Construction Co., was paid in full for its work on Nov. 13, 2012.

Within four months, water caused the walls to start disintegrating, according to the report.

Photos in the report, taken by a U.S. mentor to the Afghan National Police Training Center in February 2013, show significant portions of walls washed away by water, and a gaping hole in the upper corner of one room. A pile of dirt or mud is visible below the hole.

The report details several problems with the facility that led to the disintegration. Among them, the roof is not sloped properly to allow water to drain; the contractor used smaller-than-allowed bricks made mostly of sand instead of clay; and interior roof support beams weren’t built properly or securely fastened.

Though the contracting officer and that officer’s representatives did seven on-site inspections during construction, the report says, those visit reports did not note any of the deficiencies that led to the facility’s disintegration. Instead, in October 2012 the contracting officer’s visit report “indicated that the project was 100 percent complete, with no deficiencies or missing items noted.”

Regional Contracting Center officials first learned of the facility’s deterioration in February 2013 when a U.S. mentor at the training center alerted them. At the time, an RCC acquisition analyst determined that “the facility is completely unsafe ... it appears the contractor intentionally used different standards to cut costs

and/or fraud the government,” according to the SIGAR report. The analyst recommended the facility be torn down and rebuilt.

The contractor submitted several plans to fix some of the problems, but none of the plans addressed all of the problems, according to the report. In the following months, the contractor sent emails saying it had finished nearly all of the work, but could not seal the roof because the Afghan National Police would not give them access to the site. They also said they were not allowed to have cameras at the facility to take pictures to prove they had done the work.

The commander of the training facility sent photos in September 2014 showing reconstruction work on the buildings. He said they had disintegrated to a point at which they were unusable.

Because of the multiple failures, Sopko is asking U.S. Central Command to determine to what extent the contractor failed to meet contract requirements and attempt to recoup the money, and to identify the contracting officer and others who were responsible for oversight to find out why the range wasn’t built to standards and what disciplinary action should be taken for the oversight failures.

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## NATION

# FBI: Ohio man planned attack on US Capitol

By LISA CORNWELL  
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — A 20-year-old Ohio man's Twitter posts sympathizing with Islamic terrorists led to an undercover FBI operation and the man's arrest on charges that he plotted to blow up the U.S. Capitol and kill government officials.

Christopher Lee Cornell, also known as Raheel Mahrus Ubaydah, told an FBI informant they should "wage jihad," and showed his plans for bombing the Capitol and shooting people, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court in Ohio on Wednesday. The FBI said Cornell expressed his support for the Islamic State.

Cornell's arrest came only days after a grand jury indictment charged another Cincinnati-area resident with threatening to murder House Speaker John Boehner.

Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said in a statement Wednesday, "Once again, the entire Congress owes a debt of gratitude to the FBI and all those who keep us safe."

The complaint against Cornell charges him with attempting to kill officers and employees of the United States.

Cornell was arrested Wednesday after buying two semi-automatic rifles and about 600 rounds of ammunition, authori-

ties said.

The public was never in danger, said John Barrios, acting special agent in charge of the FBI's Cincinnati division.

A phone message and an email were left Wednesday for attorney Karen Savir, a federal public defender listed in court records as Cornell's attorney. A working phone number could not be found for Cornell's family.

His father, John Cornell, told The Cincinnati Enquirer in a story for Thursday's editions that his son was a "momma's boy who never left the house." He said his son endured frequent incidents of abuse as a practicing Muslim.

"Everything you're hearing in the media right now, they've already painted him as some kind of terrorist," John Cornell told the newspaper. "... They've painted him as some kind of jihadist. ... (Christopher) is one of the most peace-loving people I know."

The complaint alleges that an FBI informant began supplying agents with information about Cornell last year. The informant and Cornell, who lives in Green Township, first began communicating through Twitter in August 2014 and then through an instant



Cornell

messaging platform separate from Twitter, according to the complaint.

"I believe we should meet up and make our own group in alliance with the Islamic State here and plan operations ourselves," Cornell wrote in an instant message, according to the court document.

The two met in October in Cincinnati and again in November, the complaint states. Cornell told the informant at the November meeting that he considered the members of Congress as enemies and that he intended to conduct an attack on the Capitol, according to the complaint. The document says Cornell discussed his plan for them to travel to Washington

and to conduct reconnaissance of the security of government buildings, including the Capitol, before executing "a plan of attack."

Cornell planned for the two to detonate pipe bombs at and near the Capitol and then to shoot and kill employees and officials, and Cornell had saved money to fund the attack, according to the complaint.

On Tuesday, authorities had disclosed that Cincinnati-area bartender Michael R. Hoyt, who has a history of mental illness, had been charged with threatening to kill Boehner at a country club near his home with a gun or a poisoned drink. A grand jury indictment against Hoyt was filed in U.S. District Court in Ohio on

Jan. 7.

Hoyt has told authorities that he had been fired from the West Chester, Ohio, country club where Boehner was a member and "did not have time to put something in John Boehner's drink," according to court documents made available Tuesday. The documents also said Hoyt told authorities he was Jesus Christ and was going to kill Boehner because Boehner was mean to him at the country club and was responsible for Ebola.

Hoyt, 44, is being held for mental evaluation and treatment at a federal medical center in Massachusetts.

Messages and emails left for an attorney listed for Hoyt have not been returned.

## Immigrants now can get Mexican birth certificates inside US

By AMY TAXIN  
The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — The Mexican government on Thursday will start issuing birth certificates to its citizens at consulates in the United States, seeking to make it easier for them to apply for U.S. work permits, driver's licenses and protection from deportation.

Until now, Mexico has required citizens to get birth certificates at government offices in Mexico. Many of those living in the U.S. ask friends and relatives back home to retrieve them, which can delay their applications for immigration or other programs.

Now, even as Republicans in Congress try to quash President Barack Obama's reprieve to millions of immigrants living illegally in the U.S., Mexico is trying to help them apply for programs that would allow them to remain temporarily in the country and continue sending money back to relatives across the border.

"It is a huge help. It helps individuals really begin to formulate their formal identity in this country," said Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for

Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles.

About half of the 11 million immigrants living in the United States illegally are from Mexico, and immigration experts estimate that roughly 3 million Mexicans could be eligible to apply for work permits and protection from deportation under the administration's plan.

About two weeks ago, California — which is home to more Mexicans than any other state — began issuing driver's licenses to immigrants in the country illegally.

Starting Thursday, the country's 50 consulates in the United States will be able to access data maintained by regional governments in Mexico and print birth certificates at the consulates, said Arturo Sanchez, consul for press and commercial affairs in Santa Ana, Calif.

Consulates should be able to issue birth certificates for nearly all birthplaces in Mexico, but some rural villages where documents are not digitally recorded may not be covered, Sanchez said.

During the past year, the Santa Ana consulate has seen a surge in the demand for documents.

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## NATION

# 2 friends make historic climb to top of El Capitan

By KRISTIN J. BENDER  
AND SCOTT SMITH  
The Associated Press

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif.** — American rock climber Tommy Caldwell was first to pull himself atop a 3,000-foot sheer granite face in Yosemite National Park, followed minutes later by his longtime friend Kevin Jorgeson.

The pair embraced and then Jorgeson pumped his arm in the air and clapped his hands above his head. After years of practice, failed attempts and 19 grueling days scaling the vertical wall on El Capitan by their bloodied fingertips, the friends at last grasped success.

"That's a deep abiding, lifelong friendship, built over suffering on the wall together over six years," said Caldwell's mother, Terry, among some 200 people



TOM EVANS, ELCAREPORT/AP

**Tommy Caldwell, 36, of Estes Park, Colo., with Kevin Jorgeson, 30, of Santa Rosa, Calif., not seen, set up camp on Dec. 28.**

in the valley floor thousands of feet below who broke into cheers at the climbers' historic feat Wednesday.

She said her son could have reached the top of the world's largest granite monolith several days ago but he waited for his friend to ensure they made it together.

The men completed what had long been considered the world's most difficult rock climb, captivating the world through social media and live-streamed video coverage while documentary filmmakers dangled from ropes capturing each move.

Caldwell, 36, and Jorgeson, 30, became the first to free-climb the rock formation's Dawn Wall, a feat many had considered impossible. They used ropes and safety harnesses in case of a fall but relied entirely on their own strength and dexterity to ascend by grasping cracks as thin as razor blades and as small as dimes.

The two dealt with constant falls and injuries. But their success completes a yearslong dream that bordered on obsession.

At the top, another crowd was waiting for them, including Caldwell's wife and Jorgeson's girlfriend, who welcomed them with hugs and kisses before they hiked down the peak.

President Barack Obama sent his congratulations from the White House Twitter account, saying the men "remind us that anything is possible."

The trek began Dec. 27.



BEN MAROOT/AP

**Tommy Caldwell raises his arms after reaching the summit of El Capitan on Wednesday as seen from the valley floor in Yosemite National Park, Calif. Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson became the first to free-climb the rock formation's Dawn Wall.**

Caldwell and Jorgeson lived on the wall itself, eating and sleeping in tents fastened to the rock thousands of feet above the ground and battling painful cuts to their fingertips much of the way.

Free-climbers do not pull themselves up with cables or use chisels to carve out handholds. Instead, they climb inch by inch, wedging their fingers and feet into tiny crevices or gripping sharp, thin projections of rock. In photographs, the two appeared at times like Spider-Man, with arms and legs splayed across the pale stone that has been described as smooth as a bedroom wall.

Both men needed to take rest days to heal. They used tape and even super glue to help protect their raw skin. At one point, Caldwell set an alarm to wake him every few hours to apply a

special lotion to his throbbing hands.

They also endured physical punishment whenever their grip slipped, pitching them into long, swinging falls that left them bouncing off the rock face. The tumbles, which they called "taking a whopper," ended with startling jolts from their safety ropes.

There are about 100 routes up the rock known among climbers as "El Cap," and many have made it to the top, the first in 1958. Even the Dawn Wall had been scaled. Warren Harding and Dean Caldwell (no relation to Tommy) made it up in 1970, using climbing ropes and countless rivets over 27 days.

No one, however, had ever made it to the summit in one continuous free-climb — until now.

# 4 out in shakeup of Secret Service

By CAROL D. LEONNIG  
The Washington Post

**WASHINGTON** — The Secret Service has decided to remove four of its most senior officials while two others are retiring, the biggest management shake-up at the troubled agency since its director resigned in October after a string of security lapses, according to people familiar with internal discussions.

The departures would gut much of the Secret Service's upper management, which has recently been criticized by lawmakers and administration officials for fostering a culture of distrust between agency leaders and its rank-and-file and for making poor decisions that helped erode the quality of the once-elite agency.

Acting Director Joseph Clancy on Tuesday informed the four assistant directors who oversee the Secret Service's core missions of protection, investigations, technology and public affairs that they must leave their leadership positions.

If they do not resign or retire, they can report for a new assignment with the Secret Service or

its parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security, according to people familiar with the discussions.

"Change is necessary to gain a fresh perspective on how we conduct business," Joseph Clancy, acting director of the Secret Service, said in a statement to the Washington Post. "I am certain any of our senior executives will be productive and valued assets either in other positions at the Secret Service or the department."

The departures of six out of the agency's eight assistant directors follows a scathing report last month by a DHS-appointed panel, which concluded that the agency was suffering from low morale among the rank-and-file and was "starved for leadership."

Clancy's moves this week stopped short of a total house cleaning. The agency's longtime second-in-command, deputy director Alvin Smith, who has been a central decision maker over agency budgets and priorities under the last three directors, remained in his post.

While the DHS panel urged that the White House choose an outsider to be the agency's next permanent director, Clancy, the former head of President Barack Obama's protective detail, has indicated to colleagues he is willing to stay on if the president asks.

# 8 inmates, 2 guards killed in Texas prison bus crash

The Associated Press

**ODESSA, Texas** — Investigators trying to determine the cause of a West Texas prison bus crash that killed eight inmates and two guards were returning to the site Thursday to sift through the debris and examine the vehicle.

The state Department of Criminal Justice bus skidded on an icy overpass, slid down an embankment and collided with a passing Union Pacific freight train Wednesday morning, leaving the bus a crumpled mass and scattering packages from the train alongside the track in Penwell, just west of Odessa.

Eight prisoners and two long-time prison department officers, including the driver, were killed, the agency said in a statement. Another corrections officer and four other inmates were hospitalized.

The prisoners did not have seat belts and were handcuffed

together in pairs, officials said. Some of them were ejected from the bus after it struck the train, said Trooper Elizabeth Barney, of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Jason Heaton, agency director for the region, said the prisoners were not wearing leg restraints and that the driver's seat had a seat belt.

A state prison system spokesman said the bus was new and had been placed in service last summer.

National Transportation Safety Board and Texas Department of Public Safety officials planned to investigate further on Thursday.

A prison system statement identified the correctional officers killed as Christopher Davis, 53, and Eligio Garcia, 45. The inmates killed were Byron Wilson, 34; Tyler Townsend, 29; Jesus Reyna, 44; Kaleb Wise, 22; Adolfo Ruiz, 32; Michael Sewart, 25; Angel Vasquez, 31; and Jeremiah Rodriguez, 35.



MARK STERNEL, ODESSA (TEXAS) AMERICAN/AP

**Authorities investigate the scene of a prison bus crash on Wednesday in Penwell, Texas. Law enforcement officials said the bus, carrying prisoners and corrections officers, fell from an overpass and collided with a passing freight train, killing at least 10.**

Correctional officer Jason Self, 38, and 22-year-old inmates Terry Johnson and Damien Rodriguez were hospitalized in critical con-

dition, the prison system said. Inmates Remigio Pineda, 34, and Hector Rivera, 37, were in serious condition.

# WAR ON TERRORISM



Iraqi security forces hold a flag of the Islamic State group they captured during an operation outside Amiri, some 105 miles north of Baghdad, on Oct. 7, 2014. The fight against the Islamic State has deepened the bond between Iraq's Shiite-led government and Iran.

## Iran eclipsing US as Iraq's ally in battle

### Neighbor is credited with saving Baghdad

By HAMZA HENDAWI  
AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In the eyes of most Iraqis, their country's best ally in the war against the Islamic State group is not the United States and the coalition air campaign against the militants. It's Iran, which is credited with stopping the extremists' march on Baghdad.

Shiite, non-Arab Iran has effectively taken charge of Iraq's defense against the Sunni radical group, meeting the Iraqi government's need for immediate help on the ground.

Two to three Iranian military aircraft a day land at Baghdad airport, bringing in weapons and ammunition. Iran's most potent military force and best known general — the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force and its commander, Gen. Ghassem Soleimani — are organizing Iraqi forces and have become the de facto leaders of Iraqi Shiite militias that are the backbone of the fight. Iran carried out airstrikes to help push militants from an Iraqi province on its border.

The result is that Tehran's influence in Iraq, already high since U.S. forces left at the end of 2011, has grown to an unprecedented level.

Airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition have helped push back the militants in parts of the north, including breaking a siege of a Shiite town. But many Iraqis believe the Americans mainly want to help the Kurds. Airstrikes helped Kurdish forces stop extremists threatening the capital of the Kurdish autonomous zone, Irbil, in August. But even that feat is accorded by



Iraqi Hezbollah scouts parade with a portrait of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as they mark Al-Quds Day, or Jerusalem Day, in Baghdad in 2013.

many Iraqis to a timely airlift of Iranian arms to the Kurds.

The meltdown of Iraq's militia in the face of the extremists' summer blitz across much of northern and western Iraq gave Iran the opportunity to step in. A flood of Shiite volunteers joined the fight to fill the void, bolstering the ranks of Shiite militias already allied with Iran.

Those militias have now been more or less integrated into Iraq's official security apparatus, an Iraqi government official said, calling this the Islamic State group's "biggest gift" to Tehran.

"Iran's hold on Iraq grows tighter and faster every day," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the sensitive subject.

Over the past year, Iran sold Iraq nearly \$10 billion worth of weapons and hardware, mostly weapons for urban warfare such as assault rifles, heavy machine-guns and rocket launchers, he said. The daily stream of Iranian cargo planes bringing weapons

to Baghdad was confirmed at a news conference by a former Shiite militia leader, Jamal Jaafar. Better known by his alias Abu Mahdi al-Mohandis, Jaafar is second in command of the recently created state agency in charge of volunteer fighters.

Some Sunnis are clearly worried. Sunni lawmaker Mohammed al-Karbuli said the United States must increase its support of Iraq against the extremists to reduce Iran's influence. "Iran now dominates Iraq," he said.

Equally key to Iran's growing influence has been a persistent suspicion of Washington's intentions, particularly among Shiite militiamen.

Hadi al-Amiri, a prominent Shiite politician close to Iran and leader of the powerful Badr militia, complained in a recent television interview that Iraq was a victim of decades of "wrong" U.S. policies in the Middle East. He charged that the precursors of the region's Sunni extremists had in the past enjoyed U.S. patronage.

"We fear that the objective of the U.S.-led coalition is to contain Daesh rather than exterminate it," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Speaking this week at a memorial service in Iraq for a Revolutionary Guard officer gunned down by an Islamic State sniper, al-Amiri mused that Iraqi Shiite Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's 3-month-old administration would have been a "government-in-exile" if not for Iran's swift help to protect Baghdad, according to Iran's Fars news agency.

The praise does not come from just Shiite politicians. During a trip to Tehran last week, Iraq's Sunni defense minister, Khaled al-Obedi, said Iran's help against the militants is a "strategic necessity" for Iraq.

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Stuart Jones acknowledged to The Associated Press that Iran plays an important role in fighting the Islamic State group. He made clear there was no interaction between the U.S. and Iranian operations.

"Let's face it, Iran is an important neighbor to Iraq. There has to be cooperation between Iran and Iraq," he said in a Dec. 4 interview. "The Iranians are talking to the Iraqi security forces and we're talking to Iraqi security forces. We're relying on them to do the de-confliction."

U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Iraqi leaders have kept the U.S. informed about Iranian activities against the Islamic State and that Washington is watching the relationship carefully.

He said if the two countries grow closer economically or politically, "as long as the Iraqi government remains committed to inclusivity of all the various groups inside the country, then I think Iranian influence will be positive."

But Ali Khedery, a top U.S. official in Iraq from 2003 until 2009, warned that Iranian influence will be "strategically catastrophic."

AP

AP

## WORLD

# Islamic State losing ground in Kobani battle

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — With more than 1,000 militants killed and territory slipping away, the Islamic State group is losing its grip on the Syrian border town of Kobani under intense U.S.-led airstrikes and astonishingly stiff resistance by Kurdish fighters.

It is a stunning reversal for the Islamic State group, which just months ago stood poised to conquer the entire town — and could pierce a carefully crafted image of military strength that helped attract foreign fighters and spread horror across the Middle East.

"An IS defeat in Kobani would quite visibly undermine the perception of unstoppable momentum and inevitable victory that IS managed to project, particularly after it captured Mosul," said Faysal Itani, a fellow at the Atlantic Council, referring to the militants' seizure of Iraq's second-largest city during their blitz into Iraq from Syria last summer.

It would also rob the group of a "psychological edge that both facilitated recruitment and intimidated actual and potential rivals, as well as the populations IS controlled," Itani said.

In September, Islamic State fighters began capturing some 300 Kurdish villages near Kobani and thrust into the town itself, occupying nearly half of it. Tens of thousands of refugees spilled across the border into Turkey.

By October, Islamic State control of Kobani was so widespread that it even made a propaganda video from the town featuring a captive British photojournalist, John Cantlie, to convey its message that Islamic State fighters had pushed deep inside despite U.S.-led airstrikes.

The town, whose capture would give the jihadi group control of a border crossing with Turkey and open direct lines between its positions along the border, quickly became a centerpiece of the U.S.-led air campaign in Syria. Secre-

**'Kobani is on the verge of being free of the Islamic State group. [Their] death toll is very high and they are not able to advance.'**

Rami Abdurrahman

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights

tary of State John Kerry declared it would be "morally very difficult" not to help Kobani.

The U.S.-led air assault began Sept. 23, with Kobani the target of about a half-dozen airstrikes on average each day, and often more. More than 80 percent of all coalition airstrikes in Syria have been in or around the town.

Analysts, as well as Syrian and Kurdish activists, credit the air campaign and the arrival of heavily armed Kurdish peshmerga fighters from Iraq, who neutralized the Islamic State group's artillery advantage, for bringing key areas of Kobani under Kurdish control.

"The U.S.-led coalition airstrikes turned the balance. ... Without airstrikes, most likely the city would have been much more difficult to defend," said Wladimir van Wilgenburg, an expert on Kurdish politics who writes for The Jamestown Foundation, a U.S.-based research center. "The peshmerga did play a role, but it was mostly the airstrikes."

In the past month, the Kurdish fighters have made more advances, leading to a remarkable battlefield shift.

Rami Abdurrahman, who headed the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, estimates the Kurds now control

roughly 80 percent of Kobani. Kurdish forces offer similar estimates. Four months after barreling into the town, the extremists barely hold Kobani's southern and eastern edges, activists and residents say, despite weekly reinforcements to protect what it clearly views as a major strategic prize.

Since mid-September, the battle have killed some 1,600 people, including 1,075 Islamic State group members, 459 Kurdish fighters and 32 civilians, according to the Observatory.

"Kobani is on the verge of being free of the Islamic State group," Abdurrahman said. The militant group's "death toll is very high and they are not able to advance."

That doesn't mean the Islamic State group is leaving without a fight.

The extremists have carried out more than 35 suicide attacks in the past month, says Abdurrahman and other activists said.



THIBAUT CAMUS/AP

French soldiers listen to a speech by Defense Minister Jean Yves Le Drian at the Satory military camp in Versailles, west of Paris, on Thursday. France ordered thousands of troops into the streets this week to protect sensitive sites as it hunted for accomplices of the Islamic militants who killed 17 people.

## France besieged by cyberattacks

The Associated Press

PARIS — In what France's cyberdefense chief calls an unprecedented surge, about 19,000 French websites have suffered cyberattacks since a rampage by Islamic extremists left 20 dead in Paris last week.

Adm. Arnaud Costilliere told reporters Thursday that many of the cyberattacks were carried out by "more or less structured" groups, including some well-known Islamic hacker groups.

"That's never been seen before. It's the first time that a country has been faced with such a large wave," he said.

The attacks, which appear to have involved mostly relatively minor denial-of-service attacks, have hit sites as varied as mili-

tary regiments and pizza shops, he said.

French President Francois Hollande insisted that any anti-Muslim or anti-Semitic acts must be "severely punished," as he sought to calm rising religious tensions after his country's bloodiest terrorist attacks in decades.

The country is tense since 20 people, including three gunmen, were killed in last week's rampage that began at the offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. The paper, which been repeatedly threatened for caricatures of the Muslim prophet Muhammad, on Thursday was burying several of the 12 staff members who were killed.

Two of the Paris terrorist attackers claimed allegiances to al-Qaida in Yemen, and another —

who targeted a kosher supermarket — to the Islamic State group.

The attacks occurred in an atmosphere of rising anti-Semitism in France, and have prompted scattered attacks on Muslim sites around France in an apparent backlash. They have also put many French Muslims on the defensive.

Hollande said France's millions of Muslims should be protected and respected, "just as they themselves should respect the nation" and its strictly secular values.

"Anti-Muslim acts, like anti-Semitism, should not just be denounced but severely punished," Hollande said Thursday at the Institute of the Arab World in Paris.

Noting that Muslims are the main victims of Islamic extremist violence, he said, "In the face of terrorism, we are all united."

## Boko Haram massacre likely left a significant human toll

The Washington Post

Recent reports of a large-scale massacre carried out by Boko Haram militants in northeastern Nigeria have served as a brutal reminder of the threat posed by the Islamist extremist group.

Yet, more than a week after the attack, there's little confirmed information from the town. Reported death tolls vary wildly — one local politician told the BBC that 2,000 people had died, but other sources put the number at just dozens. On Monday, Nigeria's director of defense information said that the number of killed "has so far not exceeded about 150," including Boko Haram fighters.

Now, new satellite imagery obtained by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch appears to confirm considerable damage occurred in the towns of Baga and Doro Gowon in Borno State.

The scale of the damage is remarkable. Adotai Akwei, managing director of government relations at Amnesty International USA, said the images and other evidence suggest that the death toll in the attacks was "certainly 700, if not 2,000 or close to it." In the images taken on Saturday that were released by Human Rights Watch, huge swaths of the towns appear to have been damaged by fires. The organization estimated that there are signs of burning and other damage in approximately 57 percent of Doro Gowon and 11 percent of Baga. Thousands of commercial and residential buildings appear to have been destroyed.

Amnesty released images of specific neighborhoods in the two towns from both Jan. 2 and Jan. 7. In images from the latter date, buildings have been destroyed and the ground is scorched.

"Of all Boko Haram assaults analyzed by Amnesty International, this is the largest and most destructive yet," said Daniel Eyre, Nigeria researcher for Amnesty International.

A number of eyewitness accounts have trickled out after the attacks. One man told Amnesty that he had seen about 100 people killed before he ran into the nearby forest and escaped. Confirming such reports has proved exceptionally difficult. Nigerian troops have been fighting Boko Haram in the area and it is still too dangerous for reporters to travel there. Militias attacked mobile phone towers in the area several months ago, meaning most cell-phones have no connection.

The Boko Haram conflict has intensified in Nigeria's impoverished Muslim north during the last five years, leaving more than 11,000 people dead.

The Nigerian government has often been accused of downplaying the impact of Boko Haram's violence in a bid to appear powerful and competent ahead of next month's general election.

The country's military also has a controversial history in Baga. Community leaders told Human Rights Watch that almost 200 locals were left dead in a 2013 military raid, the group reported. The military has disputed such accounts.

The satellite imagery provided some much-needed hard evidence. Boko Haram's attack clearly caused large-scale destruction in Baga and Doro Gowon. It likely left a significant human toll.

"These detailed images show devastation of catastrophic proportions in two towns, one of which was almost wiped off the map in the space of four days," said Eyre, of Amnesty.

# INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

**Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live**

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in



Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transported to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.

## STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2014 VFW News Media Award – For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest – Notable Narrative Winner  
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Notable Narrative Winner  
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 National Headline Awards – Second Place: News Series (Forever After: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign – Honorable Mention  
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year – Honorable Mention  
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography (Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism – Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National Headline Awards – First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism – George Polk Award for Military Reporting  
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards – Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009; Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Steve Lower  
Photography: Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Hero

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award – First Amendment, Finalist

EUROPE

# Refugees stir tensions in German town

By FRANK JORDANS  
The Associated Press

GROSSRÖHRSDORF, Germany — The 17 North African refugees turned up just before Christmas — and Simon Richter felt nothing to cheer.

The electrician and his friends organized a meeting that sent out a message loud and clear: We don't want the foreigners in our midst. Within days, authorities caved to pressure and moved the young men elsewhere.

The episode reflects the increasingly tense mood in the eastern state of Saxony, where anti-immigrant protests have been growing by the week, drawing international attention and fears that xenophobia is on the rise again in Germany — whose Nazi past has long made such sentiments taboo.

Last week, about 18,000 people marched through the state capital, Dresden, under the banner of a group calling itself Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA.

Strong crowds also showed up for an anti-Islam rally Monday night in Dresden, despite calls from Germany's justice minister to cancel this week's rally because of last week's terrorist attacks in Paris.

Some marchers wore black ribbons to show their solidarity with the victims and held up placards with the names of the French journalists killed. Others carried banners condemning the "lying press" that they claim misrepresents their cause.

Co-organizer Lutz Bachmann said "the terrible acts of Paris are further proof that PEGIDA is needed."

In other cities across Germany, those attending counterprotests outnumbered anti-Islam demonstrators by far. Berlin police said 4,000 people demonstrated



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

**Simon Richter, left, talks to National Democratic Party representative Juergen Koetzing in Grossröhrsdorf, Germany. When 17 refugees from North Africa arrived shortly before Christmas, many residents objected and authorities moved the men elsewhere.**

against an anti-Islam rally of 400. In Munich 20,000 people took to the streets and only 1,500 anti-Islam protesters showed up.

Many of the Dresden marchers in the last few months come from rural areas near the borders with Poland and the Czech Republic. During the rallies they hold up signs with the names of their towns and villages, and insist they aren't racist — just ordinary people worried about crime — though skinheads and far-right activists are visible among the crowd.

"I think they've got a legitimate cause," said Richter, who has attended several PEGIDA protests. Shortly after the asylum seekers moved into a disused gymnasium that authorities had set aside as temporary accommodation, police and firefighters had to be called to deal with a refugee who had injured himself while drunk and another who set fire to some garbage bags.

"You have a lot of people living

close to here, as well as a playground and a school," Richter said. "It was simply the most place to house refugees in a small community."

The mood in Grossröhrsdorf — population 6,700 — finally turned against the asylum seekers when a 23-year-old local man reported to police that he'd been assaulted by one of the foreigners.

Days later, police announced that the man had lied. By then authorities had already decided to shut the gym and disperse the refugees across other asylum centers in the region.

The decision was not just a victory for Richter and his friends. The far-right National Democratic Party, or NPD, also saw a reason to celebrate.

Its local representative, Juergen Koetzing, told The Associated Press that the party supported the protests in Grossröhrsdorf and has helped with logistics behind the scenes during the PEGIDA marches in Dresden.



JENS MEYER/AP

**One of about 18,000 participants holds a cross besides a German flag during a Jan. 5 rally called "Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West" in Dresden, Germany.**

"We support such events with equipment and the printing of fliers, but the initiative comes from concerned people in the various villages," Koetzing said. It's part of the party's new tactic since narrowly failing to clear the 5 percent threshold in Saxony's regional elections last year.

"Until the next election we're going to be doing what I'll call grass-roots policy," said Koetzing, a construction engineer.

As far as PEGIDA is concerned, "we're not going to push to the front," he said. "On the basic thrust here, about foreigners taking over Germany, we're in agreement with PEGIDA." PEGIDA representatives didn't respond to requests for comment.

Protestant pastor Stefan Schwarzenberg, who supports the refugees, said people in Saxony remain affected by decades of communist rule, even 25 years after the end of the dictatorship in East Germany.

"There are people who are still stuck in their old thinking and their old horizon," he said.

Schwarzenberg said the fear of Muslims — a sentiment that has been growing in different parts of Europe — was largely based on

ignorance.

"Even though they hardly know any foreigners or have asylum seekers in their towns and villages, they have this bogeyman, which is the Islamization of the West," he said.

The pastor noted that some parents had threatened to keep their children out of school until the refugees were moved. "It was a very emotional situation," he said.

Some experts have said PEGIDA is likely to remain a fixture limited to Saxony. Attempts to organize similar marches in other cities have been met with overwhelming counterprotests.

Martin Strunden, a spokesman for Saxony's Interior Ministry, said the state can cope with its share of asylum seekers — about 12,000 of the 200,000 people who came to Germany seeking shelter from war and persecution last year.

The bigger challenge, he said, lies in reaching out to the local population and reassuring them that their fears are unfounded. In fact, Germany is struggling with a lack of workers to fill jobs — so it needs more immigration, not less, Strunden said.



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

**Bicycle racks sit mostly unused next to a gymnasium that was used to shelter 17 refugees from North Africa in the town of Grossröhrsdorf, Germany.**

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FACES



DAN STEINBERG, INVISION/AP

Actor Chris Pine, left, and Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences President Cheryl Boone Isaacs announced some of the nominees at the 87th Academy Awards nomination ceremony on Thursday in Beverly Hills, Calif.

# ‘Birdman,’ ‘Budapest’ lead Oscar nominations with 9 each

By JAKE COYLE  
The Associated Press

Two extravagant comedies, “Birdman” and “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” dominated nominations for the 87th annual Academy Awards with nine nods each, while “Boyhood” remained the widely acknowledged front-runner.

The three films were nominated for best picture on Thursday along with “Whiplash,” “The Theory of Everything,” “The Imitation Game,” “American Sniper” and “Selma.” The eight films, mostly more modestly sized movies dwarfed by Hollywood’s stampe of bigger blockbusters at the box office, gave the Oscars a classier if not particularly high-wattage batch of nominees.

In Hollywood’s ever-expanding industrial complex of awards season, the year’s front-runners — Richard Linklater’s coming-of-age epic “Boyhood” (six noms) and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu’s elegantly shot backstage romp “Birdman or (The Unexpectd Virtue of Ignorance)” — haven’t been dislodged from their lofty perch, steadily accumulating hardware.

The unique “Boyhood” earned Linklater nominations for best director and screenplay, as well as supporting nods for Patricia Arquette and Ethan Hawke. The film,

12 years in the making, landed the latest in a string of awards Sunday at the Golden Globes, taking best drama.

But there were other films — “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” “American Sniper” and “The Imitation Game,” — that came away big winners Thursday, just as others such as “Selma” failed to breakthrough.

World War II code-breaker thriller “The Imitation Game,” about pioneering computer scientist Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch), captured eight nominations, including best actor for Cumberbatch. The film’s distributor, the Weinstein Co., has previously shepherded prestige British period films (“The King’s Speech”) all the way to best picture.

Wes Anderson’s old Europe caper — “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” which also won best comedy or musical at the Globes, has emerged as the most unexpected awards heavyweight. It managed nine nominations without a single acting nod and was instead repeatedly cited for Anderson’s meticulous craft in directing, production design, makeup and screenplay.

With \$59.1 million at the North American box office (opening all the way back in March), “The Grand Budapest Hotel” is also the most money-making best-picture entry. That, however, is likely to change soon after “American Sniper” expands na-

tionwide this weekend. Clint Eastwood’s Navy SEAL drama — one of the season’s late entries — did especially well Thursday, landing six nods including best actor for Bradley Cooper.

The eight best-picture nominees left out two wild cards that might have added a dose of darkness to the category: the creepy Jake Gyllenhaal thriller “Nightcrawler” and the tragic wrestling drama “Foxcatcher.” In the three previous years since the category was expanded (between five and 10 films may be nominated), there were nine movies contending for best picture.

One of the most notable snubs came in best animation, usually a particularly staid category. Despite critical love and major box office numbers, “The Lego Movie” failed to join nominees “Big Hero 6,” “The BoxTrolls,” “How to Train Your Dragon 2,” “Song of the Sea” and “The Tale of the Princess Kaguya.”

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences will hope this year’s coterie of stars will be enough to maintain the recent upswing in ratings for the Oscars. Last year’s ceremony, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres, drew 43 million viewers, making it the most-watched entertainment telecast in a decade. This year’s show on Feb. 22 will be hosted by Neil Patrick Harris.

## NOMINEES

**Best picture:** “American Sniper”; “Birdman or (The Unexpectd Virtue of Ignorance); “Boyhood”; “The Grand Budapest Hotel”; “The Imitation Game”; “Selma”; “The Theory of Everything”; “Whiplash.”

**Actor:** Steve Carell, “Foxcatcher”; Bradley Cooper, “American Sniper”; Benedict Cumberbatch, “The Imitation Game”; Michael Keaton, “Birdman or (The Unexpectd Virtue of Ignorance); Eddie Redmayne, “The Theory of Everything.”

**Actress:** Marion Cotillard, “Two Days, One Night”; Felicity Jones, “The Theory of Everything”; Julianne Moore, “Still Alice”; Rosamund Pike, “Gone Girl”; Reese Witherspoon, “Wild.”

**Supporting actor:** Robert Duvall, “The Judge”; Ethan Hawke, “Boyhood”; Edward Norton, “Birdman or (The Unexpectd Virtue of Ignorance); Mark Ruffalo, “Foxcatcher”; J.K. Simmons, “Whiplash.”

**Supporting actress:** Patricia Arquette, “Boyhood”; Laura Dern, “Wild”; Keira Knightley, “The Imitation Game”; Emma Stone, “Birdman or (The Unexpectd Virtue of Ignorance); Meryl Streep, “Into the Woods.”

**Directing:** Alejandro G. Inarritu, “Birdman or (The Unexpectd Virtue of Ignorance); Richard Linklater, “Boyhood”; Bennett Miller, “Foxcatcher”; Wes Anderson, “The Grand Budapest Hotel”; Morten Tyldum, “The Imitation Game.”

**Foreign language film:** “Ida”; “Leviathan”; “Tangerines”; “Timbuktu”; “Wild Tales.”

**Adapted screenplay:** Jason Hall, “American Sniper”; Graham Moore, “The Imitation Game”; Paul Thomas Anderson, “Inherent Vice”; Anthony McCarten, “The Theory of Everything”; Damien Chazelle, “Whiplash.”

**Original screenplay:** Alejandro G. Inarritu, Nicolas Jacobons, Alexander Dinelaris Jr. and Armando Bo, “Birdman or (The Unexpectd Virtue of Ignorance); Richard Linklater, “Boyhood”; E. Max Frye and Dan Futterman, “Foxcatcher”; Wes Anderson (screenplay) and story by Wes Anderson and Hugo Guinness, “The Grand Budapest Hotel”; Dan Gilroy, “Nightcrawler.”

**Animated feature film:** “Big Hero 6”; “The BoxTrolls”; “How to Train Your Dragon 2”; “Song of the Sea”; “The Tale of the Princess Kaguya.”

**Original score:** “The Grand Budapest Hotel”; “The Imitation Game”; “Interstellar”; “Mr. Turner”; “The Theory of Everything.”

**Original song:** “Everything Is Awesome” from “The Lego Movie”; “Glory” from “Selma”; “Grateful” from “Beyond the Lights”; “I’m Not Gonna Miss You” from “Glen Campbell ... I’ll Be Me”; “Lost Stars” from “Begin Again.”

By The Associated Press



## REACTIONS TO THE NOMINATIONS



“This is what everyone waits for. This is the last one, unless there’s another one that I don’t know about. I don’t care how much people tell you: ‘It’s gonna happen.’ When it happens, you’re thrilled.”

— Michael Keaton, nominated for best actor for “Birdman”



“I am knocked for six by this. To ring my parents who are both actors and tell them that their only son has been nominated for an Oscar is one of the proudest moments of my life.”

— first-time nominee Benedict Cumberbatch, for best actor for “The Imitation Game”



“I was in a deep, dark sleep. I was in a dazed state. I was half undressed and stumbled to the door. I found my manager there brandishing a phone with a lot of screens coming out of it.”

— Eddie Redmayne, best actor nominee for “The Theory of Everything”

After the nominations were announced, and “The Lego Movie” was not on the list of nominees for best animated feature, “Lego” co-director Phil Lord tweeted a photo of an Oscar built from Legos, writing:

“It’s okay. Made my own!”

photo courtesy of Twitter

## FACES

# Seriously silly

## Colbert replacement to take a newsy approach to comedy

By DAVID BAUDER  
The Associated Press

As Larry Wilmore sits down with a plate of pasta, a fan hands him a slip of paper with an idea to explore on Wilmore's new Comedy Central show. It's about international banking issues.

OK, that's a stretch. Even if Wilmore exudes more gravitas than the typical comic, he's unlikely to find the funny there.

Yet the encounter illustrates one of Wilmore's strengths as he prepares to replace Stephen Colbert in the time slot following "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart. At 53, he's got a résumé and maturity that a 28-year-old joke slinger can't match, and he's planning a show that's not afraid to mix the serious with the silly.

"Better to have an authentic, interesting conversation and have the show be a little quieter than just setting up jokes that at the end of the day nobody cares about," he said. "That, I'm not interested in. I'd rather be scared by something somebody says."

Wilmore played a role, the "senior black correspondent," on "The Daily Show." He's replacing a man who famously portrayed a cable blunder on "The Colbert Report," but Wilmore plans to be himself.

Wilmore wrote for "In Living Color" and "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air." He created "The Bernie Mac Show" and co-created the animated series "The PJs." He was set to be the executive

producer of ABC's new sitcom "black-ish" before Stewart offered him this opportunity. Creating the new show "doesn't intimidate me at all," Wilmore said. "It would have if I hadn't done that before. That's another reason I think Jon felt comfortable saying, you know, Larry's got this."

Originally called "The Minority Report," the program was designed to showcase underdogs, not simply racial minorities. Since Fox owns that title because of a movie of the same name and made clear it wasn't happy, a switch was made to "The Nightly Show."

"It fills a void," said Comedy Central President Michele Ganeless. "It's so simple at its very core, the idea that there are underrepresented voices out there."

Wilmore expects to anchor half the show, with comic observations and work from contributors Shenaz Treasury, Ricky Velez and Mike Yard. A panel inspired by the likes of "Politically Incorrect" and "Meet the Press" will toss around issues of the day. "The Daily Show" dissects how the media covers news; "The Nightly Show" will be about the news itself.

It requires a nimble approach, both in keeping the conversation moving and booking panelists knowledgeable about the issues on short notice. Wilmore hopes

and the viewers learn something.

"I don't always feel like I have to have a strong opinion about something," he said. "Some-

times I'm agnostic about an issue and my whole thing is to try and get more information. That's part of my comic persona, too. I call myself a passionate centrist, which means half the time I disagree with myself."

Don't be put off by the cerebral approach, though. It's comedy, not school. "We'll change on the air, as well," he said. "A show like this has to adapt on the air. Because once you're on the air, the audience will tell you what your show is, what they like. You have to listen to that and keep evolving."

Larry Wilmore's new Comedy Central show, "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore," premieres on AFN-Spectrum Jan. 20. He's planning a show inspired by the daily news.

RICHARD SHOTWELL,  
INVISION/AP

"Better to have an authentic, interesting conversation and have the show be a little quieter than just setting up jokes that at the end of the day nobody cares about. That, I'm not interested in. I'd rather be scared by something somebody says."



## Chris Pratt honored by Harvard theater group

"Guardians of the Galaxy" star Chris Pratt has been named Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

Pratt also co-stars on NBC's "Parks and Recreation" with Amy Poehler, who was named Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year last week.

Jason Hellerstein, president of the student group, says, "We vehemently deny that the members of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals are obsessed with 'Parks and Recreation.'"

Hasty Pudding Theatricals is the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe, dating to the late 18th century.

Pratt will receive his pudding pot Feb. 6 following a parade through Harvard Square and a roast. Poehler will be honored Jan. 29.

## Pitt, Bale and Gosling said to star in 'The Big Short'

Brad Pitt, Christian Bale and Ryan Gosling are set to star in a film version of "The Big Short." Michael Lewis' book about investors who made fortunes in the subprime mortgage crisis, a person with knowledge of the matter said.

Pitt's company, Plan B, will produce the picture, said the person, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity. Lewis is a Bloomberg View columnist. Viacom's Paramount Pictures announced the project in March.

The film will test the public's appetite for financial-market drama. "The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine" follows a group of investors who bet against the residential subprime mortgage market before it collapsed. The book was published in 2010 and spent more than 28 weeks on the New York Times nonfiction bestseller list, according to Hawes.com. Katie Martin Kelley, a spokeswoman for Los Angeles-based Paramount, declined to comment on the casting.

## Other news

■ "New Girl" actress Zooey Deschanel is expecting a baby. She and her producer boyfriend, Jacob Pechenik, released a statement to People magazine Tuesday saying they are "over the moon" and "excited to meet our little one," who is due in the summer. The couple began dating last year.

■ A model who claims Bill Cosby drugged and sexually abused her at the Playboy Mansion met with Los Angeles police Wednesday to pursue criminal charges against the comedian over the 2008 incident. An attorney for Chloe Goins said after the meeting that his client is the first woman accusing Cosby of sexual misconduct whose case might fall within the statute of limitations.

■ The 2015 Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival will feature a lineup including Billy Joel, Mumford & Sons and Kendrick Lamar. Robert Plant, Deadmau5, and Florence + the Machine will also perform during the four-day event that kicks off June 11 in Manchester, Tenn. Tickets go on sale Saturday. More than 125 bands and 20 comedians will perform across 12 stages. Earth, Wind & Fire, My Morning Jacket, and Childish Gambino will also perform.

From wire reports

## Peter Jackson helping to open museum after Hobbit wrap

By NICK PERRY  
The Associated Press

Director Peter Jackson said Wednesday he's putting his energy into helping launch a museum to commemorate World War I after finishing his Hobbit movie trilogy.

If he has any plans for future blockbusters, he's not saying.

Jackson was speaking at his New Zealand post-production facility where he was helping host an event to promote the local film industry. Directors Jane Campion and James Cameron also attended.

Jackson is a World War I history buff who owns a number of planes from the era. He said the plan for the Wellington, N.Z., museum was to open during April to



NICK PERRY/AP

Movie director Peter Jackson said he's getting some much-needed rest after completing his "Hobbit" trilogy.

mark the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli battle. He said more galleries would be opened over the coming four years to

mark other battles in which New Zealanders fought.

The New Zealand Herald newspaper reported earlier that Jackson had been recruited by the government to curate the museum, and he was expected to gather aircraft, tanks and other artifacts from private and public collections.

"That's where most of my time is now, which is good," Jackson said Wednesday. "It's fun. And it's free. The exhibits will be very, very interesting, and I'm enjoying it."

Jackson said he was also enjoying getting some rest after finishing the Hobbit trilogy of movies — although he wasn't entirely done, because he was still working on an extended version for DVD release.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Thieves break into hearses, take stretchers

**GA** GAINESVILLE — Police and funeral directors in a northeast Georgia city have a mystery on their hands: Someone is breaking into hearses and stealing the stretchers used to carry deceased people.

Cpl. Kevin Holbrook said thieves have broken into vehicles at two funeral homes recently, and investigators are using surveillance video to try and find suspects.

Jimmy Brewer, who owns Ward's Funeral Home, told WSB-TV his surveillance cameras captured someone pulling up in a silver minivan. The suspect shines a light into vehicles and bashes in the window of a hearse.

Billy Hendrix, who operates Memorial Parks Funeral Homes and Cemeteries, said the funeral directors aren't certain what the motive might be.

## Odor, code violations close town's library

**ME** WATERBORO — The Maine town of Waterboro has closed its public library because of a persistent bad odor and several code violations, including asbestos wall coverings.

Town Administrator Gary Lamb said the library, housed in an old school built nearly a century ago, was closed by the town's code enforcement officer.

The source of the odor, sometimes described as a sewer-type smell, has been a mystery for at least a decade. Some suspect it has something to do with the septic system.

Librarian Ruth Blake and Brigit McCallum, president of the library's trustees, told *The Journal Tribune* that sometimes there's no smell and at other times it is pronounced.

## Man carrying carbine arrested at border

**AZ** DOUGLAS — Authorities said a Douglas man is accused of trying to cross into Mexico with an M4 carbine strapped to his body.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers doing routine outbound inspections at the Douglas crossing stopped the man Saturday.

The officers said they discovered the rifle taped to the sides of the man's boots in two sections. The rifle is commonly used by the U.S. military.

It was seized and the 21-year-old man was turned over to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

## Woman is accused of using fake prescriptions

**OR** HILLSBORO — Police believe a Sacramento woman used fake prescriptions to pick up at least 20 bottles of narcotic cough syrup from Portland-area pharmacies, intending to sell them in California.

KATU-TV reported that Sirena Guice, 20, made an initial court appearance Monday in Hillsboro. She is held on charges of identity

## THE CENSUS

# 40%

The amount the price of legal recreational marijuana has fallen in Seattle now that shortages in the supply have eased. Since July, the state has licensed more growers, processors and retailers, increasing supply and reducing prices to an average of \$15 a gram, said Randy Simmons, deputy director of the Washington State Liquor Control Board. Prices were as much as \$25 a gram in July, including taxes.



JIM COLE/AP

## Harvesting the ice

Jane Kellogg, left, works to guide ice blocks weighing 120 to 160 pounds during the annual ice harvest on Squam Lake in Sandwich, N.H., on Tuesday. The traditional harvest, which goes back a century, stores the ice in ice houses and uses them in the summer at the Rockywood-Deephaven camps instead of refrigeration units.

theft, prescription fraud and possessing a controlled substance.

She was arrested Saturday at a drug store in Gresham where employees recognized the woman from a filer that described a woman dressed in Mickey Mouse cartoon scrubs forging prescriptions. A caller would phone in correct doctor information with fake patient names.

## Employees takes guns from would-be robber

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — Police said a man who attempted to rob a Salt Lake City restaurant and convenience store had two guns wrestled away by the store's employees before he fled and left his ID behind.

Detective Greg Wilking, with Salt Lake City Police, said David Busbee, 36, was arrested Monday at an apartment complex in Salt Lake County.

Wilking said Busbee fired a bullet into the ceiling of Quetzal Imports at 580 West 500 North be-

fore he was tackled by the store's employees. He said police were called shortly after 12:30 p.m.

## Medical marijuana only is supported in poll

**GA** ATLANTA — A clear majority of Georgia voters support legalizing medical marijuana, but they appear more closely split on whether to permit its recreational use, according to a poll by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The poll showed 84 percent of registered voters agreed the General Assembly should legalize marijuana-based medication. Lawmakers debated — but did not adopt — legislation last year that would have made cannabis oil legally available for the ill. The oil is harvested from marijuana plants and used to treat people with some seizure disorders.

Voters were more closely divided on whether to legalize recreational marijuana use. The poll indicted 46 percent of voters sup-

port legalization, while 52 percent opposed it.

## Former cop jailed in cigarette theft scheme

**NJ** TRENTON — A former Jersey City police officer is going to federal prison for three years for his role in the theft of more than half a million cigarettes and extorting \$20,000 from a person he thought was a drug courier.

Mario Rodriguez, 40, pleaded guilty in federal court in Trenton to transporting stolen goods and extortion conspiracy.

A judge on Friday also ordered him to pay a \$2,000 fine.

The U.S. attorney's office says the Jersey City resident was approached by a government informant in 2013 to help sell cigarettes and TVs from a trailer in Secaucus. The two allegedly sold the goods on Staten Island to an undercover officer posing as a buyer.

Rodriguez also admitted ex-

torting \$20,000 from the drug courier who was an undercover FBI agent.

## Biologists thrilled as condors mate in secret

**CA** BIG SUR — Two California condors secretly mated in the woods of Northern California, thrilling wildlife biologists by producing unexpected offspring.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that the breeding was only the third unobserved pairing of condors in the wild since 1997, when biologists began releasing the endangered birds in Big Sur.

The last 27 California condors left in the wild were captured and placed in a breeding program in 1987. The Big Sur flock came from that program.

The bird is actually already 9 months old. The parents raised the hatchling for many months before being detected by prying biologists.

From wire reports

## FAITH

“But we can’t exonerate the West for its insulting of the prophet. I’m not justifying what happened, but these are causes,” Sheikh Ashraf Saad said. “Just as we condemn extremists, we must also condemn these freedoms that have reached the point of insulting the prophet.”

He was countered by a Saudi journalist on the panel, Mshari al-Thaydi.

“But the question is, why is it Muslims who get so angry and kill and blow things up? ...

# “Why do we express our anger in this way?”

Violence fuels debate among Muslims over interpreting faith

BY LEE KEATH

The Associated Press

After gunmen in Paris killed 12 people, Saudi Arabia’s top body of Muslim clerics quickly condemned the attack and said it could have no acceptable justification. It was a signal from some of the Islamic world’s strictest voices that cartoons lampooning the Prophet Muhammad in the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* were not a reason to kill the artists.

Only days later, Saudi Arabia sent an opposing message. On Jan. 9, a young Saudi was whipped 50 times in a public square in the city of Jiddah, the first of what will be 20 such weekly rounds of lashes. That, along with 10 years in prison in his sentence from the kingdom’s religious-based courts for insulting Islam, based on posts on his blog criticizing prominent clerics close to the monarchy.

The contradiction points to the difficulties at a time of a growing debate within Islam about whether and how to reject a radical minority that some fear is dragging them into conflict and wrecking the faith.

Western critics are increasingly brazen about suggesting there is something inherent in Islam that is sparking violence by some of its adherents. Most Muslims reject that, arguing that the tumult of the post-colonial Middle East has created fertile ground for radicalism among people whose faith is fundamentally one of peace.

## Re-examining faith

Nonetheless, the past year has seen increasing voices among Muslims saying their community must re-examine their faith to modernize its interpretations and sideline extremists. As much as recent attacks in the West, the rise of startlingly vicious violence by Sunni Muslim militants in the name of Islam against fellow Muslims, including Sunnis, brought it home for many Muslims that something must change in religious discourse.

In Syria and Iraq, the Islamic State group has butchered entire families of Sunnis and beheaded Sunni soldiers, as well as Western hostages. In Pakistan, a Dec. 16 militant attack on a school that killed 150 people, mostly children, stunned the country. It made many Pakistanis question any empathy they felt in the past

toward militant groups — the attitude of “even if they’re wrong, they’re still fellow Muslims.”

“Now I hear more people talking openly against extremism and militancy,” said Hasan-Askari Rizvi, an independent political analyst in Pakistan.

When people ask “why Islam?” much of the answer has little to do with the religion itself. The Arab world has seen decades of bloodshed and foreign intervention unlike in any other region — long entrenched dictatorships, regime suppression, two Iraq wars, the Syrian civil war and Libya’s turmoil. Those conflicts have stirred up hatreds — against the U.S., against the West, against Shiites and other communities — that rebound back into religion. Some youth angered by the conflicts find the answers in the version of “true Islam” touted by extremists like al-Qaida and the Islamic State group and promoted on the Internet. Those groups tell them Islam requires them to use violence to defend the faith, then provide whole networks to make it easy for them to do so.

Notably, Cherif Kouachi, one of the French brothers behind the *Charlie Hebdo* killings, appears to have been first radicalized by hearing of abuses of Iraqi inmates by American guards at Abu Ghraib prison.

The attack on *Charlie Hebdo* prompted condemnations from across the Muslim world — and fueled voices in the West contending that Islam fuels violence. Social media feeds bristled that insults to other religions do not tend to spark murders.

That frustrates many Muslims who tire of apologizing for an extremist fringe they view as distorting their religion. Still, Muslims are also turning inward for change in the community.

The most prominent call came days before the attack, when Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi gave a speech to Muslim clerics saying interpretations developed over centuries have made the Muslim world a “source of worry, danger, killing and destruction in the whole world.” He called for a “religious revolution” to modernize the faith.

The Paris attack added a complication to the debate, because of the magazine’s extremely broad lampooning of Islam’s Prophet

Muhammad. Muslims who denounced the killings were often clearly discomfited by the content and defended their right to be upset over cartoons that even some Western critics said crossed into racism.

## Showing solidarity

In Egypt and Lebanon, political cartoonists published cartoons expressing solidarity with *Charlie Hebdo*, with images of pens standing up to gunmen. On Twitter, some pointed to Ahmed Merabet, a Muslim policeman of Algerian heritage killed by the attackers. “I am Ahmed the dead cop. *Charlie* ridiculed my faith and culture and I died defending his right to do so,” was a tweet of solidarity circulating among Muslims.

“Obviously, the act of terrorism is a far greater evil than the question of satirical comments,” Khalid Samad, a lawmaker from an Islamist political party in mostly

Muslim Malaysia, said.

But some in the religious establishment struggled with the issue.

On pan-Arab satellite channel al-Arabiya on Jan. 8, an official from al-Azhar, the state-run Egyptian institution that is one of the most prestigious centers of Sunni Islam, said al-Azhar is working to modernize religious discourse, in part by interpreting texts in light of the context in place and time as opposed to literally.

“But we can’t exonerate the West for its insulting of the prophet. I’m not justifying what happened, but these are causes,” Sheikh Ashraf Saad said. “Just as we condemn extremists, we must also condemn these freedoms that have reached the point of insulting the prophet.”

He was countered by a Saudi journalist on the panel, Mshari al-Thaydi. “But the question is, why is it Muslims who get so angry

and kill and blow things up? The French magazine insulted the pope, the Dalai Lama. ... Why do we express our anger in this way?”

“We have 1,436 years in the history of Islam,” he said. “Why do we hand ourselves over to a particular person who picks what he wants from that heritage and says that’s Islam and accept it or you’ve left the faith?”

That hits to the issue of who speaks for Islam, where in the Sunni branch in particular, individual clerics build on centuries of scholarship to argue what the faith requires.

Al-Qaida and the Islamic State group roughly take elements from two relatively modern strands. One is the writing of Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood thinker Sayed Qutb, with its tenets that Muslim society has fallen from faith and violent jihad must be waged to bring “God’s rule.” The other is Wahhabism, a reform movement with a strict, literal and uncompromising interpretation of texts aimed at purging Islam of innovations.



MOSA'AB ENSAWI/AP

An Egyptian Muslim pauses inside Ibn-Tulun Mosque in Cairo on Jan. 9. Acts of violence like the attack in Paris on a satirical newspaper over its depictions of the Prophet Muhammad have prompted debate within Islam about how to deal with a radical minority.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Gas tax hike unlikely for highway funding

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The new Republican-controlled Congress is facing an old problem: how to find the money for highway and transit programs.

With gasoline prices at their lowest in years when the new Congress convened, there had been talk that it might be time to raise federal gas and diesel taxes, which haven't budged in more than 20 years.

But already, GOP leaders are tamping down

expectations, leaving no clear solution to the funding problem. "I don't know of any support for a gas tax increase in Congress," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said flatly.

Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa., the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman, was equally dampening.

"The president has ruled out a gas tax. I don't think there's a will in Congress, and the American people don't want it," Shuster recently told The Associated Press.

The gas tax, 18.4 cents a gallon, and the die-

sel fuel tax, 24.4 cents a gallon, were last increased in 1993. In the meantime, Americans are driving less per capita, cars are more fuel-efficient and construction costs have gone up. Fuel taxes bring in about \$34 billion a year to the federal Highway Trust Fund, but the government spends about \$50 billion a year.

In that environment, two key GOP senators — Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, of Utah, and Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman James Inhofe, of Oklahoma — had raised the hopes of transportation advocates by saying raising fuel taxes should be considered. But the idea appears to be a longshot.

Congress has kept transportation programs teetering on the edge of insolvency since 2008 by repeatedly transferring just enough funds from the general treasury — and making corresponding spending cuts elsewhere in the federal budget — to meet obligations.

Finding acceptable spending cuts to offset the transfers gets more difficult each time.

The latest funding patch cleared Congress last August only about three hours before the Transportation Department said it would begin cutting back aid payments to states. That fix is only expected to last through May, when Congress will be back where it started unless lawmakers act sooner.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (Jan. 16)	\$1.28	
Dollar buys (Jan. 16)	€0.8307	
British pound (Jan. 16)	\$1.56	
Japanese yen (Jan. 16)	¥114.00	
South Korean won (Jan. 16)	₩1,059.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	
British pound	1.5208	
Canada (Dollar)	1.1931	
China (Yuan)	6.1876	
Denmark (Crown)	6.3876	
Egypt (Pound)	7.1518	
Euro	1.1640/0.8591	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7532	
Hungary (Forint)	275.79	
Israel (Sheqel)	3.9228	
Japan (Yen)	116.71	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2941	
Norway (Krone)	1.6743	
Philippines (Peso)	44.56	
Poland (Zloty)	3.59	
Saudi Arab (Riyal)	3.7537	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3273	
So. Korea (Won)	1,078.20	
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8848	
Thailand (Bath)	32.73	
Turkey (Lira)	2.2928	

(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., non-dollar exchange rates in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

EUROPE GAS PRICES				
Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.42	\$2.61	\$2.86	\$3.356
Change in price	-7.5 cents	-7.9 cents	-7.8 cents	-8.4 cents
Netherlands	---	\$3.436	\$3.693	\$3.699
Change in price	---	-6.3 cents	-5.9 cents	-8.3 cents
U.K.	---	\$2.631	\$2.826	\$3.326
Change in price	---	-7.9 cents	-7.8 cents	-8.4 cents
Azores	---	---	\$3.686	---
Change in price	---	---	No change	---
Belgium	---	\$2.421	\$3.347	\$2.950
Change in price	---	No change	No change	No change
Turkey	---	---	\$3.618	\$3.755
Change in price	---	---	No change	No change
Italy	---	\$3.974	---	\$4.050
Change in price	No change	---	---	No change

### MARKET WATCH

Jan. 14, 2015	
Dow Jones Industrial	-186.59
17,427.09	
Nasdaq composite	-22.18
4,639.32	
Standard & Poor's 500	-11.76
2,011.27	
Russell 2000	-3.58
1,177.06	

\* Diesel E0F \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Jan. 17-23

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.75
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	2.47

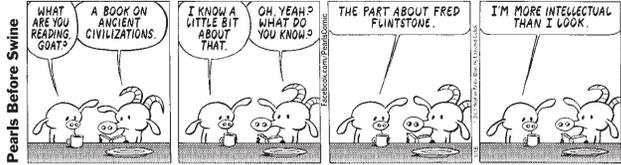
## WEATHER OUTLOOK



### Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	50	27	Cir	Fort Wayne	28	18	Cldy	Louisville	41	27	Cir	Pocatello	39	24	Cldy	Sioux City	43	18	Pcldy
Ablene, Texas	63	32	Pcldy	Cheyenne	53	32	Cir	Fresno	63	41	Pcldy	Lubbock	61	25	Cir	Portland, Maine	29	20	Cir	Sioux Falls	36	17	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	26	18	Cldy	Chicago	30	19	Cldy	Goodland	60	24	Cir	Macon	56	33	Cir	Pueblo	52	43	Cir	South Bend	39	19	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	27	18	Cldy	Cincinnati	36	24	Pcldy	Grand Junction	44	18	Cir	Madison	28	14	Cir	Providence	33	23	Cir	Spokane	39	32	Rain
Albuquerque	50	24	Cir	Cleveland	26	19	Cldy	Grand Rapids	27	20	Cldy	Medford	53	44	Rain	Pueblo	64	17	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	38	20	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	33	22	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	60	24	Cir	Great Falls	45	33	Cir	Memphis	52	28	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	54	32	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	55	25	Cir
Anchorage	37	31	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	31	22	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	50	30	Cir	Miami Beach	73	64	Cldy	Rapid City	54	24	Pcldy	St. Louis	48	25	Cir
Asheville	48	26	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	56	20	Cldy	Harrisburg	33	24	Pcldy	Milwaukee	37	18	Cir	Richmond	47	29	Cir	Tallahassee	59	41	Cir
Atlanta	53	31	Cir	Concord, N.H.	28	11	Pcldy	Hartford Springfield	32	19	Pcldy	Mpls-St. Paul	29	12	Cldy	Roanoke	45	30	Cir	Tampa	65	53	Pcldy
Atlantic City	39	25	Cir	Corpus Christi	60	40	Cldy	Helena	38	23	Cldy	Missoula	36	26	Cir	Rochester	23	21	Snow	Topeka	55	24	Cir
Baton Rouge	57	34	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	57	27	Cir	Honolulu	93	63	Pcldy	Mobile	31	21	Cir	Rockford	28	16	Cldy	Tucson	70	45	Cir
Bismarck	48	31	Cir	Dayton	30	20	Pcldy	Houston	59	35	Cir	Montgomery	54	31	Cir	Sacramento	61	45	Cir	Tulsa	60	45	Cir
Birmingham	51	29	Cir	Daytona Beach	62	48	Cir	Huntsville	50	27	Cir	Nashville	49	26	Cir	St. Louis	48	25	Pcldy	Tupelo	54	26	Cir
Bismarck	40	15	Pcldy	Detroit	28	20	Cldy	Indianapolis	33	20	Pcldy	New Orleans	55	37	Cir	Salem, Ore.	84	40	Pcldy	Waco	61	27	Cir
Boise	36	31	Snow	Des Moines	48	23	Pcldy	Jacksonville	60	43	Cir	New York City	34	26	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	85	74	Cir	Wichita	58	26	Cir
Boston	32	23	Pcldy	El Paso	56	30	Pcldy	Kansas City	53	25	Cir	North Platte	54	18	Cir	San Antonio	64	29	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	61	28	Cir
Bridport	35	21	Pcldy	Elkins	35	23	Cir	Key West	74	67	Cir	Oklahoma City	59	28	Cir	San Diego	52	37	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	38	27	Pcldy
Brownsville	60	43	Cldy	Erie	26	19	Cldy	Knoxville	48	27	Cir	Omaha	51	21	Cir	San Jose	72	50	Cir	Yakima	64	45	Cir
Buffalo	21	20	Cldy	Eugene	52	45	Rain	Lake Charles	57	36	Cir	Orlando	65	53	Pcldy	San Francisco	61	49	Cir	Youngstown	48	33	Pcldy
Burlington, Vt.	22	16	Cldy	Evansville	42	26	Cir	Lansing	26	19	Cldy	Paducah	47	26	Cir	San Jose	64	45	Cir				
Caribou, Maine	22	13	Snow	Fairbanks	21	11	Cldy	Las Vegas	51	41	Cir	Pendleton	49	37	Cir	Santa Fe	47	20	Cir				
Casper	48	26	Cir	Fargo	27	13	Cldy	Lexington	39	25	Cir	Peoria	39	25	Cir	St. St. Marie	9	0	Cir				
Charleston, S.C.	57	38	Cir	Flagstaff	49	17	Cir	Lincoln	55	21	Cir	Philadelphia	37	27	Pcldy	Savannah	57	37	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	40	29	Cldy	Flint	24	18	Cldy	Little Rock	54	29	Cir	Phoenix	72	48	Cir	Seattle	50	47	Cir				
Charlotte, N.C.	53	30	Cir	Fort Smith	60	27	Cir	Los Angeles	74	47	Cir	Pittsburgh	27	21	Snow	Shreveport	58	32	Cir				

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



**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13			14					
15			16			17					
18			19								
20		21		22				23	24	25	26
		27	28			29	30				
31	32	33					34				
35				36		37					
38				39	40			41	42	43	44
			45					46			47
48	49	50	51								52
53							54				55
56							57				58

- ACROSS**
- 1 Masseuse's workplace
  - 4 Part of TGIF
  - 7 Haunted house sounds
  - 12 Sigma follower
  - 13 Sigma predecessor
  - 14 Bert's roomie
  - 15 Mel of baseball lore
  - 16 Museum on wheels
  - 18 Carnival city
  - 19 "Forget it!"
  - 20 Slam-dance
  - 22 Took top honors
  - 23 Aspic maker's need
  - 27 Charged bit
  - 29 Big-enough fish
  - 31 Straighten
  - 34 Dilapidated
  - 35 Wealth
  - 37 Crony
  - 38 Doctors' dues
  - 39 Itty-bitty
  - 41 Punch
  - 45 Treaties
  - 47 Distant
  - 48 City that's an anagram of 16-Across
  - 52 To and —
  - 53 Anticipate
  - 54 Sheltered side
  - 55 Still, to poets
  - 56 Profundity
- DOWN**
- 57 Sort
  - 58 Deli loaf
  - 24 Choose
  - 25 Allow
  - 26 Parched
  - 28 Inseparable
  - 30 Detergent brand
  - 31 Sandy's reply
  - 32 Position
  - 33 Lemieux milieu
  - 36 Did the crawl
  - 37 See 1-Down
  - 40 Reason for a food recall
  - 42 Bid
  - 43 Singer Mariah
  - 44 Money of Norway
  - 45 Heft of the matter
  - 46 Look for
  - 48 Awful
  - 49 Dumbfound
  - 50 Once around
  - 51 — for tat

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

D	O	H	R	A	P	S	W	E	F	T		
A	V	A	U	G	L	I	O	L	E	O		
H	A	L	F	M	O	O	N	U	S	E		
F	O	P	D	E	P	L	E	T	E			
B	A	B	B	L	E	W	E	D				
A	R	A	E	L	K	A	S	H	E	S		
R	I	C	K	F	E	W	T	A	P	E		
T	A	K	E	S	G	A	B	L	E	A		
					Y	O	S	U	R	F	E	R
M	O	L	L	U	S	K	F	I	T			
O	B	O	E	H	A	L	F	P	I	N	T	
L	E	S	S	E	L	T	E	M	I	A		
D	Y	E	S	R	E	E	D	E	L	M		

**1-16**

**CRYPTOQUIP**

Z K C M P T C K P X X N R C Q N N I  
R V I R N B S V S Q R C S A V Z C R X,  
F A Z Z K V X I V X K V X Z K C

F C X Z N T Z K C F B A S M K.  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN BIG-TOP AGENTS PROMOTE SHOWS, I IMAGINE THEIR CUTS MIGHT TYPICALLY BE CIRCUS TENTHS.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: F equals B

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OPINION

Strive for 'good enough' governance

By STEPHEN D. KRASNER

The United States has the most potent military in terms of firepower and operational capacity in history. Our military overthrew Saddam Hussein and crushed the Taliban in a matter of weeks. Our forces can direct a rocket from Nevada through a window in Kandahar, Afghanistan, and nimbly set up nearly 20 Ebola treatment centers in Liberia. Yet this same military, as writer James Fallows recently pointed out in the Atlantic, has not won its wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya or anywhere else in the last 20 years — if winning means creating a stable, capable and ideally democratic governing structure that is able and willing to police its own territory. After the United States poured billions of dollars into the Iraqi army, it fell apart in the face of a few thousand initially lightly armed Islamic State fighters.

Conditions in Afghanistan are in some ways far better than they were before 9/11. Life expectancy has jumped by more than five years; and many more children, girls as well as boys, attend school. But the Taliban remain an active threat. Kabul is haunted by the fear of terrorist attacks. Foreigners have fled. Opium production is up. Corruption is rampant. In Iraq, Nouri al-Maliki has resigned as prime minister, but the likelihood that Iraq will become a well-governed unified state is nil even if the Islamic State is degraded over time. Libya is descending into chaos.

We have not lost because the military and its leaders failed to adapt or because military resources were misdirected. We have lost because we — our civilian leaders, our country — have accepted objectives that are at odds with what has been to put countries on the road to modernity, to move them toward well-governed, prosperous, democratic states that respect

Our military intervention cannot put these countries on the path to modernity.

human rights, have an active civil society, treat women and men as equals, have a free press, extend the rule of law to all members of society and encourage market-oriented economic activity.

Our military knows how to fight effectively against an enemy as unconventional as the Taliban, al-Qaida or the Islamic State, but also how to train their Iraqi and Afghan counterparts to pull off complicated military maneuvers.

But what our military cannot do — what no one can do — is to transform domestic political and economic institutions in these countries. We, our leaders and our people, are guilty of assuming that the United States is not only a "city on a hill" but also the natural model for how human beings should organize political authority. We think that modern liberal democracy is what many countries should aspire to and that, absent obstacles, it will spring into existence. This is a chimera.

For most of human history in most of the world, rulers who wield power have invariably acted in their own self-interest. Controlling the state is the path to personal wealth and power. Corruption is not an aberration; it is the lubricant that makes their governing possible. Modern election outcomes in these places are often perverted or produce leaders who have no interest in sustaining accountable governance, even though the U.S. has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to provide technical election assistance, support political parties and civil society organizations, and establish election monitors.

It does not matter how well our military

is trained, how wisely we deploy our defense dollars or how conscientious our politicians might be. Our military intervention cannot put these countries on the path to modernity. We must change our goals if we are to have any chance of our national security and provide a better life for the citizens of the countries where we send our men and women to fight.

Our objective should be "good enough" governance, which means ensuring that a state is capable of keeping order within its own boundaries — at least enough order to contain transnational terrorists. The provision of this order may sometimes be arbitrary and brutal. Maintaining order in some countries might require an American military whose primary mission would be to degrade transnational terrorist entities and perhaps intervene to maintain a balance of power among local strongmen.

Where ethnic conflicts have eroded trust, we should encourage decentralization. Ideally, "good enough" governance would include providing some public services such as health care and primary education that would not threaten the local elite's ability to extract resources and stay in power. Some degree of economic growth might be possible provided we recognize that these rulers always require their cut of the profits.

Unless we accept that our Wilsonian aspirations are unrealistic and counterproductive, the United States will not be able to align its assets — military and civilian — with policies that have a chance of keeping us safer. Such a development just might leave some countries better off than they were before we intervened.

Stephen D. Krasner is a professor of political science and a senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He was director of policy planning for the State Department from 2005 to 2007. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Muslims should rally for an end to terrorism

By JAY AMBROSE  
 Tribune News Service

God bless the French. Something over 1.5 million turned out in Paris and millions more elsewhere in France to say no, no, a thousand times no to the barbarian terrorists who killed the innocent in an attack at a spirited, satirical publication and still more after that. What we need is something similar worldwide by Muslims who say assassins acting as representatives of Islam are no such thing and that they condemn them and any others who suppose evil is holy.

If a massive turnout like that would someday happen, it could conceivably be salvational, not just by helping to rob the murderous of their excuses, but by preventing Muslim self-destruction. And why shouldn't it happen? We are forever being told the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and that tradition and the Quran endorse no such cruelty.

What is more, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt set a sterling example recently, though he sees far less Muslim innocence in general than some. Taking the risk of some morally disabled fanatic killing him, this pious Muslim said the Islamic world is being destroyed not by the West, but by its own actions, and that religious scholars should lead a revolution to junk unenlightened, extremist, hugely pervasive misinterpretations. Muslims, he

We are forever being told the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and that tradition and the Quran endorse no such cruelty.

said, should quit scaring everyone else to death, as if those in this billion-plus slice of the population are capable of slaughtering all those who believe otherwise. What is needed, he said, is "a revolution of the self, a revolution of consciousness and ethics."

So let it begin, and recognize that those Western critics who say this politician can't do the job are missing his point, as has been observed in an American Spectator article. He is asking for action by religious scholars, not by saying Islam should be abandoned but that it should be rededicated. This is not absolutely wowed, considering that as recently as this past September more than 120 Muslim scholars worldwide did something somewhat like that, saying the Islamic State was at odds with the Prophet Muhammad.

They are hardly alone, for while many Muslims do hate the West, an Associated Press story shows how many are also horrified by Muslim terrorists killing 132 Muslim schoolchildren in Pakistan, the Islamic State mercilessly wiping out Muslim families in Syria and Iraq and the Paris

killers not at all parenthetically killing a Muslim police officer. It is true, too, that Muslim leaders of Turkey and Palestine attended the Parisian solidarity rally — a signal of hope.

The Western response to what happened in Paris must be to support the French in every way we can, to continue the war against terrorists, even to step it up — more vigorously go after the Islamic State, for instance — and also to safeguard our values. That means that we do not play the coward when terrorists strike, saying, oh, goodness, such satire should be outlawed, but to say freedom of speech has moral and truth-finding meaning, that in many ways, it represents what is best about us. "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it," wrote Evelyn Beatrice Hall in explaining the philosophy of Voltaire in a biography, and however much a cliché the words have become, especially since the attacks in Paris, we should take them seriously.

Concretely, that means countries with idiotic hate-speech laws that threaten imprisonment of political leaders for their arguments should reform, even as college campuses in this country should get rid of their speech codes and politicians in Washington and elsewhere should back off the various curbs they keep bringing up. We, too, sometimes misinterpret the most vital principles of our culture.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editors' valedictory remarks of Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe on Jan. 6, which reflected the lessons of a lifetime as a U.S. Postal Service employee and manager. Donahoe's words properly framed the predicament facing this financially distressed but vital agency as a basic test of democratic governance.

### Special interests' delivery The Washington Post

Anytime an official retires after devoting 40 years of honorable public service to a single institution, it's an occasion for thanks and respect. And it's an occasion to listen carefully to what that veteran has to say upon his departure. Case in point: the valedictory remarks of Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe on Jan. 6, which reflected the lessons of a lifetime as a U.S. Postal Service employee and manager. Donahoe's words properly framed the predicament facing this financially distressed but vital agency as a basic test of democratic governance.

The problems facing the postal service and the changes necessary to address them are well understood, as Donahoe noted in his speech. The Internet has put the agency's moneymaker, first-class mail, on a path of inevitable decline while it remains burdened by an inefficient regulatory structure, unsustainable health and benefit costs and congressional micromanagement. Among the solutions are five-day mail delivery, shifting retiree health costs to Medicare and greater management freedom to revise infrastructure and develop new product lines.

The fundamental obstacle, Donahoe explained, is not conceptual or technical but political: the resistance to change by the various interest groups that benefit from what they see as the status quo. A significant clout on Capitol Hill. "As much as we try to have an elevated conversation about the future of the organization," he said, "we never get beyond the narrow set of interests that are determined to preserve the status quo."

The mailing industry, he noted, short-sightedly insists on pricing flexibility for the postal service, even though "the ongoing lack of reform creates more pressure to raise prices — which is what happened this past year." As for postal unions, Donahoe said, their "narrow" focus on preserving existing jobs helps short-circuit the postal service's attempts to operate more efficiently, such as the innovative retail partnerships with Staples stores that was curtailed last year in the face of union protests.

So far, what Donahoe called the "myopia" of postal-related interest groups has prevailed in Congress, preventing the passage of bipartisan reform legislation aimed at restoring the postal service's sustainability. Finishing the bipartisan approach, the agency must be expected to stagger along its current path of missed innovations and underinvestment. The new Congress has the power to revive the reform bill this year and thereby decide whether the U.S. Postal Service thrives and modernizes — or whether this foundational institution of the U.S. economy continues to languish under the weight of special-interest politics.

### Decide quickly on Petraeus Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Department of Justice and the FBI are still awaiting a decision from Attorney General Eric Holder on their recommendation of felony charges against former CIA director and retired four-star Gen. David Petraeus, who is accused of having provided his mistress with classified material. The wait must end soon.

Petraeus was named and confirmed as

CIA chief in 2011, only to resign from the post 10 months later when it was revealed that he was involved in an extramarital affair with Paula Broadwell, an Army Reserve major who was writing his biography. A subsequent FBI search of Broadwell's computer showed that it contained highly classified material.

After his CIA resignation, the former commander of U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan joined Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co. a New York-based global investment firm in May 2013. The firm eventually made him a partner. There was some speculation that he could be a candidate for president or vice president.

More than two years after the classified documents case broke, the Justice Department should either charge Petraeus or drop the matter. Petraeus has said he did not provide classified information to Broadwell and has indicated that he is not interested in a plea deal that would head off a trial.

The Obama administration has eagerly pursued other cases involving alleged leaks of classified information. The Justice Department should not let Petraeus' distinguished military career hold it back if the facts seem to merit prosecution.

President Barack Obama needs to tell Holder either to indict the former CIA chief, as Justice and the FBI have recommended, or remove the cloud hanging over his head. So far, this case is not American justice at its best.

### Still party all the time on Hill The Philadelphia Inquirer

First impressions suggest the Republican-led Congress aren't ready to put aside partisanship and govern if it means making peace with President Barack Obama. In a resounding rebuke of House Speaker John Boehner's past willingness to compromise with the president, 24 Republicans voted against his re-election last week.

Due to a number of absences, Boehner, R-Ohio, didn't need their vote. Still, it marked only the fourth time since 1913 that a speaker was elected without a majority of the full House.

In another signal that Congress and the president are likely to keep fighting, House Republicans announced that their first goal would be to approve construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which Obama promised to veto. Congress' persistence on the issue ignores gas prices, which have been plummeting even without the additional access to Canadian tar-sands oil that the pipeline would provide.

The southern leg of the pipeline was finished last year and is providing U.S. oil producers improved access to Gulf Coast refineries. Finishing the northern end of the pipeline, which Republican House members have made a cause célèbre, would help Canadian oil companies more than American ones.

But the state of politics is such that members of Congress care more about symbolic victories than common ground on issues such as rebuilding the country's deteriorating infrastructure, which would create many more jobs than building the pipeline.

Despite the unsuccessful revolt against him, or maybe because of it, Boehner stayed on message in supporting Keystone XL. The Senate, now also under Republican control for the first time since 2006, may reach a deal for bipartisan support. It helps that the new majority leader, Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., says he wants to prove that Republicans can govern.

Congress welcomed 58 new House members and 13 new senators last week. It may not take long to tell whether they will become part of another "do-nothing" Congress. With Obama threatening vetoes, GOP House members are already counting override votes.



MAX GERSH, ROCKFORD (ILL.) REGISTER STAR/AP

U.S. Postal Service employee Anna Kenney delivers mail in the snow on Jan. 8 in Rockford, Ill. Outgoing Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said this month the fundamental obstacle to the agency's fiscal success is the resistance to change by the various powerful interest groups that benefit from things as they are.

If Americans see more of the same from Congress, members of both parties can expect to pay for it at the polls. That's less likely to happen if McConnell and Boehner refuse to be pushed around by the latest wave of hardline conservatives.

### FCC closer to preserving Net The Seattle Times

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler changed his tune last week and hinted he might be willing to help preserve an open Internet.

He should go all in and present a plan to the FCC next month that reclassifies and regulates Internet service providers as common carriers (similar to a public utility) under Title II of the Communications Act.

Before Wheeler's hint, during an interview at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, he had been floating an unpopular idea to fundamentally change the way the Internet works today. His plan, supported by broadband giants such as Verizon, proposed that major websites such as Amazon.com could pay a premium fee to be in their own fast lane (with their information delivered quickly to customers). Other online players with fewer resources — including startups, artists and other small businesses — would be left in a lane with potentially slower load times for consumers.

The plan drew millions of negative comments from Internet users who demanded that the FCC preserve what is known as net neutrality.

Wheeler made no promises during last week's appearance, but he signaled to the tech-savvy crowd he would champion rules that include "no blocking, no throttling, [no] paid prioritization."

By reclassifying broadband Internet service providers, the FCC would ensure that the Internet remains a place where information flows freely and ideas have equal opportunity to spread. The next innovative startup — as Facebook or YouTube were in the past — stands a better chance of getting noticed.

Wheeler says he plans to submit detailed plans to the five-member FCC on Feb. 5. A

final vote is scheduled for Feb. 26.

The panel must stand up to industry lobbyists. Commissioners cannot ignore the scores of Internet users who nearly crashed the FCC's website during last year's commenting period. The vast majority of Americans who favor net neutrality will be watching.

So will President Barack Obama, who appointed every FCC member. The president himself recently made a case for strong favor of reclassifying the Internet as a utility — accessible to all and free of fast lanes.

### Be accountable on the border Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

With border security being one of the top issues of Texas political leaders, it is no surprise that Gov. Rick Perry has favored adding more drones to the arsenal already in use to help stop illegal crossings from Mexico.

Since the summer, Texas has had a surge of National Guard troops, Department of Public Safety personnel and even game wardens assigned to patrol the state's southern borders — all at an enormous price for taxpayers.

Considering the findings of the Homeland Security Department's inspector general regarding the border drone program that has been in place for about 10 years, it is time to re-examine, if not totally reconsider, that project as well as some of the state initiatives.

The unmanned aircraft assigned to U.S. Customs and Border Protection are underused, largely ineffective and very expensive, costing \$1,255 per flight hour, according to the federal audit released Tuesday. In addition, the audit found that less than one-tenth of 1 percent of border-crossing apprehensions in Texas were attributed to surveillance by the pilotless drones. The Washington Post reported.

Although one high-ranking Customs and Border Protection official took issue with the report — particularly the part about plans to double the fleet in a \$443 million expansion — it is obvious that the program deserves a closer look.

The same is true of expensive border security operations requested or unilaterally undertaken by the state. After an influx of unaccompanied children from Central America illegally crossed the border into Texas last spring and summer, the governor called for more law enforcement agents to be sent to border towns, which he felt were vulnerable to foreign drug criminals and terrorists.

By the end of November, at least \$500 million had been spent on the operation, and that month the Legislative Budget Board approved allocating \$86 million more to fund parts of the surge through August.

The problem is that it has been extremely difficult to measure the operation's effectiveness. Some argue that the show of force alone is a deterrent to immigrants crossing the border illegally. But how do you quantify that claim?

There's little doubt that some of the decisions about the border made last summer were politically motivated and were calculated attempts to ridicule the Obama administration's immigration policy.

The federal government's handling of immigration is ripe for criticism, but the state's efforts also must not go unchallenged.

It will be important that lawmakers in the new legislative session carefully study the border security efforts, determining their effectiveness and whether they justify the cost. When accountability is expected from every office of state government, it should be no less so when it comes to border security.

Popular opinion demands a more secure border, but it also demands the wisest possible spending of taxpayer money.





NBA



Celtics forward Jared Sullinger, center, loses control of the ball against the defense of Hawks forward Pero Antic, left, and guard Jeff Teague during Wednesday's game in Boston. Atlanta won 105-91.

Roundup

Hawks extend streak to 10 with win over Celtics

The Associated Press

BOSTON — DeMarre Carroll and Jeff Teague each scored 22 points to help the Atlanta Hawks win their 10th straight game, 105-91 over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night.

Paul Millsap added 18 points and 10 rebounds for Eastern Conference-leading Atlanta, 31-8 overall and 15-5 on the road. The Hawks have their first double-digit winning streak since winning 11 in a row early in the 1997-98 season. They also have won 10 straight on the road, the longest streak in club history.

Teague, Millsap and Carroll were well-rested after getting a night off Tuesday, when Al Horford led the Hawks past Philadelphia with his first career triple-double. On Wednesday, it was Horford and veteran outside shooter Kyle Korver resting up as their teammates easily took care of the Celtics.

Avery Bradley had 17 points and Jared Sullinger finished with 14 points and nine rebounds for Boston.

Warriors 104, Heat 89: Stephen Curry made seven three-pointers and finished with 32 points and host Golden State overwhelmed undermanned Miami for its eighth straight victory.

Spurs 98, Hornets 93: Manu Ginobili had 27 points on 10-19 shooting and visiting San Antonio snapped Charlotte's winning streak at five games.

Clipers 100, Trail Blazers 94: Jamal Crawford scored 25

points, DeAndre Jordan had 17 points and 18 rebounds and visiting Los Angeles rallied in the fourth quarter.

Wizards 105, Bulls 99: Paul Pierce had 22 points and visiting Washington beat Chicago, despite Derrick Rose's season-high 32 points for the home team.

The Bulls played the second half without Joakim Noah after he injured his right ankle.

Pelicans 105, Pistons 94: Anthony Davis had 27 points and 10 rebounds as New Orleans handed Detroit only its second loss in 11 games.

Grizzlies 103, Nets 92: Zach Randolph had 20 points and 14 rebounds and visiting Memphis beat slumping Brooklyn in its first matchup against former coach Lionel Hollins.

Hollins' new team dropped its seventh straight.

Magic 120, Rockets 113: Victor Oladipo had 32 points, Nik Vucevic added 25 and 12 rebounds and host Orlando rallied to beat Houston.

Raptors 100, 76ers 84: Kyle Lowry had 18 points and 12 assists and DeMar DeRozan returned from a groin injury to score eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter in Toronto's victory over visiting Philadelphia.

Nuggets 114, Mavericks 107: Ty Lawson had 29 points and 12 assists to help host Denver beat Dallas for its fifth straight victory.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Southeast Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Central Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Western Conference

Southwest Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Northwest Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Pacific Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Tuesday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Wednesday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Thursday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Friday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Saturday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Sunday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Monday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Tuesday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Wednesday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Thursday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Friday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Saturday's games table with columns for Team, Score, Location

Three-Point Goals — New Orleans 8-21 (Pondexter 3-5, Gordon 2-4, Anderson 2-5, Jennings 2-6, Augustin 1-1, Butler 1-1, Foye 1-1, Holliday 1-1, Greer 0-2, 4-0-0, Augustin 4-5-4, Tolliver 4-0-0-0, Anthony 2-3-4-0, Martin 0-0-0-0) Detroit — 34-23-94

Hawks 105, Celtics 99

Atlanta — Carroll 8-13 3-5 22, Millsap 5-7 7-8, Antic 2-7 3-6, Schroder 7-12 6-7, Seferlosha 1-4 2-2, Smart 2-2 0-0 2, Bazemore 1-2 0-0 3, Teague 2-6 0-4, Sullinger 9-11, Morris 3-4 2-5, Brown 0-4, Payne 0-1 0-0. Totals 36-23-27 105. BOSTON — Brown 3-4 1-2, Pierce 15-14 5-13 4-4, Zeller 0-2 2-2, Turner 1-5 1-2 3, Bradley 6-13 2-7 0-0, Thornton 0-0 0-0, Olynyk 5-10 0-12, Smart 2-2 0-0 2, 3-2 2-8, Young 2-7 0-7 5, Plessley 1-0 0-0 7. Totals 34-24-23 99.

Wizards 105, Bulls 99

Washington — Pierce 7-12 6-22, Nene 4-9 5-13, Gortat 5-7 1-12, Wall 6-17 2-24, Jbutler 10-14, Powell 1-5 0-0 2, Webster 2-0 0-4, Humphries 3-5 2-8, 4-8 2-2 11, Morris 3-4 0-0 4, Toliver 40-78 20-35. Chicago — Nell 3-9 0-7, Gasol 4-11 7-13, Noah 1-1-0-2, Rose 12-22 3-32, Jbutler 10-16 13, Gibson 6-9 1-10, Hinrich 10-0-0 0-0, Brooks 1-0-0 0-0, Thomas 8-12, Moore 0-0 0-0. Totals 34-79-18-24 99. Washington — 34-79-18-24 105. Chicago — 32-18-19-30 99.

Magic 120, Rockets 113

Houston — Ariza 6-7 1-5, Mottelinas 5-9 2-12, Howard 8-15 7-23, Beverley 7-11 0-17, Brewer 3-2-2-9, Silver 1-3-4 6. Totals 42-29-22-31 120. Orlando — Marble 0-3 3-3, Frye 5-10 0-4 2-2, Linsley 1-5 2-5, Poynter 3-5 5-6 15, Oladipo 1-9 5-6 3-2, Fournier 3-6 0-0 0, O'Quinn 2-3 0-0 8, Gordon 5-7 2-12. Totals 30-23-26 110. Houston — 33-28-11-23 113.

Raptors 100, 76ers 84

Philadelphia — Mbah a Moute 1-7 1-2, Noel 5-9 2-12, Sims 4-9 0-0 8, Carter-Williams 12-25 4-28, McDaniels 2-10 5-6 10, Grant 2-4 1-2, Aldemir 1-1 0-0 2, Thompson 2-10 1-9 7, Sampson 1-5 2-4 2, Totals 31-30-15-81 100. Atlanta — Johnson 5-8 0-0 10, Valanciunas 4-8 4-6 12, Lowry 6-15 2-10 1-10 1-15, 2-4 2-0, Pottson 2-11 0-9 6, Johnson 2-2 1-5, Williams 2-10 1-10 1-10, 2-4 2-0, Vasquez 1-5 0-2 0, Totals 35-82-14-32 100. Philadelphia — 34-16-21-29 100.

Grizzlies 103, Nets 92

Memphis — Allen 6-9 1-1 13, Randolph 8-11 4-8 20, Gasol 6-11 6-7 18, Conley 3-4 0-1 4 2-2 10, Bogdanovic 5-8 0-0 11, Anderson 2-8 2-8, Jordan 0-2 2-2, Morris 5-7 0-1 11, Teague 4-8 0-12, Jefferson 4-4 1-0 2, Brown 1-0 2-2, Karasev 0-0 0-0. Totals 39-23-29 103. Brooklyn — Johnson 3-12 0-0 8, Plumlee 7-9 1-15, Lopez 5-9 1-11, Jack 4-12 2-10, Bogdanovic 5-8 0-0 11, Anderson 2-8 2-8, Jordan 0-2 2-2, Morris 5-7 0-1 11, Teague 4-8 0-12, Jefferson 4-4 1-0 2, Brown 1-0 2-2, Karasev 0-0 0-0. Totals 39-23-29 103.

Clipers 100, Trail Blazers 94

L.A. Clippers — Barnes 3-5 2-2 10, Griffin 7-10 4-18, Jordan 9-8 1-27, Paul 6-15 10-23, Redick 3-12 0-7, Crawford 10-21 1-15, Hawes 3-6 0-0, Davis 0-0 0-0. Totals 37-88-18-130 100. Portland — Batum 5-4-4-4, Aldridge 16-29 3-27, Kaman 7-11 1-15, Lillard 5-16 1-2 15, Matthews 3-13 0-8, Leonard 8-7 2-4 11, McCollum 1-5 0-2, Batum 0-0 2. Totals 33-87-18-20-94. L.A. Clippers — 21 28 22 28-100. Portland — 21 28 23 22-94.

Spurs 98, Hornets 93

SAN ANTONIO — Daye 1-3 0-2, Duncan 11-23 2-14, Bonner 3-9 0-8, Parker 5-12 0-10, Green 6-11 3-18, Diaw 0-5 1-21, Ginobili 2-4 0-0 0-0, Toliver 2-0-0 0-0, 2-2-4, Mills 2-9 1-1 5, Totals 37-85-16-20 98. CHARLOTTE — Kidd-Gilchrist 2-8 4-4, Walker 4-9 0-8, Henderson 4-12 3-4, Foye 4-2 0-0 0-0, Toliver 2-1 1-2 3, Stephenson 3-8 2-6 8, Roberts 2-4 0-4 0-4, Hill 1-0 0-0 0-0. Totals 35-25-92 93. SAN ANTONIO — 37-85-16-20 98. Charlotte — 35-25-92 93.

Warriors 104, Heat 89

Miami — Newsome 8-18 8-18 8-26, Whiteside 5-10 0-10, Chalmers 8-9 3-7, Napier 3-7 0-10, Granger 0-0 0-0, Anderson 1-1 0-0 2, Cole 2-5 0-0 4, Newsome 1-2 2-4, Williams 2-4 0-6 8, Hammett 2-4 11, McCollum 1-5 0-2, Batum 0-0 2. Totals 37-88-18-130 100. Golden State — Barnes 1-6 0-0 2, Faried 3-2 3-6, Bogut 4-1-4 4, Curry 11-17 2-10 1-10, 2-4 2-0, Green 3-2 2-8, Iguodala 4-5 0-9, Lee 3-5 2-8, Barbosa 4-0-0 9-0-9, Holiday 3-5 0-17, 8-8 2-15 10. Totals 30-25-26 89. Golden State — 30-25-26 104.

Pelicans 105, Pistons 94

New Orleans — Cunningham 3-5 0-0 6, Davis 11-18 5-27, Ash 2-5 4-8, Evans 12-20 1-2 12, Davis 0-1, Fredette 0-4, Detroit 1-6 13-17, Pondexter 3-7 0-9, Fredette 3-8 2-8, Babbitt 0-0 0-0, Withey 0-0 0-0 0-0, Gortat 0-0 0-0, Totals 39-80-8 105. DETROIT — Sledge 3-6 0-7, Monroe 6-11 4-7 16, Drummond 1-1-4 0 10, 4-2 9-10 19, Caldwell-Pope 3-7 1-8, 2-0 0-0, 5-0 0-0 0-0, Totals 28-22-10 94. Pelicans — 39-80-8 105. Pistons — 28-22-10 94.

Magic 120, Rockets 113

Orlando — Oladipo 1-9 5-6 3-2, Fournier 3-6 0-0 0, O'Quinn 2-3 0-0 8, Gordon 5-7 2-12. Totals 30-23-26 110. Houston — 33-28-11-23 113.

Raptors 100, 76ers 84

Philadelphia — Mbah a Moute 1-7 1-2, Noel 5-9 2-12, Sims 4-9 0-0 8, Carter-Williams 12-25 4-28, McDaniels 2-10 5-6 10, Grant 2-4 1-2, Aldemir 1-1 0-0 2, Thompson 2-10 1-9 7, Sampson 1-5 2-4 2, Totals 31-30-15-81 100. Atlanta — Johnson 5-8 0-0 10, Valanciunas 4-8 4-6 12, Lowry 6-15 2-10 1-10, 2-4 2-0, Pottson 2-11 0-9 6, Johnson 2-2 1-5, Williams 2-10 1-10, 2-4 2-0, Vasquez 1-5 0-2 0, Totals 35-82-14-32 100. Philadelphia — 34-16-21-29 100.

CHUCK BURTON/AP

The Hornets' Kemba Walker, back, shoots around the Spurs' Cory Joseph on Wednesday in Charlotte, N.C. San Antonio topped Charlotte 98-93.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Baylor's late jumper sinks No. 11 Iowa State

## Chery nets winner after No. 22 Bears blow 14-point lead

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Kenny Chery got No. 22 Baylor started with a three-pointer on the very first shot, part of a game-opening 16-1 spurt for the Bears.

After they fell behind late, Chery hit the game-winner against No. 11 Iowa State.

Chery, the senior point guard who struggled shooting for most of the game, made a jumper with 4.7 seconds left and the Bears won 74-73 after blowing a 14-point lead in the final 9½ minutes.

"For him to knock down that last shot after not being as efficient from the field as he normally is, I thought that showed a lot of poise, character, guts," coach Scott Drew said. "And I know with our team, there's no one we'd rather have with the ball in his hands at the end of the game."

The Bears were up 11-1 after only 2 minutes by hitting their first four shots. Chery made a three and had another long jumper between consecutive threes by Royce O'Neale, who had 15 points to lead the Bears (13-3, 2-2 Big 12).

Chery then missed 12 of his next 13 shots, and left the game for several minutes midway through the second half when he came down hard on his right shoulder after missing a layup. He was still

face-down on the floor grimacing in pain while Iowa State got a layup at the other end by Bryce Dejean-Jones.

"I just felt my shoulder stretched out," said, Chery, who finished with 13 points on 4-for-16 shooting. "My teammates kept me up, and I got up and I knew I had to finish this game."

Iowa State (12-3, 2-1) never led until Georges Niang made a jumper with 1:54 left to put the Cyclones up 68-67.

Niang, the leading scorer for the Cyclones, had only one point before making a three-pointer with 6:18 left. He also had a tying layup in the final minute, but missed a runner as time expired.

"The two stretches that got us were the start of the first half and the end of the first half," Iowa State coach Fred Hoiberg said.

Baylor led 16-1 while hitting four three-pointers in the first 3:15 of the game, then ended the half with a 12-2 run after Iowa State had gotten within a bucket.

After Matt Thomas missed an open three for Iowa State, Rico Gathers had a strong inside basket to start Baylor's half-ending run. O'Neale then had a tip-in of a miss by Chery and had a three-pointer for a 46-34 halftime lead.

Gathers had 14 points and 15 rebounds, while Johnathan Motley had 14 points.

Naz Long had 19 points for

Iowa State, making all five of his three-pointers. Dejean-Jones has 14 points and Monte Morris 11.

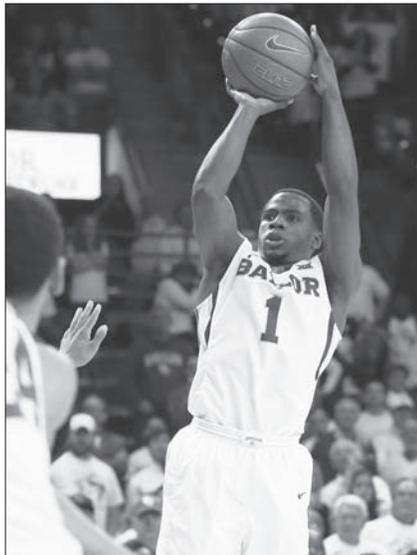
The Bears led 62-48 on a layup by Gathers with 8:40 left. Long then had back-to-back threes and added another long-range basket in a 20-5 run that put Iowa State in front for the first time.

Lester Medford hit a three-pointer from the right corner with 1:10 left for Baylor; but Iowa State quickly got even on Niang's high bank shot.

Motley had a go-ahead putback on a miss by Chery before a three by Dejean-Jones put the Cyclones up 73-72 with 13 seconds left.

"After the initial start, I was proud of our guys and how they battled back," Hoiberg said. "Unfortunately, you look back at that start and how we got out of the gate. It's tough to fight back from that, but our guys did it."

After Motley made a strong move to score in traffic about 7½ minutes into the game, play was stopped when officials charged Iowa State's Dustin Hogue with a technical foul after he kicked at Taurean Prince. Hogue quickly pleaded his case. There was then a lengthy review while officials looked at replay and discussed what happened. Hogue still had a foul, but officials then added a flagrant foul against Prince. Both teams got free throws.



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Baylor's Kenny Chery goes up for a long two-point basket late in the second half of Wednesday's game against Iowa State at Waco, Texas. The basket gave Baylor a 74-73 win.

## Roundup

## No. 5 Villanova hits 15 threes in win over Xavier

The Associated Press

VILLANOVA, Pa. — Ryan Arcidiacono had 18 points and six assists, Dylan Ennis finished with 17 points and six rebounds, and No. 5 Villanova made a season-high 15 three-pointers to beat Xavier 88-75 on Wednesday night.

Josh Hart added 15 points and seven rebounds for the Wildcats (16-1 overall, 4-1 Big East), who have won three straight conference games by an average of nearly 15 points since their only loss of the season.

Center Matt Stainbrook scored 17 points on 7-for-8 shooting to lead Xavier (11-6, 2-3), who outscored Villanova 46-18 in the paint.

**No. 12 Notre Dame 62, Georgia Tech 59:** Jerian Grant scored 12 points, Steve Vasturia added 11 points and Notre Dame beat host Georgia Tech.

Despite the absence of starting forward Zach Auguste, the Fighting Irish (16-2, 4-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) secured their best start to a season since 1978-79.

Irish coach Mike Brey said Auguste missed the game because of an academic matter.

**No. 13 Wichita State 67, Southern Illinois 55:** Darius Carter scored a career-high 25 points on 11-for-15 shooting, leading host Wichita State.

Ron Baker had 11 points and Tekele Cooper added 10 as the Shockers (15-2, 5-0 Missouri Valley) won their 23rd straight conference game.



KARL B. DEBLAKER/AP

North Carolina State's Trevor Lacey, center, drives the ball between North Carolina's Justin Jackson, left, and Marcus Paige during Wednesday's game in Raleigh, N.C. Paige scored 23 points as the No. 15 Tar Heels held off the Wolfpack, 81-79.

**No. 14 Maryland 73, Rutgers 65:** Dez Wells scored 17 points, Jake Layman had a career-high 13 rebounds and host Maryland used a late surge to beat Rutgers.

Layman and Jared Nickens each scored 12 points for the Terrapins (16-2, 4-1 Big Ten), who finished with an 18-6 run to avert an upset.

Coming off a 67-62 win over then-No. 4 Wisconsin, Rutgers (10-8, 2-3) appeared poised for an encore after taking a 57-51

lead with 7:27 left.

**No. 15 North Carolina 81, N.C. State 79:** Marcus Paige scored 23 points and North Carolina barely held off a late comeback.

Kennedy Meeks added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the visiting Tar Heels (13-4, 3-1 Atlantic Coast Conference). They led by 12 in the second half and by double figures near the 4-minute mark before watching N.C. State (12-6, 3-2) twice claw within a point in the final seconds.

**San Diego State 60, No. 25 Wyoming**

**52:** Aqeel Quinn scored 14 points and Winston Shepard 10 as San Diego State snapped Wyoming's 13-game home winning streak.

In a game featuring two of the top four defensive teams in the NCAA, San Diego State (13-4, 3-1 Mountain West) relied on strong play from its bench, which outscored the Cowboys' reserves 24-0.

Wyoming (15-2, 4-1) lost just three days after breaking into the AP Top 25 for the first time since 1988.

**Army 72, Holy Cross 70 (OT):** Dylan Cox made a game-winning layup with two seconds left in overtime for visiting Army.

Tanner Plomb scored 28 points — 25 of those in regulation — and Kyle Wilson added 22 for Army (11-5, 2-3 Patriot League).

**Bucknell 65, Navy 63:** John Azzinaro scored 19 points and drilled three late three-pointers, including the go-ahead three with 11 seconds left to lift host Bucknell.

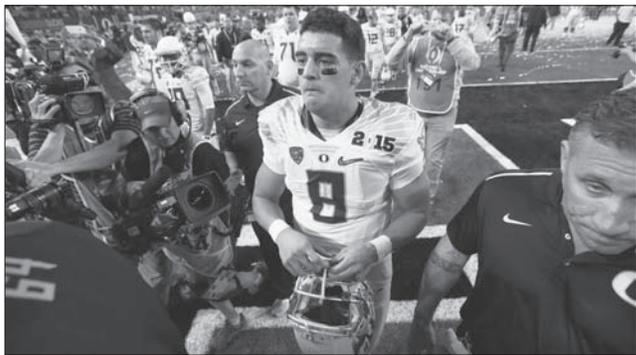
Nana Foutland added 12 points with seven rebounds for the Bison (8-10, 3-2 Patriot League).

Worth Smith led Navy (7-10, 3-2) with 14 points and seven boards.

**New Mexico 60, Air Force 48:** Sam Logwood scored a career-high 17 points and hit a crucial three-pointer for host New Mexico.

Zach Kooser scored 12 points for the Falcons (8-8, 1-4 Mountain West), but no teammate reached double digits.

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS



BRANDON WADE/AP

Oregon's Marcus Mariota walks off the field after the Ducks' 42-20 loss in the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Ohio State on Monday. The Heisman Trophy winner declared for the NFL Draft on Wednesday.

## Playoff players face time crunch in making NFL call

Athletes given three days to decide on declaring for the draft

By JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The players who earned a chance to play in the inaugural College Football Playoff had more than a month to prepare for the biggest games of their lives.

Once the national championship game was over, the elite players had a much shorter window to make the biggest decision of their lives.

Try three days. The adrenaline of Monday night's national title game still flowing, top players like Ohio State's Cardale Jones had until Thursday to gather themselves and try to make a rational decision about whether to declare for the NFL Draft or stay in school.

That's not a lot of time for what will likely be a life-altering decision — no matter how it turns out.

"To me, it could be like one of those days like signing day, you can declare by that date, but you don't have to," Arizona coach Rich Rodriguez said. "If you just played recently, why not wait another two weeks? It's a big decision and the kids should be able to gather as much information as possible."

The NFL Draft isn't until April 30-May 2, but the early date for declaring was put in place to prevent agents from having more time to recruit players for the draft and so college coaches can assess their rosters before signing recruiting classes. The first day high school players can sign a national letter of intent is Feb. 4 and the extra time gives the college coaches a chance to secure replacements for the top players who leave for the NFL.

Many of the top college players have already declared for the draft, including Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota of Oregon, Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston, Washington linebacker Shaq Thompson and Arizona State receiver Jaalen Strong.

Mariota joined that list — and teammate Arik Armstrong — when he declared for the draft on Wednesday. Jones, despite leading the Buckeyes to a national title in his third career start, said he doesn't feel ready for the NFL, but hadn't made a final decision.

Regardless of Jones' decision, his coach believes he should have more time to make it.

"If we're in that situation, we would like to have more space, more time," coach Urban Meyer said before the Buckeyes beat Oregon 42-20 in the national title game. "I think now that there's a playoff, they should readdress that and move it back a little bit."

The NFL made several changes in the process last year, altering the evaluation system and limiting the number of players who can submit paperwork to the league's draft advisory board.

In previous years, the committee comprised of current general managers, college scouting directors and other front office personnel would give players a grade based on which of the draft's seven rounds they might be taken in. Now, a prospect is only told if he has a first- or second-round grade.

The NFL also has limited the number of players who can submit paperwork to five from each school, though exceptions can be made.

The NFL's advisory committee is far from the lone determinant in whether a player decides to stay in school or take a shot at the NFL.

"A good starting point, after sure, but there's also input from a variety of other sources, family members, coaches — college, high school and sometimes pee-wee — friends and hangers-on who may not have the player's best interests in mind. And the decisions don't always work out."

A record 98 underclassmen declared for the NFL Draft a year ago and that led to a record 36 underclassmen who went undrafted. The number is likely to be lower this year.

"The biggest thing I think was that last year there were so many kids that declared that went undrafted," Rodriguez said. "What you hope is that they get all the right information before they make their decision and not try to make a rational decision based on information from someone who might not have your best interest. You want to get all the information you can and make an educated decision that's best for your future."

The small window of time after the national championship game can make that decision even tougher.

### Briefly

## Colts LB, ex-Army player McNary charged with rape

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts put Josh McNary on the commissioner's exempt list Thursday, less than 24 hours after prosecutors charged the backup linebacker with rape, criminal confinement with bodily injury and battery resulting in bodily injury.

The designation means McNary is not eligible to practice with the Colts or attend their games, including Sunday's AFC championship at New England.

Team officials issued a statement Wednesday after the prosecutor's office released a report detailing the charges and the accounts of McNary and a 29-year-old woman who made the allegations. The woman's name was redacted in the report.

Ed Schrage, McNary's lawyer, issued a statement early Thursday saying his client denied the allegations and immediately reported to law enforcement officials.

"After reviewing the documents supporting the very serious criminal charges filed yesterday afternoon against Josh McNary, the Colts have requested Commissioner Goodell to immediately place Josh on the league's Commissioner Exemption List," the team said. "If the request is granted, Josh will not be eligible to practice or attend games with the club while designated as Commissioner Exempt. That designation will permit the investigation provided by the league's personal conduct policy to run its course and will afford Josh the opportunity to focus on his defense against the charges."

According to the probable cause affidavit, two Indianapolis police officers said the woman accused an unknown man they later determined to be McNary of attacking her in the early morning hours of Dec. 1. Police, according to the report, determined the man was McNary after investigating a cell phone the woman claimed she took from the man's apartment.

The woman claimed the two engaged in a "physical fight" and that she scratched his neck, face, back and shoulder before the alleged sexual assault took place. According to the report, the woman also said she believed the man slapped her on the left side of her face with his hands before forcing himself on her and that she told the man to stop.

Police reported that a nurse found dried blood behind the woman's ear and other injuries following a sexual assault examination, and that a friend of the accuser played a 2-minute voice-mail from the woman for police. At one point, the female can be heard crying and becoming emo-

tionally distraught," the report said.

In the report, police said the woman was shown photos of several men and that she said an image of McNary "looked familiar" to the man. She could not positively identify him, though.

The police also wrote that when they arrived at McNary's apartment to investigate, the player said: "I know why you're here." The report said McNary claimed to have preserved evidence because he expected the police would be coming.

McNary's attorney cautioned there's another side to the story.

"The charges and affidavit publicly disseminated on Wednesday afternoon are not evidence of wrong doing but simply one side's story," Schrage wrote. "Joshua has full and confidence in the American way, including its justice system, which he pledged to protect and defend as a West Point graduate and lieutenant in the United States Army."

Schrage said no other statements would be made on behalf of or by McNary.

McNary finished his college career as Army's career leader in sacks and tackles for loss, then spent two years on active duty before applying for an early release to play in the NFL.

### Nats get Escobar from A's for RHP Clippard

WASHINGTON — Infielder Yunes Escobar is heading to the Nationals, and All-Star reliever Tyler Clippard is going to the Nationals if they win the final deal between those clubs in a little more than four years.

The swap, announced Wednesday, gives Washington a player who could solve its search for a starting second baseman. Escobar could play shortstop for the Nationals if they win a trading away — or fail to agree to a new contract with — Jan Desmond, who can become a free agent after next season.

In other MLB news:

The Atlanta Braves traded yet another key player on Wednesday night, sending power-hitting Gattis and right-hander James Hoyt to the Houston Astros for a trio of minor leaguers.

The move comes after the Braves already shipped out top hitters — Justin Upton and Jason Heyward — earlier in the offseason, going 79-83. Houston sent right-handed pitchers Mike Polynyewich and Andrew Thurman and infielder Rio Ruiz to the Braves.

The Astros agreed with Chris Carter on a one-year contract for \$4,175,000 on Wednesday, ending a feud with the slugger designated hitter.

NFL

# Broncos head into offseason of uncertainty

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The Denver Broncos figured they'd be talking about facing Tom Brady this week, not pondering Peyton Manning's future and wondering who will be their next coach.

Even with their ailing QB scuffling down the stretch, the Broncos sauntered into the playoffs certain they had found the formula to avenge last year's Super Bowl plunge. That mixture featured balance on offense, dominance on defense and solid special teams.

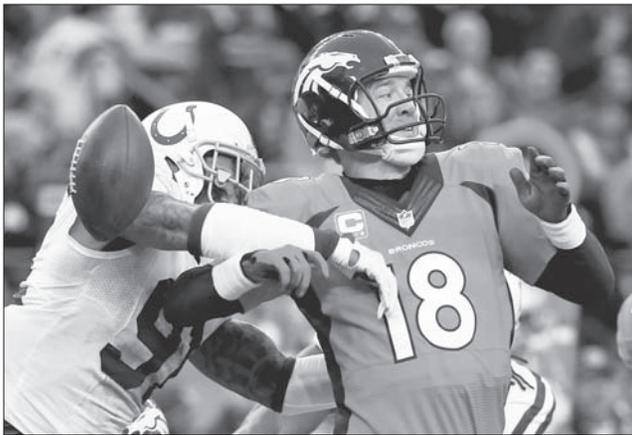
"Yeah, we definitely had the ingredients," linebacker Steven Johnson said. "It just didn't work out our way. So, we've just got to learn from it. Go home and sulk. Eat some ice cream for a couple of days. And then snap out of it and try to go back to work."

GM John Elway gets no such break as he searches for a new coach while sifting through the wreckage of another season-ending debacle in which the Broncos lost as heavy favorites.

Their lack of fire in Denver's 24-13 loss to Indianapolis on Sunday led to a quick parting with coach John Fox less than 24 hours later.

Speculation about who will replace Fox starts with Baltimore offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak because of his close ties to Elway, whom Kubiak backed up at quarterback during their playing days together.

Elway met with offensive coordinator Adam Gase on Wednesday morning. Gase, the hottest young offensive mind in this year's crop of head coaching candidates, had a lengthy second interview with the San Francisco 49ers on Tuesday in Denver.



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

**Colts linebacker Jonathan Newsome, left, reaches in to force Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning to fumble Sunday. Manning is pondering retirement and the team is searching for a new head coach.**

After failing for the third straight time to parlay the best regular-season record into a Super Bowl title, the Broncos face an offseason of uncertainty unlike anything they've experienced since closing the chapter on Tebowmania three years ago.

Manning, who was bothered by spotty protection all season and a strained right thigh this last month, is pondering retirement.

Elway asked him not to make a rash decision — although he'll need an answer before the last day of the league year, March 9, when Manning's \$19 million sala-

ry for 2015 becomes guaranteed.

If Manning returns, the Broncos might have to ask him to restructure the final two years of his contract to free up money to bolster the roster, particularly the porous O-line.

His protection failed to give him enough time or space to step into his throws. When opponents used the Seahawks' Super Bowl template and clogged the crossing routes, Manning had to throw outside the numbers and morphed from one of the all-time greats into a pedestrian passer, one who overthrew his receivers

eight times Sunday.

Even if he won't have to move on from Manning — who's 2,147 yards, or about a half-season's worth, shy of Brett Favre's career passing yardage record — Elway has a long to-do list this offseason.

Among their dozen unrestricted free agents are star receiver Demaryius Thomas, Pro Bowl tight end Julius Thomas and nose tackle and defensive captain Terrence "Pot Roast" Knighton.

Knighton could follow Jack Del Rio to Oakland. Drafted by Del Rio in Jacksonville, Knight-

on thrived under his tutelage in Denver. He recently told The Associated Press, "I want to be wherever Jack is."

Cornerback Chris Harris Jr. doesn't want to see Knighton go.

"I love the way he plays and what he brought to our team every day," Harris said. "I'm going to send him the same message I'm sending Peyton: 'Come back!'"

Wes Welker, who's coming off his worst statistical season since 2005, said he's not sure he wants to return to Denver, adding, "There are a lot of things I've got to figure out."

Same with Elway, who pledged to address his O-line this offseason after fixing his defense last year.

"Having been a quarterback, he knows that I'm going to try to take care of him and that of offensive line," Elway said of Manning. "We always want to protect the quarterback. I think a change in scenery for those guys might help them also."

Starters Orlando Franklin and Will Montgomery are free agents.

If Manning retires, backup Brock Osweiler, who served a three-year apprenticeship under the five-time MVP, is ready to roll.

Osweiler, who mopped up four games this season and threw his first career touchdown pass three weeks ago, said: "I will approach this offseason the same exact way whether he comes back or doesn't come back."

Elway has made that progress that you would hope he would make," Elway said. "What's difficult is he hasn't gotten a lot of playing time. When that time comes, we'll see where he is. (But) the training that he's gotten up to this point is second to none."

# San Francisco promotes Tomsula to head coach

The Associated Press

The New York Jets stuck with defense. The San Francisco 49ers and Oakland Raiders are giving it a try, too.

The Jets hired Arizona defensive coordinator Todd Bowles as head coach Wednesday, the 49ers promoted longtime defensive line coach Jim Tomsula, and the Raiders turned to Denver defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio.

Denver, Atlanta and Chicago still have openings. On Wednesday, John Fox interviewed with Chicago, two days after parting ways with Denver.

The 49ers said Tomsula would be formally introduced Thursday at a news conference that comes after a more than two-week search that ended right in house.

Tomsula replaces Jim Harbaugh, who parted ways with the 49ers on Dec. 28 in what the team called a "mutual decision."

Harbaugh was introduced as Michigan's coach two days later following a success-

ful four-year stint during which the 49ers reached three straight NFC championship games and a Super Bowl.

"After conducting a thorough coaching search, and meeting with a number of outstanding candidates, Jim Tomsula clearly is the right man to lead this team," CEO Jed York said in a statement.

San Francisco went 8-8 this season and missed the playoffs.

The Jets made it official with Bowles, also a top candidate for the Atlanta job, a day after hiring former Houston director of college scouting Mike Maccagnan as general manager. They fired Rex Ryan and general manager John Idzik on Dec. 29 following a 4-12 finish.

"I am confident that Todd and Mike Maccagnan are the right combination to lead this team," Jets owner Woody Johnson said.

Bowles, a former NFL defensive back, is the Jets' sixth straight defensive-focused head coach and fifth since Johnson took over in 2000, following Bill Parcells, Al Groh, Herm Edwards, Eric Mangini and Ryan.

"It's an honor and privilege to coach the Jets," Bowles said in a statement. "I can't help but be humbled by the chance to coach

this team. I am going to do everything I can to build a consistent winner."

Bowles from Elizabeth, N.J., was the Jets' defensive backs coach under Groh in 2000 season. He beat out five other candidates who interviewed, including Seattle defensive coordinator Dan Quinn and former Buffalo coach Doug Marrone.

A person with knowledge of the Del Rio's hiring said a deal was agreed to Wednesday, not long after the team told interim coach Tony Sparano he would not get the job. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because an announcement had not been made.

Del Rio, a former NFL linebacker, was the head coach in Jacksonville for nine seasons before spending the past three as Denver's defensive coordinator.

Sparano was elevated from offensive line coach during the season to replace the fired Dennis Allen. Oakland went 3-9 under Sparano after losing the first four games under Allen.

Ryan ended up in Buffalo on Monday and was as brash and bold as ever Wednesday at his first news conference.

"Is this thing on?" Ryan said, tapping the microphone. "Because it's getting ready to be on."



Tomsula

## NFL PLAYOFFS



PHILAN M. EBERHACK/AP

The NFL is a young man's game, but from the Packers' Julius Peppers, pictured, to the Colts' Reggie Wayne, there are a handful of thirtysomethings still capable of a meaningful contribution for their respective teams in the playoffs this Sunday.

# Nothing but a number?

## Group of players in mid-30s contributing in playoffs

By DAVE CAMPBELL

The Associated Press

Julius Peppers has his birthday coming up real soon.

This is one most NFL players don't get to celebrate while they're actually still players.

The same day the Green Bay Packers take on the Seattle Seahawks for the NFC championship, this Sunday, Peppers will turn 35. Not even to the midpoint of the average American lifespan, this is a relatively ancient milestone in a game where the typical player is, oh, 26.

Peppers, though, has hardly been showing his age. There are a few others who'll be in action this weekend, too, from Kevin Williams to Reggie Wayne to Vince Wilfork, still making meaningful contributions to their teams heading into the conference championship games.

Peppers was one of the most dominant players on the field last week in Green Bay's win over Dallas, matching the team high with six tackles, drawing a holding penalty and forcing two fumbles.

One came during a sack, which the Cowboys recovered. The other might have been the most pivotal play of the game, including the replay reversal of Dez Bryant's fourth-down grab near the goal line.

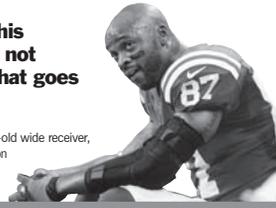
DeMarco Murray burst through a big hole that Peppers was being pushed away from, but the eight-time Pro Bowl defensive end escaped his block and knocked the ball out just as Murray approached the secondary with plenty of room to run.

The Packers fell on the ball near midfield and drove the other way for a field goal to pull within 14-13. Until that point early in the third quarter, the Cowboys were begin-

**'Let's live in this moment. Let's not worry about what goes on afterward.'**

**Reggie Wayne**

Indianapolis Colts' 36-year-old wide receiver, on playing in the postseason for the 12th time in his 14-year NFL career



ning to pull away.

"You need all hands on deck right now and everybody making these plays at crucial times," Peppers said.

The soft-spoken Peppers, who has played the outside linebacker position this season for the first time in his career, has been just as valuable as an adviser for his younger teammates.

Coach Mike McCarthy recently mentioned a one-on-one conversation between Peppers and teammate David Bakhtiari that gave the 23-year-old left tackle some valuable insight about his strengths and weaknesses after the two faced each other the previous season when Peppers played for the Chicago Bears.

"I know David was thankful for that," McCarthy said.

The Seahawks have been grateful they took a chance with Williams, who considered retirement after Minnesota let him become a free agent following 11 years with the Vikings.

The long-time 3-technique defensive tackle was moved to the nose tackle spot after Brandon Mebane suffered a season-ending injury, and the 34-year-old has been stellar since then. Williams, like Peppers with the Packers, is the oldest player on the team.

"He's such a savvy player that it just made sense to him because he's been around so long," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said.

That's the great advantage these guys have, of course, the tricks of the trade accumulated over the years. Despite the natural decline in strength and speed, age can still give an edge in this sport.

Wayne, who has been picked for six Pro Bowls and tallied six seasons of 1,200 yards receiving or more, has been relatively quiet at age 36 with T.Y. Hilton taking over as Andrew Luck's top option.

Wayne has been playing with a torn left triceps, but, like 42-year-old kicker Adam Vinatieri and 34-year-old defensive end Cory Redding, Wayne — making the 12th postseason appearance of his 14-year NFL career — still has a useful role.

"Let's live in this moment. Let's not worry about what goes on afterward," he said.

On the other side of the ball for the Patriots will be Wilfork, the 33-year-old five-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle who recovered well from an injury-filled season.

"I would my tail off just to get back and play football like I know how to play," he said, "and I never take nothing for granted."

## Road: Early-season struggles in the past for championship contenders

### FROM BACK PAGE

They've won 10 of 11 since, and their defense became immovable once All-Pro inside linebacker Bobby Wagner returned from a right foot injury.

Just as much in the doldrums back in early autumn as the Seahawks: Tom Brady and the Patriots. That ugly loss at Kansas City in prime time had some calling for Brady to be benched.

The three-time Super Bowl winner had little cohesion with a mediocre group of wideouts, and questions abounded concerning the running game, the offensive line, and a defense that had been torched in two of the first four games.

In the next 12 weeks, the Patriots won 10 times. Between Oct. 5 and Nov. 23, they never scored fewer than 27 points and averaged more than 39 points in a seven-game winning streak.

"It's hard to be oblivious to things," Brady said of commentaries that the Patriots were no longer elite. "We all have TVs or the Internet, or the questions I get and the emails that I get from people that are concerned. Nobody died or anything. It's just a loss and

I think we've always done a great job putting losses behind us quickly."

Green Bay's issues in a 1-2 start — spotty offense, weak blocking, questions about the secondary — soon disappeared as the Packers won nine of 10.

But one bugaboo that never truly was answered could be especially damaging on Sunday at imposing CenturyLink Field: Green Bay's road performances.

Consider that the Packers had only one truly memorable performance in going 4-4 away from Lambeau Field, a 38-17 rout of Chicago in Week 4. And pretty much everyone did that to the Bears at Soldier Field.

The Packers' journey truly has been winding on the road.

Not that they're backing down when they've traveled so far.

"It's a great opportunity, it's kind of you against ... you and your guys, the people you bring with you, in a hostile environment," All-Pro quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "It's kind of an all-in against their team and the elements, the crowd and the noise. So yeah, you feed off that."

Indianapolis has fed off being consid-



MATT LUDWIG/AP

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers led his team to the AFC Championship game after starting the season 1-2.

ered an outsider in the AFC, and especially among the remaining quarter. The other three have Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks, for instance.

Then again, the Colts might have the best bet for the future at the position in Andrew Luck.

Indy's losses (to Denver and Philadelphia to open the season, routs against Pittsburgh, Dallas and, yes, New England) were more notable than its victories, the best of which was a 27-0 romp past Cincinnati. The Colts looked vulnerable heading into January.

Then came the latest twist: wins over the Bengals and at Denver.

"That's the whole point of playing every single week," defensive end Cory Redding said. "We don't want to be the best team Week 1 and then basically shut it down for the remainder of the season. We want to grow and get better week in and week out, and in doing so you're going to take some tough losses, and you have to learn from them and bounce back. That shows you the resiliency of this team. That shows you the heart of this team. That shows you the character of this team."

## NFL PLAYOFFS

## Did you know

Russell Wilson was taken in the third round of the 2012 NFL Draft out of Wisconsin, 75th overall.



SOURCE: ESPN.com



Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson is 5-1 as the starting quarterback in playoff games, including last year's Super Bowl.

RON CORTES, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/TNS

# Can Wilson be categorized?

## On weekend of traditional passers, Seahawks QB doesn't fit mold

By TIM BHOOTH  
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — If the four quarterbacks still playing on championship weekend, Seattle's Russell Wilson is the outlier in terms of style.

Tom Brady, Andrew Luck and Aaron Rodgers all have their quarterbacking foundations built around being pocket passers first. Luck and Rodgers — when healthy — both bring an element of mobility, but it's not their forte.

Wilson? Well, a good luck defining the way he operates. "He doesn't fit the mold of anything I thought previously would be a franchise quarterback. I think he still gets a lot of hate and discredit because we don't throw the ball that often. However, what he's asked to do in this offense he does it extremely well," Seattle wide receiver Doug Baldwin said.

Headed into Sunday's NFC championship game against Green Bay, Wilson's postseason achievements can't be disputed even if he doesn't fit any preconceived notions.

After six playoff games — five of them victories — Wilson has the highest passer rating in NFL history with a minimum of 150 attempts. Wilson's mark of 109.6 is at the top. He's one of five players in league history with a playoff passer rating of 100 or above. The others are: Rodgers, Bart Starr, Kurt Warner and Drew Brees.

"I think one of the things that definitely allows me to play well is the guys around me. I've got great guys around me, guys that want to work every day, guys that are devoted to being successful and no mat-

ter what it takes," Wilson said. "I think that when you're in those moments, you either live for them or you fall off."

Last week saw Wilson at his finest. He needed just 22 pass attempts to throw for 268 yards and three touchdowns. He averaged more than 12 yards per pass attempt and threw two of the finest touch passes of his career. He dropped a 16-yard TD into the arms of Baldwin, letting go of the pass before Baldwin even made his break.

Then in the second quarter, Wilson stayed in the pocket and tossed a deep ball to Jermaine Kearse for a 63-yard touchdown that gave Seattle a 14-7 lead.

"For the most part he knows how to put touch on the ball and a lot of quarterbacks don't know how to do that," said Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon, who is part of Seattle's radio broadcast team.

"He knows how to make all the different throws. That ball to Jermaine Kearse is the best touch you'll ever see."

Wilson's performance against Carolina also countered a season where his best games were not at home. In the regular season, Wilson threw six touchdowns and six interceptions at home versus 14 TDs and one interception on the road. The three touchdown passes were a new playoff best and the 268 yards passing his second-best. Wilson's timing was crisp and his throws came in rhythm.

There's also the matter of how Wilson plays when it matters most. He already owns 14 career comebacks in 54 regular-season and playoff games combined.

"Whenever I talk to him, that's all he talks about, is living for those situations. I don't know if it all started back in high school or whatever but he just loves the big time of a game. He wants the ball in his hands. I think he would rather be behind sometimes and have the ball in his hands and be able to go down the field and win the football game," Moon said.

### By the numbers

5

Number of playoff games Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson has won as a starter since joining the league in 2012.

849

Number of rushing yards Wilson gained during the regular season this year, by far the most of his career. He has 1,872 total.

98.6

Wilson's career passer rating during the regular season. His best year was last season (101.2). His worst year was this season (95.0).

72

Wilson's career touchdown passes during the regular season. He threw 26 in each of his first two seasons, 20 this season.

SOURCE: ESPN.com

## SPORTS



**Quack, quack, quack**  
Perry's hat trick leads Ducks in shutout of Maple Leafs » **Page 25**

## NFL PLAYOFFS

# The road to Phoenix

Remaining teams have battled through injuries, adversity on way to Super Bowl's doorstep

By **BARRY WILNER**  
*The Associated Press*

**R**emember when the Patriots were 2-2 and coming off a 41-14 loss at Kansas City?

Or when the Seahawks looked fat with Super Bowl success after dipping to 3-3 with a loss at St. Louis?

The Colts lost their first two games of the year and couldn't stop good teams, giving up 51 points to Pittsburgh and 42 to Dallas, in the second half of the season.

And Green Bay started slowly again and didn't get rolling until routing Chicago after its bye.

No, none of these teams were juggernauts this season the way previous Patriots teams or last year's Seahawks were.

Yes, all four teams in this weekend's conference championships navigated a long and winding road to the title games.

"It's been quite gratifying because of the challenge of answering the Super Bowl accomplishment," said Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, whose Seahawks were fighting off the championship hangover in October.

**SEE ROAD ON PAGE 30**

## Inside:

- Seahawks' QB Wilson breaking the mold, Page 31
- Niners promote Tomsula to head coach, Page 29

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION  
BY BEN SCHILLING  
Stars and Stripes

**Ex-Army player McNary facing rape charge** » **Page 28**



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