

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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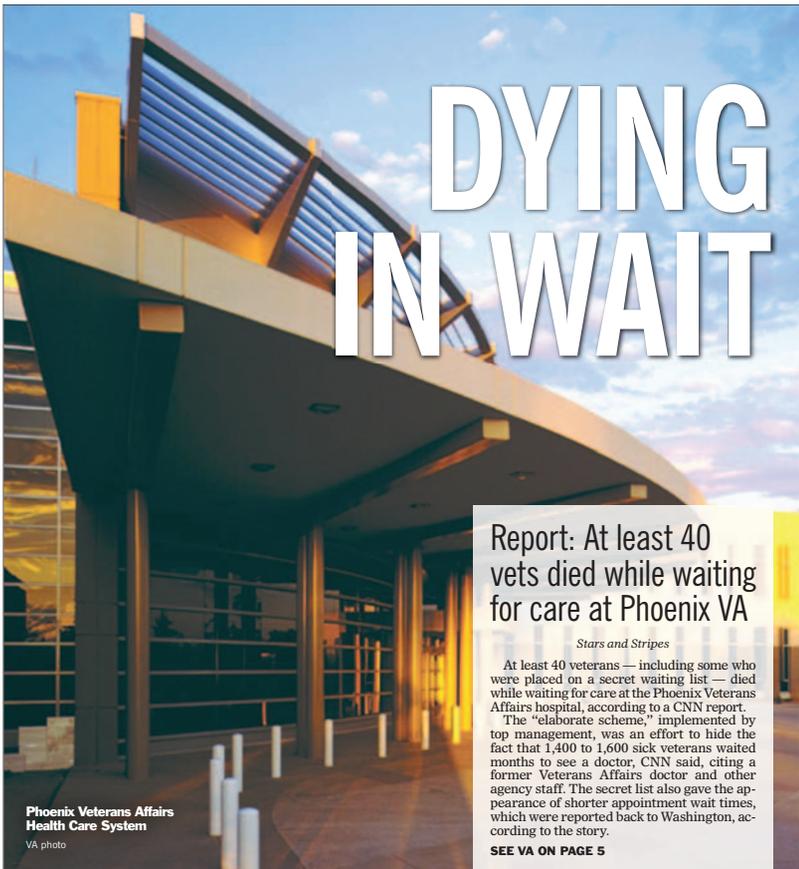
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### NBA

Road teams are off to a flying start as postseason heats up

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## Report: At least 40 vets died while waiting for care at Phoenix VA

Stars and Stripes

At least 40 veterans — including some who were placed on a secret waiting list — died while waiting for care at the Phoenix Veterans Affairs hospital, according to a CNN report.

The “elaborate scheme,” implemented by top management, was an effort to hide the fact that 1,400 to 1,600 sick veterans waited months to see a doctor, CNN said, citing a former Veterans Affairs doctor and other agency staff. The secret list also gave the appearance of shorter appointment wait times, which were reported back to Washington, according to the story.

SEE VA ON PAGE 5

Phoenix Veterans Affairs Health Care System

VA photo

## Probe of Army general calls into question insular military culture

By JENNIFER HLAD  
Stars and Stripes

An Army two-star general in Japan failed to properly investigate a sexual assault allegation against a colonel he had known for decades and referred the case to criminal investigators only after Stars and Stripes inquired about the charges, according to an Army Inspector General report released this week.

The handling of the case by Maj. Gen. Michael Harrison, then the commander of U.S. Army forces in Japan, is fueling complaints in Congress and among advocacy groups that the military is incapable of policing its ranks because commanders too often protect male colleagues at the expense of female victims.

The case, involving a Japanese civilian employee, unfolded days after

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel sent a DOD-wide memo calling for “enduring culture change” where allegations of inappropriate behavior “are treated with the utmost seriousness.”

Concerns about the behavior of the colonel — whose name is redacted in the report — were first officially raised in a June 2012 memo and a complaint was filed two months later.

SEE CULTURE ON PAGE 7

### UKRAINE UNREST



US forces take lead in NATO's response to Ukrainian crisis

Page 10

**QUOTE**  
OF THE DAY

**"Why would anyone want to work for an employer that has become as toxic as DOD. It's been nothing but a big slap in the face."**

— Dr. Jeff Wolff, who is among the nearly 700 civilian Defense Department employees who next month will have housing allowance benefits cut from their paychecks

See story on Page 8

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2. Second servicemember charged in death of AFN broadcaster
3. Relieved ex-Blue Angels leader accused of tolerating sexual harassment
4. US paratroops arrive in Poland amid tensions with Russia
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**MIDEAST**

**Report cites hostile work environment**

Former Blue Angels leader accused of tolerating hazing, sexual harassment

By CRAIG WHITLOCK  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Navy has reassigned a former commander of the Blue Angels, its aerobatic fighter squadron, and is investigating allegations that the elite team of pilots was a hotbed of hazing, sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination, documents show.

The Navy announced Friday that it had relieved Capt. Gregory McWherter, a two-time commander of the Blue Angels, of duty for suspected misconduct. At the time, the Navy did not describe the nature of the accusations or provide other details to say that the case remained under investigation.

An internal military document that a Navy official inadvertently emailed to a Washington Post editor states that a former member of the Blue Angels filed a complaint last month accusing McWherter of promoting a hostile work environment and tolerating sexual harassment. The complaint described an atmosphere rife with sexually explicit speech, the open display of pornography and jokes about sexual orientation.

The Navy officer is the latest in a string of senior military commanders to come under investigation for sexual misconduct or other misbehavior. Congress and the White House have grown especially frustrated at the Navy's struggles to police sex crimes and harassment in the ranks.

The Navy appeared to move swiftly after the former Blue Angels member filed the complaint



RON TRIVINO, COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

**Capt. Gregory McWherter, left, commanding officer of the Blue Angels, and Lt. Jim Tomaszewski sign autographs after performing at an air show in Jacksonville, Fla., in October 2010.**

March 24 with the Navy inspector general. The complaint alleged that McWherter encouraged or allowed sexual harassment and lewd activity to occur when he commanded the Blue Angels during two separate stints between 2008 and 2012.

McWherter did not respond to an email seeking comment. A Navy spokesman at the Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

According to McWherter's biography, which the Navy has removed from a public website, he is an alumnus of the Citadel and graduated from the Navy's famous "Top Gun" fighter pilot school in 1995.

The Blue Angels are a flight demonstration team that performs daring maneuvers at air shows and before large crowds at other public events. It is a major honor for pilots selected to join; the Navy treats the squadron as a valuable recruitment tool and a vivid symbol of its aviation firepower.

The commander of the unit is chosen by a panel of admirals and serves as the Blue Angels' lead pilot.

Although the investigation has not been completed, Navy officials decided that the preliminary findings warranted taking action. McWherter was fired from his new job as executive officer of Naval Base Coronado in San

Diego. He has been temporarily reassigned to other duties.

Summaries of the complaint and investigation are contained in a five-page internal document, labeled "official use only" that was drafted by Navy public affairs officers in anticipation of media coverage.

The document included talking points and prepared quotes attributed to Navy admirals, expressing concern about the gravity of the case. The material was being assembled in the event that further details of the investigation became public.

McWherter was a commander highly regarded by many in the Navy. He was brought back to lead the Blue Angels for a second stint in 2011 after the unit was temporarily grounded that year for performing a dangerous barrel roll too close to the ground during a show in Lynchburg, Va.

Upon leaving the team in November 2012, he told the Pensacola (Fla.) News Journal that he had no regrets.

"If being with the Blue Angels was the last time I fly a Navy plane, that's a pretty good way to go out," he said.

In the face of several ethics scandals during the past 18 months, the Pentagon repeatedly has pledged to hold commanders accountable for their actions. At the same time, the military has

tried to suppress details about many embarrassing episodes.

For example, the Army announced in June, without elaboration, that it had suspended its top general in Japan for mishandling a sexual assault case. On Tuesday, after obtaining a copy of the investigative report under the Freedom of Information Act, The Washington Post disclosed that the general was given a plum job at the Pentagon even though he had violated regulations by failing to refer the sexual assault complaint to criminal investigators.

In January, after obtaining another batch of investigative documents, The Washington Post reported that the Pentagon had disciplined three other generals for personal misconduct.

One was found guilty of assaulting his mistress. A second joked in emails that he sexually gratified himself after meeting a member of Congress that he described as "smoking hot." The third kept a vodka bottle in his desk and was investigated for having an affair, according to the documents.

At the same time, it appears that some military leaders have become highly sensitive to the issue and are quick to launch investigations at any hint of sexual impropriety or ethical misbehavior in the ranks.

In February, the Army announced it had suspended a brigade commander at Fort Carson, Colo., and in a highly unusual move, would not allow him to deploy with his soldiers to Afghanistan. Once again, Army officials did not divulge what had prompted the decision.

A copy of the investigative report in that case shows that the commander was suspended after three female soldiers alleged that he had made insensitive comments during a meeting to discuss sexual assault policies.

The commander, Col. Brian Pearl, later was cleared of wrongdoing and was allowed to join his troops in Afghanistan.

A copy of the investigative report first was obtained and published Tuesday by The Gazette newspaper, of Colorado Springs.

**Correction**

Due to an editing error, an April 21 story about the planned evacuation of thousands of city residents and U.S. servicemembers in the Italian city of Vicenza while a 4,000-pound World War II-era bomb is defused gave the wrong day for the evacuation. It takes place Friday, April 25.

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## MIDEAST



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

An Afghan police ambulance leaves the Cure International Hospital in Kabul on Thursday. The U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan said three American doctors were killed at by an Afghan security guard who opened fire at a hospital.

## 2nd voting round likely in Afghan presidential race

### Afghan policeman kills 3 Americans in Kabul hospital

By HEATH DRUZIN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — With more than 80 percent of the vote counted, the Afghan presidential election looks headed to a second round of voting, barring a last-minute deal.

The two frontrunners maintained their positions, with former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah just shy of 44 percent and former finance minister Ashraf Ghani getting roughly 33 percent of the vote,

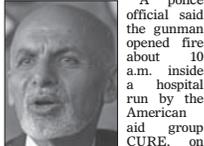
according to numbers released Thursday by the Independent Election Commission. The election would mark the first democratic transition of power in Afghanistan's history.

"To have accurate and transparent results, we needed to take two more days," he said.

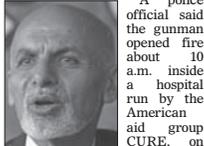
Despite Abdullah's confident predictions he would win in the first round, Nuristani said it looks unlikely anyone will win a majority of votes, a result that would trigger an automatic runoff between the two top vote-get-

ters. No other candidate is within 20 percentage points of Ghani. Abdullah, a fierce critic of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, came in second to Karzai in the controversial, fraud-tainted 2009 election.

The election commission's announcement came on a day police officials said an Afghan policeman killed three Americans inside a hospital in the Afghan capital, one of a mounting number of attacks on civilian foreigners in Afghanistan.



Abdullah



Ghani

Kabul that is also home to the country's parliament. The gunman killed three Americans as they entered the hospital and wounded an American woman, the official said.

Two of the dead were father and son and the third was a CURE International doctor who had worked in Kabul for seven years. The Associated Press reported, citing Health Minister Soraya Dalil. The Washington Post identified him as Jerry Umanos, a pediatrician from Chicago. The wounded woman is a nurse, according to the AP.

The gunman was wounded and arrested, police officials said. CURE is a religious-based

medical nonprofit organization with headquarters in Pennsylvania that focuses on care for children in developing countries.

Foreigners have been increasingly targeted in Afghanistan recently, and this is the second such shooting this month by an Afghan policeman. On April 4, Associated Press photographer Anja Niedringhaus was killed and AP reporter Kathy Gannon wounded when a police commander opened fire on their car.

A Taliban spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment, but the insurgent group vowed to step up violence during the presidential election campaign. The vote was April 5, but vote-counting is continuing, and a second round of voting would kick off a new campaign season.

Before the election, there were also deadly attacks on a Kabul hotel and restaurant, both popular with foreigners, and a botched attack on a Christian day care center for foreign children in which the attackers accidentally stormed the adjacent office of an American aid organization.

There's been a growing sense of unease among the expatriate community in Kabul, and violence in the run-up to the election led many foreign aid organizations and election monitoring groups to pull their staffs from Afghanistan temporarily.

A statement from the Interior Ministry said police are still investigating the motive of the gunman.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.  
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## Is Taliban ready to deal on captive GI?

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The captors of an American soldier held for nearly five years in Afghanistan have signaled a willingness to release him but are unclear which U.S. government officials have the authority to make a deal, according to two people in the military working for his release.

Critics of the release of poor flame disorganization and poor communication among the numerous federal agencies involved.

An ever-shrinking U.S. military presence in Afghanistan has refocused attention on efforts to bring home Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who has been held by the Taliban since June 30, 2009.

About two dozen officials at the State and Defense departments, the military's U.S. Central Command, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Special Operations Command, the CIA and FBI are working the case — most of them doing it along with their other duties, a defense official said.

Bergdahl's captors are anxious to release him, according to a defense official and a military officer, who both spoke to The Associated Press only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

"Elements in all echelons — from the top of the Taliban down to the folks holding Bergdahl — are reaching out to make a deal," the defense official said.

The military officer, who said the effort was marred by distrust on both sides, said those holding Bergdahl have indicated that they would be willing to do to prove to the U.S. government that they want to deal, but that the U.S. has not formally responded to that outreach.

Bergdahl, 28, of Hailey, Idaho, was last seen in a "proof of life" video released in December.

He is thought to be held by members of the Haqqani network, which operates in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region and has been one of the deadliest threats to U.S. troops in the war.

The Haqqani network, which the State Department designated as a foreign terrorist organization in 2012, claims allegiance to the Afghan Taliban, yet operates with some degree of autonomy.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., wrote earlier this year to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, saying it was critical that efforts to free Bergdahl are not overcome by bureaucracy.

"Given the significance and necessity for centralized com-

mand and control, which I have been informed is little to non-existent, I urge you to seriously consider the idea of directing an individual to organize, manage and coordinate activity that involves multiple elements of the federal government working toward Bergdahl's release," wrote Hunter, a Marine veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Days later, Hagel appointed Michael Lumpkin, assistant defense secretary for special operations and low-intensity conflict, as the point person for the Bergdahl case at the Pentagon. Hunter viewed that as a good step but noted that Lumpkin has jurisdiction only over the Pentagon work, not the other agencies.

"There is some reporting today about Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, and that reporting included quotes by anonymous officials alleging a lack of coordination inside this department in the handling of a recent proof of life video," Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren told reporters Thursday. "These allegations are completely false and they mischaracterize the ongoing close coordination and teamwork within this department and with other U.S. government agencies."

Warren suggested that the officials who spoke to the AP were putting Bergdahl's life in danger.

"Sgt. Bergdahl remains a captive because he's being held by terrorists, not because of a lack of effort or coordination by the United States government," he said. "Anyone who does leak this level of detail in my opinion does not have the interests or safety of Bowe Bergdahl in mind."

Warren did not elaborate on why the officials' comments might jeopardize Bergdahl's safety.

In August 2012, President Barack Obama contacted Bergdahl's parents weeks after they expressed frustration that the government wasn't doing enough to secure their son's freedom.

In May 2013, Bob Bergdahl told a POW/MIA gathering in Washington that he was pleased with the government's efforts to bring his son home.

Navy Cmdr. Amy Derrick-Frost, a Defense Department spokeswoman, also defended the effort, saying the Pentagon was committed to the safe and immediate release of Bergdahl and saying Lumpkin was spearheading the "comprehensive synchronization" of efforts throughout the department and with other agencies.

"Sgt. Bergdahl has been gone for too long, and there should be no doubt that we work hard every day using all the military, intelligence and diplomatic tools at our disposal to see Sgt. Bergdahl returned home safely," Warren said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report.



Bergdahl

## MILITARY

# DODEA's new chief eager to get started

By CHRIS CARROLL  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Collective lamentation over the falling defense budget has been part of the Washington soundtrack for several years, but it's not a tune you hear in the office of the new head of the Defense Department's elementary and secondary schools.

Thomas Brady, a retired Army colonel who took over last month as director of Department of Defense Education Activity schools, worked for years in leadership positions in struggling urban school districts beset by high poverty rates and deep fiscal problems.

In a recent interview with Stars and Stripes, he called the financial situation at DODEA, which serves 82,000 students, "a remarkable relief" by comparison. That's despite the threat of furloughs for all employees last year and the possibility that across-the-board budget cuts could be imposed again once a bipartisan budget deal expires in 2016.

"The Department of Defense has made a tremendous commitment to education, and we have to understand that the budget is getting reduced," he said. "But actually, in '14 and '15 it appears that

DODEA is getting sufficiently re-sourced, and we hope that continues in the out years."

Brady retired from the Army in 1997 after a 25-year career capped by the position of commander at Fort Belvoir, Va. With an undergraduate degree in teaching earned decades earlier, and with years of extensive involvement in parent-

teacher organizations at the schools his five children attended, he decided to refocus.

"When I got to the end of my military career, I said to myself, 'Maybe I can get into this education thing and keep the service ideal, but just do it in a different way,'" he said.

His first education job was as chief operating officer at Fairfax County Public Schools, a district serving one of the wealthiest counties in America. Ready for more of a challenge, he moved on to administrator jobs at District of Columbia and Philadelphia school districts.

Then in 2008, he was hired to run Providence, R.I., Public Schools, a district with crushing fiscal challenges — where nearly 90 percent of the students qualified for free and reduced price lunches, a federal measure of poverty.

Brady described a fiscal environment at Providence at the time where "every day is a budget battle, every day is a budget reduction, and there is

no money put into capital funding." That's unlike DODEA, which has said it would spend \$4.7 billion to repair and replace schools between 2011 and 2021.

Providence Mayor Angel Taveras in 2011 developed a crisis plan to reduce employee costs in the school district — by firing the entire teaching staff. The mass termination was planned because of rules requiring advance notification of firings, and a large majority of the teachers were later hired back.

Brady oversaw the process, but said he told the mayor to weigh the consequences, including putting at risk an innovative new agreement between the district and the teachers union to help fix failing schools.

"He thought the best approach was to do the maximum latitude" in terminating teachers, Brady said. "I pointed out the impact on the workforce and that perhaps there were other ways to approach this."

Brady resigned the following month, citing philosophical differences with the mayor.

"We are both passionate about educational reform but I realize it takes time to have a sustained, enduring reform," he said. "I wanted it to last, and short-term things don't necessarily last in the long term. We were well on the track of student improvement and student performance improvement, and so philosophically there was a difference in how to approach it."

After two years of consulting and other work, Brady found out about the DODEA director opening.

"I said, 'Wow, I can combine 25 years of military experience with 15 years of education experience in a well-resourced system and have an impact,'" he said. "My five children attended DODEA schools, my wife attended DODEA

schools and two of my grandchildren attended DOD schools, so it's sort of in the DNA."

In his first weeks on the job, Brady has been traveling in the United States and worldwide to speak with DODEA staff and parents and describe his vision for the organization. With no crises — budget-driven or otherwise — forcing radical changes, he said he would focus on a few long-term reforms rather than a host of programs and quick fixes, which he said can exhaust school staffs.

"I'm passionate about aligned curriculum with assessment, so that you know what you're taught, and the children are prepared," he said. "That's not to say that teachers have to do it by rote. I think there's a difference between, 'They make us teach it this way' and 'Here's your learning objective and you can teach it whatever way you'd like.'"

The move will be fully re-sourced, with plenty of professional development opportunities for teachers, he added.

Along with most states, DODEA signed on to the Common Core Standards for English/Literacy and math. Brady said the standards, which he plans to implement over the next 18 to 24 months, will help students, but he recognizes that the nationwide initiative has been controversial in its approach to testing.

"Common Core means many things to many people, and it's an emotive term," he said. "It's not a system, it's a set of standards and it's by grade, and I think it's a positive step. . . . But I'm not going to talk about the Common Core. I'm going to talk about college and career readiness, which is more encompassing and less confusing to the non-educators."

carroll.chris@stripes.com  
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll\_

**“Wow, I can combine 25 years of military experience with 15 years of education experience in a well-resourced system and have an impact. My five children attended DODEA schools, my wife attended DODEA schools and two of my grandchildren attended DOD schools, so it's sort of in the DNA.”**

**Thomas Brady**

Department of Defense Education Activity director

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## MILITARY

## VA: Retired doctor details appointment-request scheme

## FROM FRONT PAGE

The report quotes a recently retired doctor from the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Health Care System, Dr. Sam Foote, who explained the protocol for misreporting appointment requests.

According to Foote, when vets requested medical appointments, their information would be entered into hospital computers but not saved. A screen grab of the actual appointment data was printed, added to the secret electronic list, then shredded, erasing any public record that the actual appointment was made.

"So the only record that you have ever been there requesting care was on that secret list," Foote said in the CNN story. "And they wouldn't take you off that secret list until you had an appointment time that was less than 14 days so it would give the appearance that they were improving greatly the waiting times, when in fact they were not."

The article references the family of a 71-year-old Navy veteran who had difficulty getting a follow-up appointment after they rushed him to the Phoenix VA emergency room because of blood in his urine.

Despite a history of cancer and a chart identifying him as urgent, Thomas Breen's family could not get him in for an appointment.

Breen's wife said she called daily for appointments from late September 2013 through November. Breen died Nov. 30.

"They called me Dec. 6," his wife, Sally, told CNN.

The Phoenix VA Health Care System responded to the story, writing they would "welcome the results from the Office of Inspec-

tor General's review."

The statement went on: "We acknowledge Phoenix VA Health Care System has had longstanding issues with Veterans accessing care and have taken numerous actions to meet demand, while we continue to serve more Veterans and enhance our services." Lawmakers have since called for all records at the Phoenix VA to be preserved, according to CNN.

news@stripes.com

## Sailor slain in shooting to be honored

Stars and Stripes

The security forces sailor killed in a shooting on a warship at Naval Station Norfolk last month will be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the Navy announced Wednesday.

Family members of Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark A. Mayo will be presented the Navy and Marines' highest noncombat decoration for heroism during a private ceremony Friday at Arlington National Cemetery, where Mayo will be laid to rest.

Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval operations,

**'He gave his life for hers.'**

**Capt. Robert Clark**  
Naval Station Norfolk's  
commanding officer

Tyrone Savage, according to base officials.

"It was incredibly extraordinary. He gave his life for hers," Capt. Robert Clark, Naval Station Norfolk's commanding officer, said a few days later.

Two investigations are underway into the shooting — one by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and another looking into how the felon made it past the base checkpoints.

Mayo, a Hagerstown, Md., native, enlisted in the Navy in October 2007 and reported to Naval Station Norfolk in May 2011.

news@stripes.com

will present the award.

Mayo, 24, was shot dead March 24 by a felon who had passed through security checkpoints, boarded the USS Mahan and took a gun from a female sailor standing guard on the destroyer. Mayo came to help her and was shot by the civilian truck driver, Jeffrey

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## Prosecutors urge death penalty in slaying case

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Prosecutors urged a jury on Thursday to impose the death penalty on a former Marine who murdered a Navy sailor, arguing it's the only adequate punishment for a man they say has committed a series of violent, sexually motivated attacks on women and young girls during the past nine years.

Jurors at U.S. District Court in Alexandria heard closing arguments from prosecutors and begin deliberations on the fate of Jorge Torrez, 25, of Zion, Ill. The defense made no argument to the jury — Torrez has ordered his lawyers not to contest the government's case during the sentencing phase of the trial. On Thursday, Torrez sat impassively in front of the jury in his green jail jumpsuit, forgoing the civilian clothes he has worn all trial.

The jury already has found Torrez guilty of the murder of Petty Officer Amanda Snell, a Las Vegas native, in 2009 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, in a barracks where both lived a few doors down from each other.

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MILITARY

# Ex-DeCA chief decries commissary cuts

By Tom Philpott

A retired Army sergeant first class living in Northeast El Paso, Texas, says he and his wife will stop shopping on Fort Bliss if the Department of Defense, as planned, allows commissary prices to climb within 10 percent of local grocers.

"I am not the only one here who thinks the same way," said Louis Lindemann. "By the time we pay for gas alone, we could go to the local Albertson's or the Walmart food store around the corner. The commissary already has a number of items we can purchase cheaper on the economy."

His email arrived moments after I had concluded a phone interview with retired Army Major Gen. Richard E. Beale Jr., former director of the Defense Commissary Agency, who believes Lindemann is correct.

So many retirees, Reserve and Guard members and even active-duty families would stop shopping on base if DoD is allowed to slash commissary budgets that the entire military resale system would be at risk, Beale said.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, backed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wants DeCA's annual appropriation of \$1.4 billion cut to \$400 million by 2017. Average shopper savings of 30 percent would fall to 10 percent as commissaries become self-supporting like the military exchange systems.

Beale, who led the DeCA from

1992 to 1999 both as an officer and as the agency's first civilian director, said such a deep cut is enormously risky.

"The role of the dice is not just on whether the commissaries will survive; it's whether the entire system can survive," including exchanges and the on-base quality-of-life programs that exchange profits now support, he said.

"I certainly understand the predicament in which our civilian and military leaders find themselves," Beale said.

With defense budgets squeezed and automatic cuts threatened if Defense officials don't identify enough cuts on their own, "there are no good choices," he said.

However, Beale said, leaders are mistaken to assume commissaries can be converted into self-supporting stores and still offer discounts that attract enough customers to sustain a low-cost grocery benefit.

"What makes the commissary benefit are the appropriated dollars," Beale said. "And every dollar you take away from the appropriation is a dollar out of servicemembers' pockets."

Defense officials believe that by 2017 they will need only \$400 million a year for commissaries, to transport goods to stores overseas and to subsidize stores in remote stateside locations. Otherwise, stores can operate on their own if prices are raised and average savings lowered from 30 percent to 10 percent.

## MILITARY UPDATE

What they overlook, Beale said, is how critical robust commissary savings are to exchange operations. Traditionally, 35 to 45 percent of exchange shoppers are enticed to shop on base by commissary savings, where food prices are set at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge.

If those prices climb 20 percent to be able to pay staff salaries and other costs, not only would the number of commissary patrons fall sharply but also exchanges would see their businesses plummet, Beale predicted.

"Can you put commissaries on a cost-recovery basis using a business model like the exchanges and J.C. Penny and Walmart? In theory yes," Beale said. "In reality the answer probably is no."

The big reason is patrons won't accept it.

"Every dollar you take away from the appropriation has to be paid by someone," Beale said. "That someone, in this case, is the patron because DeCA has no other way of raising revenue."

Without hefty savings, many retirees, Guard and Reserve families and even active-duty families living far from base have little incentive to drive past their local supercenters and grocery

stores to shop on base.

Another reason the idea is risky, Beale said, is that as food discounts narrow and sales drop, commissary suppliers will raise product prices to try to offset lost profits.

Beale recalled that while he was DeCA director, the agency also was under enormous pressure to reduce its appropriations. That's when it began using a nationwide estimate of average shopper savings to tout the benefit.

"The notion of 30 percent savings on groceries for the military community was a useful sound bite, slogan, bumper sticker and rally cry," he said. But "it has now created a perception of a standard which can be trimmed with minimum consequences."

The 30 percent savings estimate is derived by comparing DeCA's Basic Ordering Agreement price points, as offered by suppliers, with pricing strategies used by grocery chains. What commissary shoppers actually save varies widely by region based on local food prices, Beale said.

"For example, in my last year at DeCA when the published national savings exceeded 29 percent, the Southern Region savings were in the low 20's whereas in the Northwest-Pacific region savings were in mid-30's," Beale said. "And so it went across the country."

More than half of active-duty forces and retired military live between Tidewater, Va., and

East Texas, he said, where actual commissary savings are "much lower than the published national average."

"I have maintained that position personally since I was the director," Beale said. "Publicly, I stuck with the party line. In retrospect, that may have been a mistake."

It means that if commissary prices are allowed to pop by 20 percent over the next three years, shoppers in the south and southeast are likely to see their discounts from shopping on base all but disappeared.

"Basing budget decisions for DeCA, and the welfare of service members, on an average national commissary savings figure is about as useless as trying to calculate an average supplement for basic housing allowances by relying upon a single nationwide figure for cost of housing," Beale said.

So a figure used for the last 15 to 20 years to help justify the commissary benefit is now used to justify reducing it, he said.

A better figure for leaders to weigh today might be "one quarter of 1 percent of the defense budget," Beale said.

That's all that's needed, he said, to preserve a benefit the U.S. military has enjoyed, in some form, for the past 189 years.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military\_Update.

## Manning name change may further request for treatment

The Washington Post

An Army soldier convicted of leaking classified military and diplomatic records persuaded a Kansas judge Wednesday to legally change her name from Bradley Manning to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning.

The judicial order in Leavenworth County District Court could be a key step in the transgender soldier's quest to get the military to devise a medical treatment plan commonly available to civilians diagnosed with gender identity disorder.

The Department of Defense bans transgender people from serving and routinely discharges servicemembers who start hormone therapy. Manning's case is forcing the Pentagon to grapple with complex legal and personnel questions because the soldier is serving a 35-year sentence in an Army prison.

In a statement attributed to Manning posted on the Chelsea Manning Support Network's website, the soldier says she has requested that the military provide her with "a treatment plan consistent with the recognized professional standards of care" for transgender individuals. Such plans can range from hormone

therapy to sex-change operations. Manning said she underwent a medical evaluation last year but has not heard whether the Army will support the type of treatment plan she seeks.

"I am optimistic that things can — and certainly will — change for the better," the statement says. "If I am successful in obtaining access to trans healthcare, it will not only be something I have wanted for a long time myself, but it will also open the door for many people, both inside and outside the military, to request the right to live more open, fulfilled lives."

Army spokesman George Wright said he could not comment on Manning's medical treatment plan. He said that Army records will henceforth refer to Manning by her new legal name but that the military continues to regard the soldier as a male.

"This court action is only a name change and will have no bearing on his current status other than the name change in his records," Wright said in an email.

A spokesman at Fort Leavenworth, where Manning is serving his sentence, added: "He's still 'imie' Manning here. His records will reflect the new first name. That's it."

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## MILITARY

# Culture: Harrison transferred victim instead of referring her case to CID

## FROM FRONT PAGE

The name of the person who filed that complaint has been redacted in the investigation report.

In February 2013, the Japanese woman, a civilian administrative assistant, filed a complaint alleging the colonel had sexually harassed and assaulted her in July 2012.

Instead of referring the case to the Army Criminal Investigation Command, as required by regulations, Harrison ordered an internal investigation and transferred the woman, thinking this would resolve the problem.

According to the report, the woman eventually approached a Stars and Stripes reporter, feeling that everyone was "scared" of Harrison.

The next day — May 16, 2013 — Stars and Stripes made queries.

The report states that the woman "felt the Stars and Stripes pushed USAR-J to do the right thing. After she spoke to the media, the next day CID contacted her" — some 73 days after filing the complaint.

The Army IG received the complaint against the colonel about sexual assault and harassment on May 21, and three days later ordered an investigation of "senior leader actions" in the

handling of the case.

The Army suspended Harrison in June, and sent him to the Pentagon to be the director of program analysis and evaluation for an Army deputy chief of staff.

According to the investigation report, Harrison and another colonel discussed Stars and Stripes' query shortly after it was made and decided not to respond.

Instead, Harrison and the colonel decided to "slow roll their response because the Stars and Stripes was not always favorable to them."

The officers "hoped to finish their AR 15-6 investigation before the story came out," the report said.

Stars and Stripes continued to ask the Army about the results of the investigation against him.

On Jan. 30, 2014, a spokeswoman told Stars and Stripes that nothing had changed, however, the IG investigation was completed in August, and he was reprimanded in December.

On March 27, Lt. Col. Alayne Conway told Stripes she was "coordinating a response" and would send it as soon as possible.

But the Army kept the results under wraps until this week, when it released a heavily redacted version of the investigative report in response to Freedom of

**‘Our troops deserve a justice system that reflects the ideals they are charged with upholding — not second-rate justice guided more by politics and bias than evidence.’**

**Greg Jacob**

former Marine and policy director for Service Women's Action Network

Information Act requests filed by The Washington Post.

The IG report found that Harrison:

- Failed to investigate allegations against a colonel he had known since the mid-1980s

- Failed to treat the victim with dignity and fairness

- Failed to flag the commander

- Directed a command investigation of the crime instead of referring it to Army criminal investigators

- Failed to remove the colonel from his position even after he was aware of a pattern of misconduct.

Advocacy groups for victims of military sexual assault said the case is simply the latest in a string of cases in which commanders have protected perpetrators at the expense of victims.

"How many times do we have to see that the military is incapable of self-policing?" said Nancy Parrish, president of Protect Our Defenders.

"Simply saying everyone is accountable does not make it so. Only when we remove the command bias and conflict of interest from the military justice system will we achieve transparency and accountability. ... Too often, those in power are not being held accountable without pressure from the outside."

Greg Jacob, a former Marine and policy director for Service Women's Action Network, said Harrison's decision "to bury or delay sexual assault investigations because of his personal relationship with the accused is yet another example of a system in which justice is subject to the whim of the commander.

"Our troops deserve a justice system that reflects the ideals they are charged with upholding — not second-rate justice guided more by politics and bias than evidence."

Army spokesman George Wright said there is "a lengthy administrative process for investigating and taking action on allegations of misconduct."

The Washington Post reported that Harrison was reprimanded in December and submitted retirement paperwork this month; Wright said Harrison chose to request retirement instead of being subject to possible involuntary separation from the Army.

"After the inspector general substantiated allegations that Maj. Gen. Harrison failed to act properly when allegations of sexual assault were made against a subordinate, he was relieved of his duties ... and administratively reprimanded, effectively ending his career with the United States Army," Wright said. "There should be no mistake that we will thoroughly investigate any allegations of impropriety, and take appropriate action when warranted."

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## MILITARY

# 'A big slap in the face'

Civilians losing LQA vent anger as cutoff nears

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Dr. Jeff Wolff loves working with the patients at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. So why leave suddenly after more than a decade?

Wolff is among the nearly 700 civilian Defense Department employees who next month will have housing allowance benefits cut from their paychecks. Wolff will be leaving Germany on Monday — just days before the cuts take effect — for a job with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Texas.

At issue are conflicting opinions over whether an obscure set of State Department regulations allow certain locally hired workers to receive housing allowance benefits. Affected employees contend that DOD is retroactively applying a new interpretation to a decades-old regulation governing who is eligible for Living Quarters Allowance. DOD counters that it is obliged to enforce regulations.

The DOD determined last year that 659 overseas civilian employees, mainly in Europe and the Pacific, were receiving housing allowances in error — a contention refuted by the workers themselves — as one year LQA extension was provided to help employees plan for a future without the subsidy. That extension expires in early May — the dates differ for individuals affected.

"I've been here 11 years and these are the greatest patients in the world," Wolff said of the troops wounded in war and aging veterans he has cared for and treated. Wolff said he leaves with a great deal of anger directed at the DOD.

"This last year has been a total fiasco," Wolff said. "Why would anyone want to work for an employer that has become as toxic as DOD. It's been nothing but a big slap in the face."

During the past year, DOD has urged workers to file special requests to be relieved of debts associated with past LQA payments. Workers who have not made such a request by the time LQA expires, will have their wages garnished in addition to having to cover their housing expenses out of pocket.

At least 556 of the 659 affected employees have requested waivers and 483 have been approved. Others continue to be processed. To date no one has been denied a request for debt relief, according to the Defense Finance and Accounting Services website.



John Vandiver/Stars and Stripes

**Dr. Jeff Wolff, a civilian physician at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, is among the nearly 700 overseas civilians who the Defense Department says received a housing allowance in error. Without the benefit, Wolff says he is leaving DOD employment abroad and relocating to the U.S.**

However, the challenge of making ends meet in costly overseas locales without an allowance still remains, employees said.

Some, such as Wolff, have managed to find work stateside, but others say they are looking for ways to economize or planning to dip into savings to help cover the costs of rent and utilities.

The workers' dispute with DOD stems from a 2011 ruling by the Office of Personnel Management, which determined that locally hired employees are eligible for LQA only if they worked for no more than one non-government employer overseas before joining government service. For years, many personnel offices had interpreted the rule differently.

"I'm still trying to figure out how someone today can reinterpret what someone else wrote 30 years ago and absolutely no one of authority questions it," said Michael Taylor, an Air Force civilian at Ramstein Air Base. "It became the new law unchallenged and was retroactively applied."

DOD officials, however, say they are obligated to enforce regulations and point to the measures taken to ease the financial pain of employees, such as the debt waivers and one-year extension of housing benefits.

Taylor, who lives in a small village near Kaiserslautern, said he won't walk away from a job he loves with the Air Force, where he works as a foreign treaty analyst, but is holding out hope DOD will eventually restore the benefits he was promised when he was hired.

"We will probably make ends meet, but it certainly is a hardship," Taylor said.

Joni Thomas, another Air Force civilian at Ramstein whose debt was waived, said DOD should honor the original terms of her employment, which guaranteed a housing allowance.

"It feels like a betrayal," she said. "Most of us are veterans who have sacrificed to let us and elected to continue to serve as civilians. I think it is a tragedy the way they are treating people who have given so much. This could have been handled with a swipe of a pen."

Many of the affected civilians have banded together over the past year, trying to galvanize support for their argument and have garnered several high-level supporters, including European Command's Gen. Philip Breedlove and Africa Command's Gen. David Rodriguez, who have both issued letters urging DOD to restore the benefits.

In addition, several lawmakers have voiced concern, even calling on the Government Accountability Office to investigate DOD's management of housing allowances.

Karen Diks, an Air Force civilian at Aviano Air Base, Italy, said she and her family have been saving money all year to prepare for the loss of LQA. For now, Diks said, she needs to stay in Italy to be close to her terminally ill father-in-law in Europe. Even after housing benefits go away, the push to get a better resolution will press on, she said.

"I think what they (DOD) are doing is wrong and immoral," Diks said. "It's been a long year, but we are not giving up. It shouldn't have to be this way."

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# New locations open for shipping vehicles

By ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Servicemembers planning to ship vehicles as part of a permanent change of station should check the location of pick up and drop off points, as some locations around the world are changing and a few are closing.

The location change is due to the hiring of a new contractor.

U.S. Navy Capt. Aaron Stanley, a director with Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, said most of the new locations will be in the same city as the old pick-up and drop-off points.

International Auto Logistics, the new provider, had to "identify locations where they could conduct operations," including securing lease or purchasing facilities, Stanley said.

The previous contractor, American Auto — which, according to a company spokesman, was outbid for the \$304.5 million contract — will continue to deliver vehicles it has already picked up to the old locations, Stanley said.

Locations owned by the government — mainly in Germany and Italy — will be closed on May 1 and 2 while the two contractors switch employees; they will, however, accept emergency vehicle drop-offs, according to officials. These sites will reopen for all business on May 5.

American will continue limited operations to deliver vehicles already shipped to these locations until Aug. 1, Stanley said.

Troop reductions have led the government to close eight locations, most in the U.S. and England, officials said. Seven of them will close on May 1, and one in Mannheim, Germany, has already closed.

International has established a website, pcsmpov.com, for customers to find information about shipping a vehicle and tracking its progress.

Besides the change in locations and new website, Stanley said,

## Vehicle processing

Here are new U.S. vehicle processing center addresses for International Auto Logistics effective May 1:

- Atlanta: 3025 Sylvian Road, Atlanta, Ga. 30354
- Baltimore: 10701 Midway Road, Odenton, Md. 21113
- Charleston, S.C.: 3601 N. Meeting St., North Charleston, S.C. 29405
- Dallas: 257 Heinz Way, Grand Prairie, Texas 75051
- Los Angeles: 14611 S. Broadway St., Gardena, Calif. 90248
- Norfolk, Va.: 1215 Executive Boulevard, Chesapeake, Va. 23320
- Seattle, Wash.: 840 Industry Way, North Everett, Wash. 98201
- St. Louis: 13918 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, Mo. 63044
- San Diego: 11433 Woodside Ave., Santee, Calif. 92071

The following are new overseas vehicle processing center addresses for receiver of vehicles effective May 1:

- Anchorage, Alaska: 300 LaTouche St., Anchorage, AK 99501
- Fairbanks, Alaska: 5250 Airport Industrial Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709
- Bahrain: Al Mussakir 940, East Riffa Industrial Area, Bahrain
- Brandon, UK: Field Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 1JL, UK
- Aviano, Italy: Via del Longobardi 49, 33030 S. Maria, Italy
- San Juan, Puerto Rico: 45 Calle 1 Parque Industrial, San Juan, PR 00936
- Rota, Spain: Calle de Pariente, 11500 El Puerto de Santa Maria, (Cadiz) Spain
- Incirkli, Turkey: Yenimahalle 33 Sokak No. 31 TR-01340 Incirlik, Turkey
- Izmir, Turkey: Doganlar Mah. 147 Sokak TR-35040 Bornova, Izmir, Turkey

Eight of the 46 VPCs will permanently close on May 1 in the U.S. and overseas.

- VPCs slated for closure in the U.S.: Orlando, Fla. and Oakland, Calif.
- VPCs overseas that have closed, or are slated for closure, include Mannheim, Germany (closed); RAF Goodenough, England; RAF Mereworth Hill, England; and Seville, Spain.

there are virtually no other differences between shipping a vehicle with the old and new contractors.

The Defense Department previously used several contractors to ship vehicles, so different vendors could have been responsible for the ocean and land shipments of vehicles, according to a DOD release. This changed in 1998, when American won the contract and became solely responsible for all aspects of transporting a vehicle, the release says.

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## MILITARY

# USS Firebolt sailors remembered decade later

By HENDRICK SIMOES  
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Approximately 200 servicemembers from various nations gathered at Naval Support Activity Bahrain for a remembrance ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of a suicide bombing in the Persian Gulf that killed two sailors and a Coast Guardsman.

On April 24th, 2004, a seven-member team from the USS Firebolt, a coastal patrol ship, was dispatched in an inflatable boat to clear multiple fishing dows that were operating in a restricted area around an Iraqi oil terminal.

As the team approached one of the dows, it abruptly maneuvered toward the Firebolt crew and blew up, according to a declassified Navy report detailing the incident, kill-

ing Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Pernaselli, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Watts and Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Bruckenthal. The others on the boat were badly injured.

Two other boats exploded 16 minutes later in the vicinity of another oil terminal, leading analysts to believe it was part of a coordinated terrorist attack on Iraq's infrastructure, the report said.

U.S. 5th Fleet Commander Vice Adm. John Miller praised the crew of the USS Firebolt for thwarting the terrorist attack on Iraqi infrastructure and told sailors in attendance at the ceremony that they were the vanguard against current threats in the region.

"The potential threats to this infrastructure are as great today as they were in 2004," Miller said.

The current crewmembers of the USS Firebolt, now based in Bahrain, were present at the ceremony, which included a rededication of a memorial.

"It's great that we are here remembering our fallen brothers," said Petty Officer 1st Class Kyle Peterson, a Firebolt crewmember. He said the Firebolt's small crew is like a family.

"I couldn't imagine losing some of my friends, family members and brothers like they did 10 years ago," he said.

There are eight coastal patrol ships based in Bahrain where the 5th Fleet is headquartered, including the USS Firebolt. Two more coastal patrol ships are expected to be based here this summer.

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HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

**Servicemembers from around the world gathered at Naval Support Activity Bahrain on Thursday for a memorial ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of an attack on USS Firebolt personnel.**

## Agreement signed on guidelines for unplanned maritime encounters

By CHRIS CARROLL  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 20 nations that operate in the Western Pacific have agreed to guidelines for unplanned maritime encounters that might prevent incidents like one last year in which a Chinese Navy ship nearly collided with a U.S. guided missile cruiser.

The Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea was approved

Tuesday at a meeting of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium in Qingdao, China, by naval chiefs from countries including the United States, China, Japan, Russia, Australia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

A territorial dispute between China and Japan over the uninhabited Senkaku Islands has at times threatened to escalate, and China has separate disputes with other neighbors that have inflamed tensions

in the region. In December, a Chinese warship cut in front of the USS Cowpens with only 100 yards to spare, U.S. officials say, forcing the ship to make sharp maneuvers to avoid collision.

The new guidelines will provide common standards for different navies to follow, a Pentagon spokesman said Wednesday.

"It offers safety procedures, basic [communication] plans and basic maneuvering instructions

for naval ships and naval aircraft during unplanned encounters at sea," Col. Steve Warren told reporters. "We fully support efforts to standardize maritime conduct and improve operational safety at sea."

The measure has been in development since 1999, Warren said. The agreement is not legally binding, the Navy said.

Nevertheless it's a big step toward making operations in the

area safer, U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert said in a press release.

"We've agreed to increase the standards that we will set at sea," he said. "We've agreed to establish proficiency in communications. We've agreed to establish common behavior at sea. We've agreed to prevent misunderstandings and miscalculations."

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## UKRAINE UNREST

## US again takes lead in eastern Europe aid

By NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The U.S. is so far providing more resources to shoring up eastern European allies made nervous by a newly assertive Russia than other NATO members, again testing the alliance that has struggled throughout the war in Afghanistan.

On Wednesday, a company from the Vicenza-based 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team arrived at an air base in northwestern Poland, part of a commitment the U.S. announced Tuesday to send about 600 troops to Poland and the Baltics for training exercises.

As a second company of some 150 U.S. paratroopers left Italy Thursday, it was clear that the U.S. has committed far more resources to bolstering NATO members in eastern Europe that border Russia than their closer allies in Western Europe.

The paratroop company that flew out on Thursday headed to Latvia, the unit's executive officer, Maj. James Downing, said, adding that by Monday two more companies will be on the ground in Lithuania and Estonia.

In addition to the troops, which are to train with Polish, Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian soldiers, the U.S. has also sent a dozen F-16 fighter jets and their crews, roughly 300 people, to Poland; six additional F-15 fighters with about 60 servicemembers and two KC-135 refueling tankers to Lithuania; and the frigate USS Taylor to the Black Sea.

"The U.S. is the only country

which is answering the problem," said Witold Waszczykowski, a Polish diplomat and parliamentarian who previously served as the country's foreign minister.

He said the 600 U.S. paratroops sent from Vicenza to Poland and the Baltics was the result of bilateral decisions between the U.S. and those countries.

"It was not a NATO decision," he said. "I would expect NATO would soon explain its position. We hope they join with the U.S."

NATO is currently deploying a flotilla in the Baltic Sea consisting of the Norwegian flagship the HNoMs Valkyrien and four minehunters from the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway and Estonia. Its AWACS reconnaissance planes have been flying regular surveillance flights along the Soviet border to monitor the crisis in that country.

Meanwhile, several member nations have offered additional aircraft to boost NATO's Baltic air policing mission, in which warplanes from alliance nations take turns patrolling the skies over the three Baltic states that have no fighters of their own.

Polish air force MiG-29s are due to take over from the Americans in June. Plans call for them to be joined by Danish F-16s.

That rotation will be followed by Portuguese F-16s in September. Germany and Britain also have proposed sending Eurofighter Typhoon air superiority jets to reinforce the patrols, as has France with its Dassault Rafales.

That the U.S. sent assets into the region ahead of other NATO

countries wasn't surprising, said Nick Witney, a former head of the European Defense Agency.

"America always takes the lead in NATO; that's the nature of the beast," he said. "The whole psychology of the alliance is to look to the Americans in any crisis like this, and then to fall in behind Washington."

NATO's European members still depend on the U.S. security guarantees, even though Russia is militarily weaker than the Europeans, he said.

"The conventional threat that Russia poses to Europe nowadays isn't particularly alarming," said Witney, now a senior fellow at the European Council of Foreign Relations.

But Russia remains a nuclear threat. "It's America's final guarantee, the nuclear guarantee," he said.

NATO, formed after World War II to contain the Soviet Union and guarantee the security of Western Europe, began expanding into eastern Europe a decade after the fall of the Berlin Wall, dissolution of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact alliance and the breakup of the USSR. It is supposed to be the primary responder to increased tensions with Russia.

Both the U.S. and Western Europe are wary of confronting Russia militarily or through tough economic sanctions, seeking to avoid an escalation of tensions and, in Western Europe, causing significant business and energy problems.

The deployment of military assets along the edges of the all-

iance as a deterrent to Russia has been hailed by NATO as a demonstration of alliance solidarity.

The officers by the U.S. and others to enhance readiness in eastern European nations "reflects Alliance solidarity and our core task to protect and defend our Allies," NATO deputy spokesperson Carmen Romero said in an email. "We are taking legitimate steps to deal with the instability created by Russia's reckless actions."

Troops with the 173rd training in eastern Europe are aware of that role, said Maj. Mike Weisman, a 173rd spokesman.

"We know we're here to bolster our NATO allies, but for the paratroopers, they're just really excited about doing airborne ops and live-fire exercises with the 6th Polish Airborne Brigade," Weisman said.

Weisman said he expected the company in Poland — Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment — would be training for about a month with the Polish brigade before another unit rotated in.

The Pentagon announced the 173rd deployment Tuesday, a few days after the unit's soldiers got the word, according to Weisman.

"This came together very fast," he said. "What we're going to do is something that would usually take months to plan. But we are the Army's contingency force. That's kind of what we do."

About 40,000 Russian troops are massed on Ukraine's eastern border and U.S. officials say Russia has sent special operatives into eastern Ukraine to destabi-

lize the country, which is not a member of NATO.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has asserted the right to intervene in Ukraine to protect the rights of ethnic Russians and Russian speakers. His defense minister on Thursday announced new military exercises along the Ukrainian border — just hours after Ukrainian troops killed at least two pro-Russia insurgents in eastern Ukraine.

"The fundamental understanding of security in Europe has now collapsed," Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves told The New York Times. "Everything that has happened since 1989 has been predicated on the fundamental assumption that you don't change borders by force, and that's now out the window."

"It's an extremely dangerous situation," Waszczykowski said.

"NATO is supposed to react to this. If we don't react, this is encouragement to other countries — Iran, Syria, North Korea, Venezuela. We'll go back to the law of the jungle."

Waszczykowski said that Russia should be isolated, disinvented from all cultural, sporting and educational events and exchanges.

"Russian society supports the imperial designs of Putin," he said, pointing to Putin's 80 percent approval rating.

"They're enjoying this. They think they're coming back to the glorious time of the Soviet Union."

Stars and Stripes reporters Slobodan Lekic and Kent Harris contributed to this report. [montgomery.nancy@stripes.com](mailto:montgomery.nancy@stripes.com)

## Obama: More sanctions imminent

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO, Japan — The United States is prepared to impose additional sanctions within days if Russia continues its aggression in Ukraine, President Barack Obama said Thursday.

Russia is not abiding by an agreement it negotiated with the U.S., Ukraine and the European Union in Geneva this month that calls for the dissolution of outlaw military groups, the return of occupied buildings and public spaces and amnesty for anti-government protesters in Ukraine, Obama told reporters after a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo.

"So far, we have not seen them (the Russians) abide by the spirit or the letter of the agreement in Geneva," Obama said.

The government in Kiev has offered constitutional reforms consistent with what was agreed, but militias and armed men continue to take over buildings and harass people who don't agree with them, he said.

"If Russia continues on the path it is on, there will be further sanctions," Obama said.

"This is a matter of days and not weeks," he said. "If they don't follow through, we will follow through on what we said, which is, there will be additional consequences on the Russians."

The U.S. has been preparing for the possibility that the Geneva agreement might not pan out, Obama said.

"We have been preparing for the prospect that we are going to have to engage in further sanctions," he said. "Those are teed up. ... The fact that I haven't announced them yet doesn't mean they haven't been prepared."

Sanctions hurt Russia more than anybody else, but they are disruptive to the global economy, Obama said.

"What we have got to do is make sure that we are very clear about what we stand for and believe in and we are willing to take action on behalf of those values," he said.

However, additional sanctions might not change Russian President Vladimir Putin's calculus, he said. "That's why there has got to be a lot of diplomatic spade work done in each phase of this process."

Russia can reverse course,

Obama said, back the Geneva agreement and call on those occupying buildings in Ukraine to vacate them, allow monitors access and support free elections.

"So I think they are going to do that? Do it, because the evidence doesn't make me hopeful," he said.

Obama said there isn't going to be a military solution to the problems in Ukraine but said the U.S. needn't go to war or stand prepared to engage militarily to show that it is serious about international norms.

He cited Syria as an example of how diplomats can work with out military involvement, saying 87 percent of Syria's chemical weapons had been removed.

"The fact that we didn't have to fire a missile to get that accomplished is not a failure ... it's a success. It's not a complete success until we have the last 13 percent out," Obama said.

The United States' position is that countries should abide by international law, he said.

"Those norms are violated when you gas children or when you invade the territory of another country."

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ALEXANDER ZEMLIANCHENKO/AP

## Tension in Ukraine

A pro-Russian armed man guards a checkpoint near Krasny Linam village outside Sloviansk, Ukraine, on Thursday. Ukrainian forces on Thursday killed at least two pro-Russian insurgents in the country's tumultuous east, an escalation that prompted Russian President Vladimir Putin to threaten unspecified consequences.

## OBAMA IN ASIA



ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

President Barack Obama reviews troops from the Japan Self-Defense Force at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Thursday. Obama, who met with Emperor Akihito at the palace, also discussed the Japan-U.S. security alliance with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

# Obama: Japan pact covers islands

## Statement on disputed Senkakus draws strong reply from China

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The disputed Senkaku Islands fall under the scope of the Japan-U.S. security alliance, President Barack Obama said Thursday, a statement that provoked a sharp critique from Beijing.

Standing beside Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Tokyo's Akasaka Palace, Obama told a news conference that the defense treaty covers all areas administered by Japan, including the Senkakus.

The islands and the waters surrounding them — which encompass valuable fisheries and natural gas fields — are claimed by both Japan and China, and both countries have repeatedly scrambled fighter jets there in recent years. China has also established an air defense identification zone over the islands, which Japan and several other nations reject.

Maritime incidents in nearby waters have also increased since Japan nationalized the islands in 2012.

"We don't take a position on final sovereignty determinations with respect to the Senkakus, but historically they have been administered by Japan, and we don't believe that they should be subject to change unilaterally," Obama said.

He reaffirmed an article of the U.S.-Japan security treaty that calls on the United States to defend Japan if any of its territories are attacked.

"Article Five covers all territories under Japan's administration, including the Senkaku Islands," Obama said, adding later, "The treaty between the U.S. and Japan preceded my birth, so obviously this isn't a red line that I'm drawing."

Disputes in the region should be resolved peacefully and nations should respect international law and freedom of navigation, he said.

"In our discussions I emphasized with Prime Minister Abe the importance of

resolving this issue peacefully ... not escalating the situation ... keeping the rhetoric low ... not taking provocative actions," he said.

On Wednesday, China Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang criticized the U.S. position on the islands, which China calls the Diaoyutai.

"China firmly opposes the inclusion of the Diaoyu Islands into the U.S.-Japan security treaty," Qin said. "The U.S. should respect facts, act responsibly, stick to its commitment of taking no sides in relevant territorial disputes, think twice before saying or doing anything and truly play a constructive role in ensuring regional peace and stability."

Obama said the U.S. has strong relations with China.

"They are a critical country not just to the region but the world. We want to continue to encourage the peaceful rise of China," he said.

"But what we have also emphasized ... is that all of us have responsibilities to help maintain the basic rules of the road and international order."

The alternative would be a world where large countries feel they can take actions which would disadvantage smaller nations, Obama said.

"That's not the type of world that's going to be stable and prosperous and secure for long," he said. "My hope is that China will continue to engage with us and other countries in the region."

Obama said he and Abe discussed a range of other issues during their meeting.

"I have said many times the United States is and always will be a Pacific nation. America's security and prosperity are inseparable from the future of this region," he said at the start of a trip that also will take him to South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines.

That position is built on a foundation of America's historic treaties, including the one with Japan, he said.

"We agreed to continue deepening our security cooperation," Obama said. "As we modernize our defense posture in the region, our forces in Japan will include our most advanced military capabilities."

Examples of U.S.-Japan cooperation cited by Obama included delivering relief supplies together in the Philippines following last year's typhoon and a unified response to Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Abe reaffirmed his commitment to "steady progress" in replacing Marine Corps Air Station Futenma with a permanent facility on Okinawa. The move is supported by both governments but faces opposition from Okinawa civic groups and from the mayor where the new facility is ready to be built.

The U.S. and Japan are moving closer to agreement on issues such as trade in agriculture and vehicles as part of the Trans Pacific Partnership trade talks, Obama said.

"American manufacturers and farmers need meaningful access to markets ... that's my bottom line," he said.

Japan has an opportunity to play a leadership role in the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st century, he said.

"Now is the time for bold steps," Obama said.

Stars and Stripes staffer Erik Slavik contributed to this story.  
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# China seen dominating Obama trip

By DAVID J. LYNCH  
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's trip to Asia this week will be dominated by a country he's not even visiting: China.

Each of the four nations on the president's itinerary is involved in territorial disputes with an increasingly assertive China. Years of military spending gains have boosted the capabilities of the People's Liberation Army faster than many defense analysts expected, casting a shadow over relations between China and its neighbors and sparking doubts about long-term prospects for the U.S. presence in the Pacific.

"There are growing concerns about what China is up to in the maritime space," said Bonnie Glaser, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "There's a widely held view in the region that the U.S.-China relationship is tipping toward being much more confrontational."

Obama arrived Wednesday in Japan, the start of a weeklong journey that also will take him to South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines. On display throughout will be the challenge of managing the uneasy relationship with China, the United States' No. 2 trading partner and an emerging rival for global influence.

For almost three years, Obama has sought to reorient U.S. foreign policy toward the Asia-Pacific region after more than a decade consumed by war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Though the president says the change isn't about containing China, a Sino-U.S. trade last year topped \$562 billion, a 38 percent jump from five years earlier — administration officials recently toughened their response to China's muscular foreign policy.

Danny Russel, assistant secretary of state for East Asia, in February labeled China's claim to almost all of the South China Sea, hundreds of miles from its shoreline, as "inconsistent with international law."

Adm. Harry Harris, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, told an Australian audience on April 9, "I am concerned by the aggressiveness of the Chinese military, their lack of transparency, and a pattern of increasingly assertive behavior in the region."

The statements signaled mounting U.S. alarm following China's establishment in November of an "air defense identification zone" in the East China Sea, which overlapped with Japanese and South Korean airspace.

China's growing strength in recent years has spawned a welter of territorial conflicts. The most serious involve uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, which Japan claims as the Senkakus and China calls Diaoyu.

Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia are among the countries disputing China's expansive claim to the South China Sea and its energy resources, while the Philippines last month filed a complaint against China with an international arbitration panel.

China's South Sea claims have tussled over rights to a submerged formation that China calls the Suyan Rock and South Korea knows as the Ledge.

Even as tensions in East Asia remain high, U.S. officials insist they can toggle between cooperation and confrontation in their dealings with the world's second-largest economy.

ANALYSIS

## OBAMA IN ASIA



South Korean protesters hold photos of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a rally against recent missile launches and provocative acts, in Seoul, South Korea, on April 15.

LEE JIN-MAH/AP

# S. Korean strategy: Engage, pressure

## President Park Geun-hye aims for changing a neighbor that doesn't want to change

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — After weathering a number of North Korean provocations during her first year on the job, South Korea's president may be learning the same lesson as her predecessors: Her influence with North Korea is limited because so much depends on Pyongyang's willingness to change and cooperate.

Recent weeks have epitomized the peninsula's volatility — a swing from hope as the two Koreas held emotional reunions of elderly family members separated for decades by the Demilitarized Zone to confrontation as both sides lobbed hundreds of shells across their maritime border.

That was followed by the discovery of two rudimentary drones believed to belong to North Korea, one of which may have flown over and photographed the Blue House, the presidential residence and office.

"One of the givens is that North Korea will pull your chain once in a while, and you're going to have your will tested every once in a while," said Bruce Bechtol, a North Korea expert at Angelo State University in Texas.

The next test could come as soon as this week, with President Barack Obama planning a two-day visit to South Korea starting Friday.

On its government-run website, North Korea called Obama's visit dangerous, saying it was "aimed to escalate confrontation and bring dark clouds of a nuclear arms race to have over this unstable region."

On Tuesday, South Korea's defense ministry said there are signs that North Korea could be preparing to carry out a fourth nuclear test.

"A lot of activity is currently being seen, so our forces are keeping in mind the possibility that North Korea may suddenly conduct a nuclear test in a short period of time, or as in previous cases, deceive us

with what appears to be a nuclear test," said Kim Min-seok, the spokesman for Seoul's Defense Ministry, according to a Yonhap News agency report.

Unless North Korea launches an attack that inflicts casualties, as it did against the South's warship Cheonan in 2010, President Park Geun-hye will likely maintain her dual strategy of engagement and pressure, Bechtol said.

"I think her hands would be tied then," he said. "She would have no choice but to take very stern measures."

Park, who took office in February 2013, will maintain her signature "trustpolitik" strategy — described by administration watchers as a tit-for-tat mix of confidence-building initiatives combined with the threat of a strong response to military provocations, Blue House spokeswoman Yoo Myung-hee said earlier this month.

"But right now, in the face of North Korea's recent provocative actions, there will be greater emphasis toward taking a firm position against the North," Yoo said, adding that such an approach would "include consequences for provocative actions but flexibility."

In an apparent show of muscle, South Korean defense officials have announced that the country test-fired a new ballistic missile capable of striking anywhere within the North and plan to deploy the weapon next year. Officials denied that the announcement's timing was related to the exchange of artillery fire along the Northern Limit Line.

A congressional assessment of U.S.-South Korea relations released earlier this year said the Obama administration has supported Park's policy, though "it is not clear how the Park government will resolve the seeming contradiction between the impulses of toughness and flexibility."

Analysts say a number of events could have triggered the North's recent actions, from anger over last month's trilateral

summit between the U.S., South Korea and Japan to a need to shore up internal support for Kim Jong Un. Pyongyang may have even wanted to wrap up an ongoing period of military training in time for troops to help with the spring planting season.

But almost certainly, it was showing defiance against U.S.-South Korean spring military drills, which wrapped up recently. Some 12,700 U.S. troops and 200,000 South Korean troops took part in the annual Foal Eagle exercise, which included their largest joint amphibious landing drill and the Navy's P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft's first training missions on the peninsula.

"North Korea wanted to show that it would not be a coward," said Yoo Chan-yl, a political science professor at Dukung Women's University in Seoul. "North Korea wanted to show that it will not be quiet, it will not be calm. It wanted to say, 'We will not lose.'"

Go Myong-Hyun, a research fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul, said Pyongyang was reacting to a March 28 speech by Park in Dresden, Germany, in which she offered humanitarian aid and development assistance while urging the North to denuclearize. In essence, Park was trying to set up a firewall between the political and non-political issues that face the two Koreas — something the North, which has repeatedly used brinkmanship to wring aid from the West, strongly opposes, he said.

"It wants South Korea to understand that the only way to solve the North Korea issue is the way North Korea wants," he said. "North Korea wants economic aid on its own terms. There will be no deal."

Park likely expected the North to respond with some show of force to her speech and will "stick to her guns" despite the shelling.

Go said her "trustpolitik" approach,

which he described as a "work in progress that didn't have all the details thought out clearly," combines elements of one president's policy of engagement and another's stance against yielding anything to the North.

"She's trying to come up with a carrot that's not going to be misused by North Korea," Go said.

The North's attack appeared to be intentional given the number of shells it fired, and the fact that so many crossed the maritime border into South Korean territory, Bechtol said.

"They were trying to raise the stakes a little bit and see how the South reacted," he said, adding that the South's response, which included scrambling F-15 fighter jets, was both immediate and efficient. "What they may have been doing was gauging the South Koreans to see how fast they were able to react, given that there are now new rules of engagement and new weapons on these islands."

Ohm Tae-am, of the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, said he believed Pyongyang was trying to force greater support from China, its key ally and economic benefactor, by ratcheting up tensions on the peninsula.

Daniel Pinkston, of the International Crisis Group, said there is little pressure in the South, where domestic issues often trump concerns about North Korea, for Park to alter her approach.

But the North has shown no signs of changing its underlying ideology no matter what the South does.

"The problem is that if the other party is unwilling to cooperate, it doesn't matter what you do," he said. "Park can do all kinds of things, but if North Korea is unwilling to cooperate, it's not going anywhere."

Stars and Stripes' Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this story.  
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## NATION

# FDA proposes first rules for e-cigarettes

By MICHAEL FELBERBAUM  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government wants to ban sales of electronic cigarettes to minors and to require approval for new products and health warning labels under regulations being proposed by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

While the proposal being issued Thursday won't immediately mean changes for the popular devices, the move is aimed at eventually taming the fast-growing

e-cigarette industry.

The industry started on the Internet and at shopping mall kiosks and has rocketed from thousands of users in 2006 to several million worldwide who can choose from more than 200 brands. Sales are estimated to have reached nearly \$2 billion in 2013. Tobacco company executives have noted that they are eating into traditional cigarette sales, and their companies have jumped into the business.

The agency said the proposal

sets a foundation for regulating the products but the rules don't immediately ban the wide array of flavors of e-cigarettes, curb marketing on places like TV or set product standards.

Any further rules "will have to be grounded in our growing body of knowledge and understanding about the use of e-cigarettes and their potential health risks or public health benefits," Commissioner Dr. Margaret Hamburg said.

Once rules are finalized, the agency could propose more re-

strictions on e-cigarettes. Officials didn't provide a timetable for that action.

Members of Congress and public health groups have raised concerns over e-cigarettes and questioned their marketing tactics.

"When finalized (the proposal) would result in significant public health benefits, including through reducing sales to youth, helping to correct consumer misperceptions, preventing misleading health claims and preventing

new products from entering the market without scientific review by FDA," said Mitch Zeller, the director of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products.

The FDA said the public, members of the industry and others will have 75 days to comment on the proposal. The agency will evaluate those comments before issuing a final rule, but there's no timetable. The regulations will be a step in a long process that many believe will ultimately end up being challenged in court.

## Fetal tissue may have been used for electricity

By STEVEN DUBOIS  
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — An Oregon county commission has ordered an incinerator to stop accepting boxed medical waste to generate electricity after learning the waste it's been burning may include tissue from aborted fetuses from British Columbia.

Sam Brentano, chairman of the Marion County board of commissioners, said late Wednesday the board is taking immediate action to prohibit human tissue from future deliveries at the plant that has been turning waste into energy since 1987.

"We provide an important service to the people of this state and it would be a travesty if this program is jeopardized due to this finding," he said in a statement. "We thought our ordinance excluded this type of material at the waste-to-energy facility. We will take immediate action to ensure a process is developed to prohibit human tissue from future deliveries."

Kristy Anderson, a British Columbia Health Ministry spokeswoman, told The Associated Press

that regional health authorities there have a contract with a company that sends biomedical waste, such as fetal tissue, cancerous tissue and amputated limbs, to Oregon, where it's incinerated in the waste-energy plant.

The B.C. Catholic, a Vancouver-based newspaper, identified the plant as Covanta Marion, based in Brooks, Ore. When contacted by The Associated Press on Wednesday, a Covanta Marion representative said he did not know whether fetal tissue was included in shipments from Canada or elsewhere.

The facility is owned and operated by Covanta in a partnership with Marion County. According to its website, it processes 550 tons per day of municipal solid waste, generating up to 13 megawatts of energy sold to Portland General Electric.

Marion County estimates that the facility processes about 700 tons of in-county medical waste each year and about 1,200 tons from elsewhere, making it a small percentage of the total waste burned.

## Stowaway on jet said to be homesick for Africa

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A security video shows the California boy who survived stowing away on a jetliner dangling his feet from the aircraft's wheel well after arriving in Hawaii, before jumping 8 to 10 feet to the ground and collapsing, an airport official says.

The boy, 15, who defied the odds by living through the freezing, low-pressure conditions in the jetliner's wheel well as it flew from California to Hawaii, was disoriented and thirsty after Sunday's ordeal, Maui District Airport Manager Marvin Moniz said.

Staggering toward the nose of the plane, the soft-spoken boy in a San Francisco Giants hoodie asked a ramp agent for a drink of water,

setting in motion federal and local law enforcement investigations, national calls for better airport security and a flurry of speculation about how anyone could survive such a perilous trip.

Abdullah Yusuf Abdi, who said he is the boy's father, told Voice of America Wednesday that his son — who is still hospitalized in Honolulu — missed Africa, where they used to live, and had been struggling in school.

Abdi said he learned of the perilous journey Sunday when he got a call from police in Hawaii.

"When I watched the analysis about the extraordinary and dangerous trip of my son on local TVs and that Allah had saved him, I thanked God and I was very happy," Abdi said.

Retweeted 1,355 times

Occupay Wall Street @OccupayWallStNYC · 21h

Here the #NYPD engages with its community members, changing hearts and minds one baton at a time. #myNYPD pic.twitter.com/GErbiFFDvY



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TWITTER/AP

This frame grab from a Twitter post from @OccupayWallStNYC shows a news photo of a New York City police officer wielding a baton during an Occupy Wall Street action in New York. The photo was posted in response to a Twitter request by the NYPD to offer up feel-good photos of people posing with police officers.

## 'Bash-tag': NYPD's Twitter effort draws harsh response

By TOM HAYS  
AND JAKE PEARSON  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — To put it in social media terms, the New York Police Department got trolled.

The nation's largest police force learned the hard way that there are legions online devoted to short-circuiting even the best-intentioned public relations campaign — in this case, the NYPD's Twitter invitation to people to post feel-good photos of themselves posing with New York's Finest.

What #myNYPD got instead was a montage of hundreds of news images of baton-wielding officers arresting protesters, pulling suspects by the hair, unleashing pepper spray and taking down a bloodied, 84-year-old man for jaywalking.

It was a fail of epic proportions,

with the hashtag among the most-trafficked in the world Tuesday, creating a public relations nightmare for a new NYPD leadership intent on creating a more community-friendly force.

"We've seen instances before where a hashtag can become a bash-tag," said Glen Gilmore, who teaches social media marketing at Rutgers University. "When you're in the social space, it's tough to predict what's going to happen."

A similar meltdown came last November when investment giant JP Morgan Chase, which had been paying billions of dollars in fines stemming from the financial crisis, asked followers on Twitter to post career advice questions. Among them: "Did you have a specific number of people's lives you needed to ruin before you considered your business model a success?"

McDonald's inadvertently ordered up some bad publicity in 2012 with its #McDStories campaign. Sample response: "I walked into a McDonald's and could smell the Type II diabetes."

The #myNYPD misfire comes at a time when New Police Commissioner William Bratton is trying to re-brand the department to counter criticism that it has been trampling on people's civil rights. Last week, it disbanded an intelligence unit that spied on Muslim neighborhoods, and it has promised reforms to the crime-fighting tactic known as stop and frisk.

Bratton acknowledged Wednesday that the Twitter campaign may not have been fully thought through.

"Was that particular reaction from some of the police adversaries anticipated? To be quite frank, it was not," Bratton said.

NATION

# Next challenge is keeping ACA enrollment up

By Jason Millman  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Millions have signed up for new health care plans under the Affordable Care Act. The next trick: keeping them enrolled.

With the health care law's first enrollment period closed, health insurers, policymakers and advocates are pushing to make sure the newly insured become reliable customers for the health plans. That will be crucial to keeping down the uninsured rate and will help determine how insurers will view the individual market under the sweeping changes made by the health care law.

According to early independent estimates, one-fourth to one-third of the 8 million people who signed up for coverage on the ACA exchanges had been uninsured. Millions more, including some previously uninsured, got individual and family coverage outside the insurance marketplace.

So far, 80 to 90 percent of people signing up through the exchanges have paid their first month's premium and completed enrollment, according to accounts from insurers and the state-run exchanges. How the payment rate holds up during the year will be closely watched.

"It's certainly more of a challenge when it's an individual as opposed to an entire employee group," said Ceci Connolly, managing director of PricewaterhouseCoopers' Health Research Institute. "It's always more challenging with newcomers who [insurers] haven't had a chance to develop a relationship with or any kind of track record."

Advocates say they're concerned that many of the newly insured don't completely understand how their coverage works. About

two in three adults who were likely candidates for exchange coverage said they had gaps in their understanding of basic insurance terms, according to an Urban Institute survey. Advocates fear that as people use the insurance they might face out-of-pocket costs they hadn't anticipated and could decide to drop coverage if they find it too expensive.

"We're thinking about that a lot more here," said Elizabeth Carpenter, a director at the Avalere Health consulting firm who is closely tracking insurers. "People need to pay their premiums the first month, and they need to keep paying the premiums."

Exchange enrollees are allowed a 90-day grace period to keep their insurance without payment before they're dropped from coverage. Insurers are required to pay for the first 30 days, but not the last 60 days — a policy that is already making doctors worried they could be left on the hook for uncompensated care. If the grace period ends without payment, the enrollee is cut off from coverage and won't have another chance to obtain marketplace coverage again until the next open enrollment period, scheduled to start Nov. 15.

"Health plans are going to help with this," said Sonya Schwartz, a researcher at Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families. "They know how to follow up with people and send them the bill. They want to keep them enrolled."

CVS Caremark, joining the effort to keep people continuously enrolled, announced this week that people can pay their premiums at its locations for no extra cost. A company spokesman said it expects newly insured consumers who don't have bank accounts to be most likely to use the service.



## Gas plant explosion

Officials gather at the site of an explosion and fire at a natural gas processing facility and major national pipeline hub Wednesday in Opal, Wyo. Officials said there are no reports of injuries and the residents of Opal have been evacuated.

RACHEL ANDERSON/AP

## IG report singles out IRS bonuses

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service provided millions of dollars in bonuses to agency employees with "substantiated" conduct issues, including nonpayment of taxes, according to a watchdog report released Tuesday.

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration said the IRS between October 2010 and December 2012 paid more than \$2.8 million to about 2,800 workers with recent conduct issues. That included more than \$1 million in cash awards for roughly 1,100 employees with federal tax-compliance problems.

Inspector General Russell George noted that the government does not prohibit bonuses

for workers who fail to pay taxes, but he said the practice creates a "conflict with the IRS's charge of ensuring the integrity of the system of tax administration."

Republican lawmakers have expressed growing frustration with federal employees who don't pay their taxes. In 2011, about 3.6 percent of the government's 3 million civilian employees owed back taxes totaling more than \$1 billion, according to IRS data.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., on Wednesday sent a letter to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen demanding that the agency rescind the bonuses for employees with tax issues and hold the funds in escrow until the workers have addressed their compliance issues.

"How can we expect the American people — many of whom are

struggling to make ends meet — to trust their government when they learn that the very agency charged with collecting their taxes is rewarding employees who haven't paid theirs?" Manchin said.

Koskinen was sworn in as head of the IRS in December, before the agency handed out the bonuses in question. Manchin acknowledged that in his letter, but he said the commissioner must still take "swift action" to revoke the cash awards now that he is in charge.

Opponents argue that the bills unfairly target civil servants among the many Americans who owe back-taxes. Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., said of the Chaffetz measure last year that the government would have a harder time collecting taxes from individuals who lose their jobs.

## FCC due to propose 'net-neutrality' rules

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Federal Communications Commission is set to propose new open Internet rules that would allow content companies to pay for faster delivery over the so-called "last mile" connection to people's homes, but enhance scrutiny of such deals so they don't harm competition or limit free speech.

That's according to a senior FCC official familiar with the matter who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler was to present the

proposed rules to the other four commissioners Thursday.

So-called "net neutrality" rules are hotly debated because without them, consumers' ability to freely access certain types of content could be constrained by giant conglomerates for business, political or other reasons.

The new rules are meant to replace the FCC's open Internet order from 2010, which was struck down by a federal appeals court in January. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit affirmed that the FCC had the authority to create open-access rules but said

it failed to establish that its 2010 regulations didn't overreach.

While the older rules technically allowed for paid priority treatment, it was discouraged. The new rules spell out standards that such deals would have to meet to be considered "commercially reasonable" and are designed to survive a court challenge in the future.

Under proposed rules, if such a deal for priority access were challenged, the commission would look at its impact on competition, consumers, free speech and civic engagement and whether a provider was acting in good faith.

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FAITH



VIOREL FLORESCU, THE (HACKENSACK, N.J.) RECORD/MCT

The Rev. Arcadio Munoz gives absolution to a parishioner at St. Mary's Church in Dumont, N.J., where confession can be heard out in the open.

# Is confession a religious relic?

Fewer Catholics feel compelled to take part in the sacrament

By HANNAN ADELY

The (Hackensack, N.J.) Record

HACKENSACK, N.J. — One of loneliest places in church these days is the confession line. The act of confessing one's sins, a requirement for Catholics, has sharply fallen over several decades with evolving views on sin, penance and the stature of the priesthood.

Now Pope Francis and church leaders, in a push to draw people back to confession, are highlighting what clergy say are the healing, uplifting aspects of the sacrament and focusing less on themes like punishment and condemnation.

Some churches are using websites, newspaper ads and highway billboards to get the message out.

Under diocesan guidance, churches also added one extra day a week to hear confession during Lent, the period before Easter when penance is considered a Catholic duty.

And the pope, in an image seen and talked about around the world, confessed to a priest last month in public view.

But will these efforts change attitudes among Catholics, many of whom believe confession no longer is a necessary part of the faith?

"It's not something I look at as something I need to do to be a good Catholic, but I always know it's there if I feel a need to go," said Keith Ahearn, a churchgoer who lives in Oakland, N.J.

Ahearn said seeing Francis' example of confession did cause him to think twice.

"I have to admit," he said, "seeing the pope going to confession was a pretty powerful thing."

Under church doctrine, Catholics should go to confession at least once a year, preferably dur-

ing the Easter season.

Those who commit mortal, or serious, sins like adultery and murder should not receive Communion without first going to confession. The point of confession, according to the church, is to bring about a "spiritual resurrection" and to have people reconcile with the church community.

Church leaders are trying to lure people back by putting out positive messages that confession is about peace and joy and not fear or shame.

Some dioceses are adding an extra day of confession during the Lenten season.

For church members like Patricia Demarest, of the Haskell section of Wanauke, N.J., who recalled long lines for confession in her younger days, the extra day is a welcome change.

Demarest has continued to go to confession and said she goes at least four times a year and sometimes monthly. It helps her to "get straight with God," she said.

"When you walk out, particularly when you have something serious on your mind, it really is better than any trip to a psychologist," she said. "You feel forgiven and that you've reconciled yourself with God."

Still, local members of the clergy acknowledge they have a long way to go to revive interest in reconciliation.

Decades ago, most Catholics

confessed their sins regularly to a priest at church. Now, just 2 percent of Catholics do so once a month or more often, according to a 2008 survey by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

About 26 percent of Catholics say they participate at least once a year; 30 percent say they go less than once a year; and 45 percent say they never go at all.

Confession became a lower priority in the Catholic Church after the Second Vatican Council in 1962. The church put more emphasis on forgiveness over punishment, and societal attitudes on sin changed.

The church has also allowed face-to-face confessions in "reconciliation rooms," a setting that is brighter and less formal than the traditional confession box, where the confessor kneels anonymously before a screen with a priest on the other side.

"The church has downplayed it a little," said the Very Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, of St. Mary's Church in Dumont, N.J. "There is not as much emphasis on Hell and things of that nature. We want to embrace the God who is all loving and not condemning."

The sex abuse scandals that erupted in the church during the 1980s and '90s made it less appealing to confess sins to priests, whose own sins and flaws were being exposed, especially amid reports that confession was used in some cases to groom victims.

The Rev. Paul Prevosto, of Holy Trinity Church in Hackensack, N.J., said the decline in participation had already happened by the time abuse cases became public. Like other clergy, he believes the drop in confession has to do with the change in the perception of sin.

"Catholics are not aware that



The pope and other church leaders are putting a focus on confession in an attempt to draw more Catholics back to the practice.

the sins that they have committed are sins," he said. "In today's culture, look at it, everything goes."

Prevosto gave the example of couples living together before marriage as a situation that many people viewed as acceptable, even though the church considers it a sin.

The Rev. Paul A. Cannariato, of St. Mary's Church in Closter, N.J., also pointed to the secularization of society as a reason.

"In society, we have become desensitized to the reality of sin," he said. "If you don't believe something is sinful, you don't think of forgiveness."

WORLD



KARIM KADIMI/AP

Iraqi policemen stand guard at the site of a car bomb explosion Thursday in Hillah, Iraq. A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into a police checkpoint Thursday, killing several people.

# Iraqi police targeted

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into a police checkpoint south of Baghdad on Thursday morning, killing at least 11 people, officials said, the latest episode in an uptick in violence in the run-up to next week's parliamentary elections.

The attack struck during the morning rush hour, when the checkpoint at one of the entrances to the city of Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, was crowded with commuters.

Among the 11 killed were seven civilians and four policemen while 27 people were wounded in the bombing, a police officer said. The blast also damaged about 15 cars nearby. A medical official confirmed the casualty figures.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The Shiite-dominated city of Hillah has seen sporadic violence recently. Last month, a suicide car bomber hit another checkpoint in same area, killing 36 people.

Iraq has seen a spike in violence since last year, with the death toll climbing to its highest levels since the worst of the country's sectarian bloodletting between 2006 and 2008.

The U.N. says 8,868 people were killed in 2013, and more than 1,400 people were killed in the first two months of this year. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which bore the hallmarks of an al-Qaida spin-off group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Next Wednesday, Iraq is to hold its first parliamentary elections since the U.S. troops' withdrawal in late 2011. More than 9,000 candidates will compete for 328 seats.

## Material on shore not from missing jet, officials say

The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — The material that washed ashore in southwest Australia appears to not be from the missing Malaysian plane, officials said Thursday.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau examined detailed photographs of the material, apparently sheet metal with rivets, and is satisfied it is not related to the plane, the search coordinator said.

The Malaysia Airlines flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing veered off course and disappeared March 8 in a still-baffling mystery and is satisfied it was not related to the plane, the search coordinator said.

the remote southern Indian Ocean. It had 239 passengers and crew.

The Joint Agency Coordination Centre also said Thursday a robotic submarine had scanned more than 90 percent of a 120-square-mile search area but has found nothing of interest. The sub is creating a three-dimensional sonar map of the ocean floor near where signals consistent with airplane black boxes were heard.

The next phase of the search is likely to be decided in a week and likely would involve using more powerful towed side-scan commercial sonar equipment, similar to what found the Titanic wreck in 1985.

## Sanctions may follow violence in South Sudan

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council is expressing rare "horror" at the recent massacre of civilians in South Sudan and threatens sanctions.

The strongly worded press statement released Thursday deplores the killings last week in Bentiu, the capital of oil-producing Unity state, as well as the use of radio broadcasts to "foment

hate and sexual violence."

The council statement also expresses "grave concern" over the more than 23,000 displaced people who are seeking shelter at the U.N. camp in Bentiu as the risk of a humanitarian crisis grows.

It also says council members "indicated their willingness to take additional measures," meaning sanctions, if attacks on civilians continue amid growing ethnic tensions.

From The Associated Press



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## FACES

### Wilde, Sudeikis are new parents

It's a boy for Olivia Wilde and Jason Sudeikis.

A spokeswoman for the "Tron: Legacy" actress confirms the couple welcomed son Otis Alexander on Sunday.

Wilde posted a message on Twitter Wednesday with a photo of her cuddling the newborn. It says, "Ladies and gentlemen, Otis Alexander Sudeikis has LEFT the building!" and then notes in parentheses that she's the building.

The 30-year-old "Rush" and "House" actress is engaged to the 38-year-old "We're the Millers" actor and former star of "Saturday Night Live."

It's the couple's first child.



Wilde

### Sony developing live-action Barbie flick

Barbie is coming alive.

Sony Pictures, Mattel and Parkes+MacDonald/Image Nation have partnered to create a live-action movie focused on the iconic doll.

The companies said Wednesday the comedy will be written by Jenny Bicks ("What a Girl Wants") and produced by husband-and-wife team Walter F. Parkes and Laurie MacDonald ("Men in Black 3").

Sony sees the film as a global franchise and plans to go into production by the end of the year.

It's the second collaboration for Mattel and Sony. The companies are developing the film adaptation of "Masters of the Universe," based on Mattel action figures.

### Other news

■ **Marc Anthony's** latest Spanish-language album "3.0" is a hit, and his single "Vivir mi vida" topped the charts for 18 weeks. But Anthony isn't satisfied. He wants to reconquer a broader market with a new project in English. Anthony announced at the 25th Billboard Latin Music Conference in Miami on Wednesday that he is working on a pop album.

■ **Lawyers for a theater producer** on Wednesday denied sexual abuse claims made against their client in a lawsuit by a man who has leveled similar allegations against other entertainment industry figures. Attorneys Alan Grodin and Paul Gaspari issued a statement on behalf of producer Gary Goddard, saying he was not in Hawaii when the alleged acts occurred more than a decade ago.

■ **The California Supreme Court** refused to review the involuntary manslaughter conviction of Michael Jackson's doctor, rejecting his lawyer's petition without comment. The decision Wednesday by the state's highest court was the latest stop on Dr. **Conrad Murray's** legal odyssey. A state appeals court upheld his conviction earlier this year and then refused to reconsider its decision. Attorney Valerie Wass said Murray will take his fight to federal court.



## Deeley ditches her fun side for series role

By ALICIA RANCILIO

The Associated Press

**T**he U.K.-born and bred Cat Deeley has found a place in Hollywood, thanks to hosting the dance competition show "So You Think You Can Dance," which will launch its 11th season next month.

The Emmy-nominated TV personality also has a role in the Hulu original comedy series "Deadbeat." A 10-episode first season is posted on the website. "Deadbeat" stars Tyler Labine as a pot-smoking slacker named Kevin who also happens to be psychic. He finds a nemesis in Camomile, played by Deeley, a psychic who has built an empire out of faking her ability to communicate with the dead.

"My character is a real baddie," said Deeley, 37, in a recent interview. "She is rotten to the core. She's vile, she's manipulative but she plays America's sweetheart, giving people closure."

**You've done guest spots on TV shows, but not everyone knew you could act.**

I don't think I knew I could act in all honesty! (Laughs) I'm normally on live TV. If you make a mistake, you just kind of ride with the punches and have a sense of humor about it. It was very different for me, but I did really enjoy it.

**I feel like your character on "Deadbeat" is like a nightmare version of Oprah Winfrey.**

(Laughs) Doing a life class! But a life-after-death class on OWN!

**"So You Think You Can Dance" is about to start its eleventh season. What do you say about that?**

Crazy. We're getting 18-year-olds that are turning up that have been waiting to audition for the show. It means that we're still relevant within a dancer's career, which means that we'll still manage to find people. Our audience who watches the show tends to stick with us. You either don't know that the dance show even exists and it's not on your radar and you've never seen an episode, or you are a member of our audience that watches our show religiously and you know it's coming on in the summertime. It will not have been the juggernaut that "American Idol" has been in the past because it doesn't appeal to everybody, but there's a core audience that watches the show, and that's why we're still going.

**Actress, singer and model Cat Deeley is the host of the series "So You Think You Can Dance."**

AMY SUSSMAN, INVISION/AP

## Jodie Foster ties the knot with photographer girlfriend

The Associated Press

Jodie Foster is a married woman.

The 51-year-old Oscar winner wed girlfriend Alexandra Hedison over the weekend, Foster's publicist confirmed Wednesday. Jennifer Allen offered no other details.

It was the first to report that Foster tied the knot with Hedison, a 44-year-old photographer based in Los Angeles.

It's the first marriage for Foster, who came out publicly in a rambling, heartfelt speech at

the 2013 Golden Globe Awards, where she accepted lifetime achievement honors.

After saying she planned to make a big announcement that would make her publicist nervous, Foster jokingly revealed that she was single.

"I hope that you're not disappointed that there won't be a big coming-out speech tonight," she said, "because I already did my coming-out about a thousand years ago back in the Stone Age."

She said celebrities are now expected to re-

veal they're gay "with a press conference, a fragrance and a prime-time reality show," but her approach had been more personal.

Foster acknowledged longtime partner **Cydney Bernard**, with whom she has two sons. The couple ended their 20-year relationship in 2008.

It says Foster and Hedison have been dating since last summer.

Hedison, who was previously linked to **Ellen DeGeneres**, is also an actress with TV credits.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Extra crispy: French fry truck burns at Wal-Mart

**ME** WATERVILLE — Bring on the ketchup: A tractor-trailer carrying 40,000 pounds of french fries caught fire in a Wal-Mart parking lot in the Maine city of Waterville.

The city's fire chief said overheated brakes were the suspected cause of the night blaze in the middle of the busy parking lot. The driver said he pulled over when he smelled smoke from the back of the truck.

The Portland Press Herald reported that nobody was injured in the fire.

The driver was on his way from the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island to New Jersey to deliver the fries. Waterville is about 15 miles north of Maine's capital, Augusta.

## Woman has dog, TV snatched on 1st date

**NJ** DOVER — A woman has been reunited with her Yorkshire Terrier and flat-screen TV that were snatched during her first date with a man she met online.

The woman called police early Saturday to say that her dog, Violet, had been tied by its leash to the TV, and both were left in the front yard of her Dover home, the Daily Record of Parsippany reported. Violet appeared to be in good health.

Authorities said the pair met on a dating site and went out for the first time Thursday night. After returning home, the woman said she became occupied in another room, leaving the man alone. When she returned, he was gone — and so were her dog, valued at \$4,000, and her TV, worth about \$3,000.

## Man 'armed' with potato in robbery attempt

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Police said a man used a potato to pretend he had a gun while trying to rob a Rhode Island business.

WPRI-TV reported that the man entered a convenience store Monday with a potato and shouted, "Give me the money." A police report said the store manager chased him off with a baseball bat.

Police provided a description of the suspect. They said officers later went to a laundromat where an employee told them a man fitting the description came in carrying a potato and yelled, "I need the money."

The TV station reported that the employee gave the man a \$20 bill from a decoy cash register, and he left.

## Postal Service to issue Harvey Milk stamp

**CA** HARVEY MILK, the slain politician who became an icon of equal rights not just for the gay community in San Francisco but across the nation, will be commemorated in a forever stamp next month, the U.S. Postal Service announced Tuesday.

The stamp's issue will coin-



BERETO MATTHEWS/AP

## Festival preview

**Members of the Japanese Folk Dance Institute perform during a preview of the Sakura Matsuri festival at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York on Tuesday.**

cide with Milk's birthday on May 22. The stamps will be available in sheets of 20 and may be pre-ordered.

The image on the stamp comes from a circa-1977 photo taken by Daniel Nicoletta of Milk in front of Castro Street Camera in San Francisco.

The stamp comes a little more than 35 years after Milk's assassination in San Francisco City Hall alongside then-Mayor George Moscone on Nov. 27, 1978. Milk had won a seat on the Board of Supervisors in 1977.

## Airport police lose track of explosives

**AK** ANCHORAGE — Police at the Anchorage

airport lost track of a small quantity of explosives used for training bomb-sniffing dogs.

The explosives were attached to a rental car that a customer drove away Monday at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

Airport Police and Fire Chief Jesse Davis told KTUU the explosive was recovered Monday afternoon in the Anchorage area.

He said the amount of explosives in the vehicle was small and didn't pose a threat to the driver or the public.

## Police: Teens borrow, flee with cellphones

**NH** MANCHESTER — New Hampshire police are warning pedestrians to

think twice before lending their cellphones to strangers.

Manchester police said they responded to two incidents Monday in which a teenage boy asked a bystander to borrow her cellphone, then fled with the phone. The victims were women.

Police are urging pedestrians to hold onto their cellphones.

## Hospital reinforces e-cig ban following fire, injury

**NY** SYRACUSE — A New York hospital is reinforcing its ban on electronic cigarettes after a patient on oxygen was burned by a fire that erupted while she was puffing on one of the devices.

## THE CENSUS

**24** The number of restaurants visited by Mayor Ed Foley in a single day — every one in his town of Jenkintown, Pa. in a gut-busting campaign to draw attention to the tiny borough's varied restaurant scene, Foley started Saturday with a pre-dawn visit to IHOP. He said several restaurants have opened in Jenkintown in recent years, but he was surprised to count them and see 24 restaurants now populate a town of less than a single square mile. About 20 years ago, he said, Jenkintown had only one place to eat. "I really am having fun with it," he said shortly before his 16th stop of the day.



investigator Joe Galloway told The Post-Standard the exact cause of last month's fire at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center has not been determined. He said the patient had a battery-powered e-cigarette, which uses a heating element to vaporize nicotine.

Hospital officials have not identified the patient. They said she burned first- and second-degree burns across her face, but is home and doing well.

Since the fire, St. Joseph's officials have reminded patients they aren't allowed to use e-cigarettes. The hospital also prohibits tobacco use on its campus.

## Court: Pot compound not subject to DUI law

**AZ** PHOENIX — The state Supreme Court has ruled that the presence of non-impairing marijuana compounds detected in a person's body does not give authorities the right to prosecute under Arizona's driving under the influence laws.

Last year, the state Court of Appeals upheld the right of authorities to prosecute pot smokers for DUI even when there is no evidence of impairment.

The Supreme Court opinion released Tuesday notes that while Arizona statute makes it illegal for a driver to be impaired by marijuana use, the presence of a non-psychoactive compound does not constitute impairment under the law.

The opinion focuses on two chemical compounds in marijuana that show up in blood and urine tests — one that causes impairment and one that stays in the consumer's system for weeks but doesn't cause impairment.

From wire reports





STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Solving the problems of payday loans

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By JOHN SUTHERS  
 AND BILL RITTER JR.

A new study from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and a related field hearing in Nashville have put payday lending in the national spotlight, demonstrating most loans are made to borrowers who pay more in fees than they originally received in credit. As the federal regulator develops guidelines for this market, our experience in Colorado shows how the CFPB can address the problems with payday loans nationwide.

In 1992, Colorado became an early adopter of the payday loan, a new type of small loan sold as a quick fix for emergencies or unexpected expenses. While payday loans are marketed as two-week products due in full on the borrower's next payday, the reality is most borrowers end up struggling for months to repay them.

Research shows a majority of borrowers are already behind on bills, and most use the loans to cover regular expenses such as rent, credit card payments and utilities. The lump-sum payment on the loan means that people cannot afford to repay and still meet basic expenses like rent, so three-quarters of loans are taken out soon after a previous one is paid off.

Policy makers in Colorado eventually acknowledged that the lump-sum payday loan was a failure, but they also wanted to maintain access to safer credit. So in 2010, they replaced the two-week payday loan with a six-month installment loan. In addition to requiring more time to repay in affordable installments, the law ensures that costs are spread evenly over the life of the loan, protects borrowers' checking accounts, and guards against excessive costs.

Colorado's new law is better for borrowers and viable for lenders, as described in a report from The Pew Charitable Trusts. Almost four years after the law took effect, access to payday credit remains widely available. Lenders still do not compete on price, but we lowered the maximum interest rate to half what it was before.

Whereas the loans previously took up 38 percent of an average borrower's paycheck, now they take up 4 percent. Borrowers are



ILLUSTRATION BY RICK NEASE/Detroit Free Press

spending \$42 million less each year, and bounced-check fees from lenders are down by more than half.

But the same abuses that are undermining laws in every state are affecting us in Colorado as well, with unscrupulous lenders using the Internet to make unaffordable loans. Those lenders do not abide by our laws, and they ignore the sensible protections we enacted. Scams and theft of personal information online are a danger for our residents and have led to numerous complaints here and in states with and without payday loan stores.

Online lenders spend millions to lure new business, and some now offer installment loans that are anything but consumer friendly. Lacking Colorado-type protections, they have payments that exceed borrowers' ability to repay, carry new origination fees when loans are flipped, and lack safeguards to protect checking accounts from fraud and abuse.

States need more help combating abusive

and illegal online lending, and everyone will benefit when the CFPB sets comprehensive, firm rules for payday and small installment loans alike.

With clear guidelines in place, lenders and banks will compete to develop better ways to serve people in need, profligately. Any lender that violates the rules will face swift enforcement actions.

To make it happen, the CFPB should look to Colorado's example and implement the changes needed to restore sanity to the small-loan market. Millions of people in our communities need relief from loans that are decimating their paychecks and making difficult financial situations even worse. In Colorado, we set strong, clear rules that have made payday loans far safer. The CFPB can and should do the same.

John Suthers, a Republican, currently serves as the attorney general of Colorado. Bill Ritter Jr., a Democrat, served as governor of Colorado from 2007 to 2011 and is founder/director of the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University. They wrote this for McClatchy-Tribune.

Use of drones will heighten privacy issues

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News editorial

It's simple to explain Google's and Facebook's sudden, intense interest in drone technology. An estimated 65 percent of the world's population today lacks Internet access, and flying robots probably can connect those 4.5 billion potential users to the rest of us.

Talk about expanding markets. Even the Silicon Valley mind boggles.

Engineers think they can mount lightweight broadband equipment on drones and keep them aloft for days, weeks or months to make connections from the remotest and least advanced regions of the world.

It's exciting. It's also another reminder that privacy concerns are reaching new highs, and drones can only drive them higher. Valley already is struggling with worldwide consumer confidence. The National Security Agency is hacking into systems wily-nilly, while tech companies themselves resist telling consumers how their personal information is being used. Now come drones, which the Obama administration uses to kill people.

Silicon Valley's future hinges largely on whether it can rebuild trust that smart-phones, laptop and tablet users have in the

Silicon Valley needs to formulate privacy principles that reassure a legitimately worried public and keep the focus on the positive aspects of technology.

privacy of tech products.

If it can't, then the potential of the Internet will be limited.

Drones just up the ante. People won't want them buzzing their once-private backyards, cameras rolling, or tracking their movements based on smartphone signals.

President Barack Obama's use of drones to spy on and kill military targets doesn't make the job any easier. The sinister element goes beyond privacy concerns to physical safety — and setting limits will be difficult.

Google elevated snooping concerns in 2013 when it admitted intercepting data transmitted over household Wi-Fi networks while its car-mounted cameras were

snapping street-view photos. If Google's cars were acquiring hundreds of gigabytes of information from users, imagine what drones equipped with transmission gear can do, flying 50,000 feet above cities around the clock.

Google needs to abandon its assertion that data transmitted over unencrypted Wi-Fi networks is fair game. Instead it should be leading the charge to make emails, photos and data more secure as the age of drones approaches.

In 2012, Obama set a 2015 deadline for the Federal Aviation Administration to come up with regulations for domestic use of drones. It will be none too soon; drones are expected to emerge as a \$6 billion market in the next 10 years.

But the FAA's privacy is safety. It is not likely to deal with privacy.

So we're back to our recurring theme: To protect its own industry, Silicon Valley needs to formulate privacy principles that reassure a legitimately worried public and keep the focus on the positive aspects of technology, including the latest drone advancements.

If it doesn't, consumers around the world may begin bailing on digital connections and commerce, trading convenience and connectivity to regain their privacy.

## 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' or publishers' views do not necessarily reflect those of the associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

### More Keystone pipeline delays The Oklahoman

The Obama administration has found yet another way to keep from deciding the fate of the Keystone XL pipeline's northern leg, from Canada to Cushing. This time, to hear the administration tell it (with a straight face, no less), a court case stands in the way.

The State Department said last week that because of a Nebraska court decision in February that invalidated part of the pipeline's route, a final decision must be delayed. Conveniently, this means a final thumbs-up or thumbs-down almost certainly won't come until after November's midterm elections, because no resolution to the court fight is expected until late this year.

It's interesting that after the court ruling in February, the administration said the case wouldn't have a bearing on its decision-making. But now State has decided that federal agencies wouldn't be able to measure the impact of the pipeline until the "uncertainty" resulting from the litigation was resolved.

So a project that's been studied and dissected and debated for more than five years, and shown repeatedly to merit approval — in January, a State Department review cited no major environmental objections to the pipeline — must wait even longer, just so President Barack Obama can score political points with environmentalists.

### 'Justice' at Gitmo? Miami Herald

Another week of hearings at Guantanamo, another series of jaw-dropping revelations and rulings that underline the futility of the whole enterprise. That the system isn't working has long been obvious. Now the tragedy is turning into farce.

Exhibit A: The disclosure that the FBI allegedly tried to turn a member of the defense team for 9/11 defendants into a confidential informant, spying on colleagues on behalf of the U.S. government.

Did the FBI not realize that by doing so the agency was damaging the trial procedure at Guantanamo (such as it is)? Did it really believe it could flip a member of the defense team to keep its secrets? No wonder some skeptical former military members of 9/11 victims believe the whole thing was a deliberate effort to derail the hearings. What else are they to think?

Army Col. James L. Pohl did the only thing he could, issuing a bench order to anyone who ever served on the defense team in the "Secret 1" case find out if any of them indeed were approached and asked to sign a nondisclosure agreement about the contact. The notion that you can commit an illegal act and get away with it by making the other party sign a nondisclosure agreement is itself farcical. Inspector Clouseau would approve.

The upshot is another delay in an absurdly long process. This is the 10th round of hearings for the 9/11 defendants since the five accused were formally charged (finally) two years ago. If a violation occurred, it could require reappointment of a new defense team, setting the process back yet again for who knows how long.

Prolonged incarceration without formal charges, evidence withheld, limited access by the public, defendants subjected to torture after their capture, severely limited rights to object by the defense, hunder



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Cynthia Cirri, of Hamilton, N.J., crosses the finish line of the Boston Marathon Monday.

strikes, etc. Now government spying on the defense. All this and more is what passes for justice at Guantanamo, and it is only thanks to a series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings for the defendants that matters aren't even worse.

### Putin still stirring the pot Albany (Ga.) Herald

As much as the world would like for it to settle into a resolution, the face-off between Ukraine and Russia shows no signs of tapering off.

On Tuesday, the stakes escalated when Ukrainian officials sent troops into the eastern part of the nation to reclaim a military base from pro-Russian separatists. Officials in Kiev described the retaking of the airfield as a "special operation."

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin again proved he has no sense of irony — or, more likely, he simply loves to stir the pot more — when he called U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon Tuesday and demanded that the United Nations and the international community condemn what he described as "anti-constitutional actions" by the government in Kiev.

This demand from the man who sent Russian troops without insignia into sovereign Ukrainian territory to slice off the Crimea region by force so that Russia could orchestrate a vote that was decided long before anyone went to a ballot box and annex the region, all of which was done in clear violation of international law.

The burr in Putin's saddle was the February order of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich by Ukrainians who want stronger ties with the West. Fueled by hardliners in Russia who long for the so-called glory days of the Soviet Union, Putin has gotten bolder and more boisterous seemingly by the day.

The fact is, the government change in Kiev was made by Ukrainians who want a different, more productive direction for their country, which is mired in debt to Russia. The fear is that Putin will continue to ignore the nation's right to sovereignty and reclaim it, piece by piece.

### Boston Marathon Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

Monday's 118th running of the Boston Marathon displayed in full measure the resolve and unity meant by "Boston strong."

A year after explosions at the finish line killed three people and injured 264 others, an expanded field of more than 35,000 runners included victims and their relatives, first responders, others "personally and profoundly impacted" by the tragedy and nearly 5,000 runners who didn't get to finish in 2013.

Unprecedented security — more than 3,500 police officers and 800 National

Guard troops — made sure that the race went off without incident, even with an estimated 1 million spectators lining the 26.2 miles from Hopkinton to Back Bay.

And in what can only be called a storybook ending, Meb Keflezighi of San Diego — defying the odds at 38 — became the first American to win the iconic race since 1985. He wore red, white and blue, had names of bombing victims on his runner's bib and broke down in tears at the finish line. "At the end, I just kept thinking, 'Boston strong, Boston strong,'" he told reporters afterward.

It seems fitting that the one to break the Kenyan stranglehold was Keflezighi, who emigrated from Eritrea when he was 12 and made his own American dream come true. "God bless America and God bless Boston for this special day," he said.

It was just another day in federal prison for accused Boston bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 20, awaiting his trial scheduled for November that could result in the death penalty. It also shows America's values — including a bedrock belief in the rule of law — that he will have his day in court, afforded all the protections of the justice system. The Obama administration wisely resisted calls to take a quicker path and put Tsarnaev before a military tribunal. A marathon is a good metaphor for the hard work of our democracy.

### Reassuring allies in the Pacific Chicago Tribune

When President Barack Obama scrubbed an October trip to Asia to attend to the government shutdown in Washington, Asian leaders worried that it meant the United States lacked sufficient interest in the region to remain a powerful presence. This week, Obama finally made the trip, but it may not be enough to reassure allies and others.

Why not? Two obvious reasons. One is Russia's annexation of Crimea and its aggressive activities in eastern Ukraine, which have focused Washington's attention on how to assure the security of Europe. The fear is that this new threat will divert American attention and resources to the task of bolstering NATO and containing Russia, at the expense of its Pacific role.

Another is that the administration trumpeted its intent to make Asia a higher priority — the Asia pivot — but has repeatedly disappointed. In 2011, reported Peter Nicholas and Christy Parsons in the Tribune, "U.S. foreign policy revolves around a single idea: With U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan coming to a close, Washington is focusing on the fast-growing Pacific region to curb the influence of China." But the world has had a way of preventing any "single idea" from enjoying a monopoly on the U.S. global agenda.

Afghanistan, Iran, Syria and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have all demanded their share of the spotlight. Ukraine is the latest crisis to preoccupy the president and his advisers. Cuts in the defense budget mean the U.S. will have fewer military assets to bring to bear in the world. So Asian allies figure they're bound to get shortchanged.

That doesn't have to be the case. The U.S. has proven in the past that it's capable of addressing dangers in both places. The Pacific alliances were established in the same era that NATO came into being. We fought wars in Korea and Vietnam while facing down the Soviet threat in Europe. We're a global power, with the means to act in more than one place at a time.

None of the administration's challenges are easy. Hammering out a good trade accord is anything but a sure thing. Countering a stronger and more assertive China will be tricky. North Korea remains the wildest of wild cards. There are limits to the time and energy of American policymakers, who are obliged to respond to immediate emergencies even when they have equally vital long-term work elsewhere. But those realities are just part of life in a turbulent and perilous world. The United States didn't become the world's only superpower without developing a capacity for coping with multiple challenges at once. It's Obama's task to convince Asians that our capacity and resolve are undiminished.

### Chemical reprise in Syria Wall Street Journal

Chemical weapons are again being used in Syria. Israeli defense officials, citing senior U.S. officials, have reported that U.S. intelligence has used Israeli special agents at least twice on March 27 in the Harasta neighborhood of Damascus. Then the rebel-controlled village of Kfar Zeita was attacked April 11 by what seems to have been chlorine gas dropped from the air. Some 150 people are reported injured. Three are dead.

Both sides in the conflict agree that chemicals were used, but as is its habit the Assad regime blames Syrian rebels. And as is the Obama Administration's habit, it's, well, studying the matter. "We are trying to run this down," U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power said on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday. "So far, it's unsubstantiated, but we've seen, I think, in the past that we will do everything in our power to establish what has happened and then consider possible steps in response."

A year ago, the Administration was also saying it couldn't say for sure whether the Assad regime was behind a series of small-scale chemical attacks. Then 1,000 people were gassed in Damascus. The Administration stopped denying any knowledge, then threatened the use of force, then agreed to do nothing in return for Assad's promise to get rid of his chemical arsenal.

The latest attacks are taking place amid claims that Syria has relinquished more than half of its declared chemical stockpile and promises to hand over the rest by the end of the month. This is supposed to be a triumph of Administration diplomacy. But note the word "relinquished." What the terms or elements of its military have failed to declare or turnover is another matter. In the meantime, Assad has turned the tide of war and is routing his enemies a victory for him and his patrons in Tehran and Moscow.

All of which illustrates the perils of costly arms-control deals with rogue regimes. They inevitably cheat, but the temptation of the West is to overlook the cheating lest it expose the arms agreement as a mistake. The Russians are supposed to lean on Assad to honor the terms, but Vladimir Putin has every incentive now to let him cheat and further bedevil the U.S. (see above). As for President Obama, his legacy may include an Assad triumph using chemical weapons.



NFL

# Broncos' pass-rush duo on comeback trail

## Ware, Miller looking to bounce back from injuries, play together

BY ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Denver Broncos pass-rushers DeMarcus Ware and Von Miller are a lot alike. Both collect lots of sacks, hefty paychecks and plenty of accolades. The two are also on the comeback trail after offseason surgeries following a disappointing season.

Ware had his right elbow repaired in February, a few weeks before the Dallas Cowboys released him in a salary cap move after the worst season of the star pass-rusher's career.

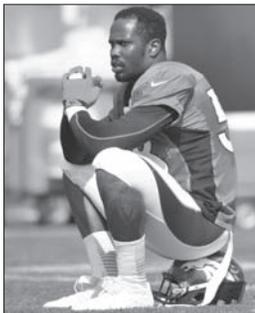
Ware amassed a franchise-best 117 sacks for the Cowboys since getting drafted in the first round in 2005, but he got to the quarterback a career-low six times last season and missed games for the first time in his nine-year career with a thigh injury.

He was due to collect \$16 million against the Cowboys' cap, and when negotiations on a reduced salary failed, he was released. He quickly signed a three-year, \$30 million deal in Denver, where he'll play alongside Miller, a native of Dallas who modeled his game after Ware's and who's trying to bounce back from a rough year himself.

Miller's season began with a six-game drug suspension and ended with a torn right ACL on Dec. 22. He finished with a career-low five sacks after collecting 30 in his first two seasons combined.

If both men can regain their health and their previous form, the Broncos should have one of the NFL's top tandems to go with that prolific offense that carried them to the Super Bowl last year before they got destroyed 43-8 by Seattle.

For now, Denver's new tandem is teaming up in the weight room during organized offseason workouts, critiquing each other's moves and dreaming of pestering passers this fall.



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

**Linebacker Von Miller's last season for the Denver Broncos ended on Dec. 22 with a torn right ACL and a career-low five sacks. He is eager to line up with newly acquired DeMarcus Ware, whom Miller emulated while growing up in Dallas.**

"I'm excited about it," Ware said. "You can't double-team both of us, especially with the big guys in the middle (Terrance Knighton, Kevin Vickerson, Derek Wolfe and Sylvester Williams). Those guys are going to be holding it down, getting the pressure in the middle of the pocket."

Ware said he's not yet back to 100 percent — No. 94 said he's at "about 94 percent" — but that didn't prevent him from getting right to work with his new pass-rushing partner when the team's voluntary offseason conditioning program began this week.

He and Miller did some "ball-throws, abs and a little bit of biceps and triceps" in the weight room and watched tape together in the film room, Ware said.

"Some of the moves that he was doing on tape were some of the moves that I have been doing," Ware said. "I was critiquing him, he was critiquing me and it's just a good thing to know that there are guys out there that look up to you. Now I have an op-



ERIC LARS BAKER/Courtesy of Denver Broncos

**Defensive end DeMarcus Ware works out during the first phase of the offseason training program at the Broncos training facility in Englewood, Colo., on Monday.**

portunity to shed some advice onto him. He is a great player and I look forward to playing with him this season."

Miller can't wait to play alongside the man he emulated on the football field while growing up in Dallas and attending Texas A&M.

"It's incredible. I was a huge Dallas Cowboys fan," Miller said. "I patterned my game after him. I always said to myself, 'Man, I hope I get to play with DeMarcus one of these days.' You know, it's here. So, it's a true blessing. I think it'll be great."

Miller won't venture a guess, however, as to how many sacks the duo could muster in 2014.

"I don't even want to think about that," Miller said. "I just want to go out there

and grind as hard as we can. If we do that, Broncos fans, the Broncos organization, everybody will be pleased with what we do."

He also isn't stressing over his financial future.

The Broncos have until May 3 to exercise a fifth-year option on Miller's rookie deal that would put him under contract for 2015 at \$9.754 million. They could decline that option and still keep him in 2015 by placing the franchise tag on him at a slightly higher cost.

"That's why I've got an agent, so I can just focus on football," said Miller, who will make \$3.24 million this season. "I know if I just go out there and do everything I'm supposed to do, everything will work out all right."

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## NFL/SPORTS BRIEFS

# Champ Seahawks open with Packers

By BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike McCarthy promises there won't be any bad memories plaguing his Green Bay Packers when they open the NFL season on Sept. 4 at Super Bowl champion Seattle.

The last time Green Bay visited CenturyLink Field was in Week 3 of the 2012 season, a 14-12 Seahawks victory clinched on what now is often dubbed the "Pail Mary."

Russell Wilson's desperation pass on the final play was called a touchdown reception for Golden Tate by the replacement officials.

A few days later, the lockout of the regular officials ended. "This game won't be about the past," he said. "It will be about the 2014 Green Bay Packers."

It's the third straight season the Packers have traveled to face the defending Super Bowl champions.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for our football team," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "We have experience playing in the kickoff opener three years ago, and we will draw on that. Obviously, being the visiting team this time presents new challenges. It will help sharpen our focus even more during training camp and the preseason."

That Thursday game is the first of four prime-time games on opening weekend. Also at night will be a Sunday matchup of AFC champion Denver and Peyton Manning hosting his former team, Indianapolis; and a Monday night doubleheader with the New York Giants at Detroit, followed by San Diego at Arizona.

The NFL will play three games in London: Dolphins-Raiders on Sept. 28; Lions-Falcons on Oct. 26; and Cowboys-Jaguars on Nov. 9.

The Detroit-Atlanta game will

kick off at 9:30 a.m. ET in an experiment to test the NFL's audience draw on a Sunday morning.

A Saturday doubleheader in Week 16 has San Diego at San Francisco and Philadelphia at Washington.

For the first time, games in Weeks 5 through 10 can be flexed from Sunday afternoon to night, with a limit of two. Beginning with Week 11, a Sunday game can be moved to prime time each week.

The Thanksgiving tripleheader features three strong division rivalries: Chicago at Detroit, Philadelphia at Dallas, and Seattle at San Francisco, a rematch of the memorable NFC title game last January.

That game will be played in 49ers' new stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., which opens in Week 2 when they host Chicago in a Sunday night match.

Looking for the latest installment of Manning vs. Tom Brady? The Patriots host it on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 2.

And for those looking for the rematch of the Super Bowl, Seattle's 43-8 rout of Denver, it's on Sept. 21 at Seattle. Denver opens the season against three 2013 playoff teams: Indianapolis and Kansas City at home, then at the Seahawks.

"I think when you look at it, we have to start fast," Broncos general manager John Elway said. "We knew it was going to be a tough schedule playing the NFC West, and when we finish first in our division like we have the past three years, it is always going to be a tough schedule with a lot of good football teams on it."

Bye weeks begin in Week 4 when Arizona, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Seattle and St. Louis are off. They end in Week 12 when Carolina and Pittsburgh are idle.

The season ends Dec. 28 with all divisional games.



MARLIN LEVISON, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

Minnesota Wild forward Matt Cooke has been suspended six times by the NHL for various player safety violations during his 16-year career. He signed a three-year, \$7.5 million deal last year with Minnesota.

## Briefly

# Wild F Cooke gets 7-game suspension for Barrie hit

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The NHL cracked down hard on Matt Cooke, suspending the Minnesota Wild left wing for seven games Wednesday for his knee-to-knee hit that injured Colorado Avalanche defenseman Tyson Barrie.

Cooke was at the league office in New York for a hearing about the incident and his punishment finally was announced more than eight hours later. The Avalanche lead the Wild 2-1 with Game 4 looming Thursday, so Cooke will be out for this first-round series and more. If the term of the ban isn't finished during the playoffs, Cooke must complete it at the beginning of the next regular season.

Cooke crossed the line, the league ruled, by sticking out his knee to clip Barrie in open ice early in the second period. Barrie, who ducked to his right in attempt to avoid the collision, tumbled over in immediate pain. Barrie suffered a medial collateral ligament injury to his left knee and will need four to six weeks to recover.

This is Cooke's sixth career suspension for various player safety violations, bringing his total of games banned to 34, including playoffs. He has also been fined four times.

In other NHL news:

■ Anaheim Ducks defenseman Stephane Robidas says he will not need surgery to repair the second break in his right leg this season.

Robidas was hurt early in the second period of Game 3 when he was undercued by Ryan Garbutt, who was diving for a puck.

Robidas broke the same leg in the same building Nov. 29 while still playing for Dallas, which traded him to Anaheim last month.

■ Los Angeles Kings' Anze Kopitar, Boston Bruins' Patrice Bergeron and Jonathan Toews of the Chicago Blackhawks were named finalists for the NHL's Selke Trophy, awarded to the best defensive forward by members of the Professional Hockey Writers' Association.

## Cards' LB Washington gets 1-year probation

PHOENIX — A judge on Wednesday sentenced Arizona Cardinals inside linebacker Daryl Washington to a year of supervised probation for assaulting a former girlfriend who is the mother of his daughter. Now Washington, one of the team's top defensive players, will wait to see what punishment he may face from the NFL under its personal conduct policy.

In other NFL news:

■ The Chicago Bears have agreed to a one-year contract with running back Shaun Draughn.

## C Johnson, F Poythress returning to Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky's frontcourt will bring back size and experience next season after freshman center Dakari Johnson and sophomore forward Alex Poythress announced they would return.

The 7-foot Johnson started 18 of Kentucky's final 20 games and shot 62 percent during the NCAA tournament. Poythress averaged 5.9 points and 4.5 rebounds and showed more flashes of his talent during the Wildcats' run to the national title game.

In other college hoops news:

■ After becoming the only

LSU player other than Shaquille O'Neal to block 100 shots in a season, Jordan Mickey has decided to remain with the Tigers at least one more year. The 6-foot-8, 220-pound Mickey was a second-team All-Southeastern Conference selection as a freshman.

## Conley wins NBA's sportsmanship award

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Conley has won the NBA's Joe Dumars Trophy for sportsmanship. Conley got 77 first-place votes of a possible 334 and earned 2,335 points overall. He was followed by Boston's Jeff Green, Phoenix's Channing Frye, Washington's Bradley Beal, Portland's Damian Lillard and Chicago's Mike Dunleavy.

## Wright-Phillips leads Red Bulls past Dynamo

HARRISON, N.J. — Bradley Wright-Phillips scored twice in the first 24 minutes and added a second-half penalty kick to give the New York Red Bulls their second straight victory, 4-0 over the Houston Dynamo on Wednesday.

## Harrington wins 500th game for Texas State

SAN MARCOS, Texas — Texas State coach Ty Harrington earned his 500th Division I victory with the Bobcats' 2-0 win over Baylor on Wednesday.

Harrington, in his 15th season with Sun Belt Conference member Texas State, is the winningest coach in school history and has a career record of 500-378.



JEFFREY PHILIPS/AP

Quarterback Russell Wilson, right, and the Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks will kick off the 2014 NFL season by hosting the Green Bay Packers on Sept. 4.

# NHL PLAYOFFS

# Blue Jackets cap rally with OT win over Pens

By Rusty Miller

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — In the dressing room after Brandon Dubinsky's late goal forced overtime, Columbus Blue Jackets forward Nick Foligno half-jokingly said he'd get the winner.

Dubinsky scored with 22.5 seconds left in regulation and Foligno's wrist shot just inside the blue line 2:49 into the extra session — from right over the top of the Stanley Cup painted under the ice — gave the upstart Columbus Blue Jackets a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday.

Asked if he had called the goal, Foligno laughed.

"I might have," he said with a wide grin. "I didn't actually think it would work out, but it ended up working. I'm going to thank

my lucky stars."

The Blue Jackets overcame a 3-0 deficit for their first home playoff victory in the franchise's 13 seasons, sending the series back to Pittsburgh for Game 5 on Saturday night 2-2.

The defeat left the Penguins, who had rolled over Columbus in all five meetings during the regular season, stunned.

"We lost the game, it's 2-2 now and we have to have a response from our whole group," Pittsburgh coach Dan Bylsma said.

Craig Adams, Chris Kunitz and James Neal scored in a 5:01 span in the first period to stake the Penguins to a three-goal lead and silenced the crowd of 18,970.

But the Blue Jackets kept coming. Rookie Boone Jenner scored on a 5-on-3 power play to cut it to 3-1.

Ryan Johansen, who would star on Dubinsky's tying shot, then tapped in a goal,

also with a man advantage, to make it 3-2 through two periods. It stayed that way, both Marc-Andre Fleury of Pittsburgh and Columbus' Sergei Bobrovsky trading big saves, until the final minute.

As brilliant as he had been at times, Fleury was the culprit. Without really having to, he elected to go to the back wall to handle Jack Johnson's pass around the boards. He whiffed trying to handle the puck, it hopping over his stick and he was left out of position. Johansen was there to saucer a quick backhanded pass through the crease where Dubinsky netted it with 22.5 seconds left.

"We just dumped it in and went to work," he said. "It was a Columbus goal. We finished checking hard, Joe threw it out from to me. I don't know what happened with Fleury, but a couple of guys went down and I shot through them and it went into the net."



JAY LAPRETE/AP

Columbus' Brandon Dubinsky celebrates his game-winning goal against the Penguins in Game 4 on Wednesday.

## Roundup

# Hawks get even with Blues in OT

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Patrick Kane had his shot all alone. Same for his dazzling puck-handling skills and the vision that sees the plays before they happen.

What Kane got back on Wednesday night was his legs and the result was a familiar one.

Kane scored his second goal of the game at 11:7 of overtime as the Chicago Blackhawks beat the St. Louis Blues 4-3 to even their first-round playoff series at 2-2.

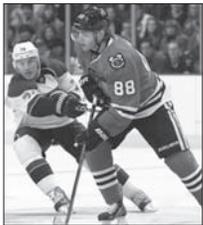
"Special player. Patience, play recognition, delays, just at a different level you don't see often," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said.

Kane missed the final 12 minutes of the regular season after he hurt his left leg during a 4-0 victory over St. Louis on March 19. He scored in his first game back in the series opener against the Blues, but Game 4 was by far his best performance since the injury.

"Every game feels like I've gotten a little bit better," he said. "Whether it's timing or getting used to playing in the playoffs again, whatever it may be, just try to keep getting better and better and use these games to my advantage."

Kane carried the puck down the left side in OT as teammates Ben Smith and Brandon Saad rushed toward the net and beat Ryan Miller with a well-placed wrist shot for his 32nd career post-season goal.

Kane, who won the Conn



NAM Y. HUN/AP

The Blackhawks' Patrick Kane, right, controls the puck against the Blues' T.J. Oshie during the first period in Game 4 of their first-round playoff series Wednesday in Chicago.

Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP last season, also had a shot go off the crossbar earlier in overtime.

"He's a dangerous player," Blues coach Ken Hitchcock said. "He's dangerous off the rush. The most dangerous player in the league."

Andrew Shaw and Bryan Bickell also scored for Chicago, which blew a 2-0 second-period lead. Jonathan Toews had two assists and Corey Crawford made 30 saves.

Game 5 of the best-of-seven series is Friday night in St. Louis.

Vladimir Tarasenko scored two goals for the Blues and Miller finished with 30 saves. Maxim Lapierre also scored his first goal

of the series.

Tarasenko's fourth goal of the playoffs made it 3-2 at 12:26 of the third, but Bickell tipped Michal Rozival's slap shot past Miller to tie it with 3:52 left in regulation.

St. Louis appeared to be in big trouble down 2-0 before Kane committed a delay of game penalty with 1:16 left in the second, giving the Blues an opening. Just seven seconds into the resulting power play, Tarasenko beat a screened Crawford for his third goal of the series.

St. Louis then got another late-period goal when Lapierre's shot went off the right post and then Crawford's left shoulder before going into the net with 3.1 seconds to go. Five of the Blues' goals in the series have come in the final two minutes of play.

**Stars 4, Ducks 2:** Cody Eakin and Alex Goligoski scored 1:22 apart off Dallas' first two shots in the third period as the host Stars beat seed Anaheim in Game 4 to level the series 2-2.

Game 5 is Friday in Anaheim, and Game 6 is Sunday in Dallas.

Even without captain Ryan Getzlaf, a surprise late scratch with an upper-body injury, and healthy scratch Teemu Selanne, the Ducks jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals by Bryan Allen and Patrick Maroon.

Dallas captain Jaime Benn scored off a facemask only 27 seconds into the second period, his third goal in the series. Vernon Fiddler tied it at 6:33 of the second.

## Scoreboard

First round (Best-of-seven) (x=necessary)	Wednesday
<b>EASTERN CONFERENCE</b>	<b>Blackhawks 4, Blues 3 (OT)</b>
<b>Boston 2, Detroit 1</b>	St. Louis 0 2 1 0-3
Detroit 1, Boston 0	Chicago 0 2 1 1-4
Boston 4, Detroit 1	<b>Second Period—</b> Chicago, Shaw 1 (Toews, Kane), 8:40 (pp), 2 Chicago, Kane 2 (Oduya, Toews), 16:05, 3 St. Louis, Tarasenko 3 (Shattuck, Sobolev), 18:51 (pp), 4 St. Louis, Lapierre 1 (Ott, Porter), 19:56
<b>Thursday:</b> at Detroit	<b>Third Period—</b> St. Louis, Tarasenko 4 (Pistrangelo), 12:26, 5 Chicago, Bickell 1 (Rozival, Hossa), 16:08
<b>Saturday:</b> at Detroit	<b>Overtime—</b> Chicago, Kane 3 (Smith), 11:11
<b>Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 0</b>	<b>Shots on Goal—</b> St. Louis 8-10-19-2-33, Chicago 13-6-9-6-24
Montreal 5, Tampa Bay 4, OT	<b>Power-play opportunities—</b> St. Louis 1 of 5; Chicago 3 of 2
Montreal 3, Tampa Bay 2	<b>Goalies—</b> St. Louis, Miller 2-2-0 (34 shots-30 saves), Chicago, Crawford 2-2-0 (33-30)
<b>Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 2</b>	A-22,123 (19,717), T-2:58.
Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 3	
Columbus 4, Pittsburgh 3, OT	
<b>Saturday:</b> at Pittsburgh	
<b>Monday:</b> at Columbus	
<b>Wednesday:</b> at Pittsburgh	
<b>N.Y. Rangers 2, Philadelphia 1</b>	<b>Stars 4, Ducks 2</b>
N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1	Anaheim 2 0 0-2
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 2	Dallas 0 2 2-4
N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1	<b>First Period—</b> Anaheim 0 2-4-4 (Fowler, Cogliano), 12:17, 2 Anaheim, Maroon 1 (Parrutello), 18:16
<b>Friday:</b> at Philadelphia	<b>Second Period—</b> Dallas, Jo.Benn 3, 27, 4 Dallas, Fiddler 1 (Hocroff, Jo.Benn), 6:53
<b>Sunday:</b> at N.Y. Rangers	<b>Third Period—</b> 5 Dallas, Eakin 1 (Roussin, Lettonen), 6:22, 6 Dallas, Goligoski 1 (Fiddler, Hocroff), 7:44
<b>Wednesday:</b> at N.Y. Rangers	<b>Shots on Goal—</b> Anaheim 11-9-23, Dallas 7-10-26
<b>WESTERN CONFERENCE</b>	<b>Power-play opportunities—</b> Anaheim 0 of 3; Dallas 0 of 3
<b>Colorado 2, Minnesota 1</b>	<b>Goalies—</b> Anaheim, Andersen 2-2-0 (25 shots-21 saves), Miller 1-6-4 (31), Dallas, Lettonen 2-2-0 (23-21), A-18,952 (18,532), T-2:44.
Colorado 4, Minnesota 2	
Minnesota 1, Colorado 0, OT	
Colorado 5, Minnesota 4, OT	
Colorado 2, Colorado 0, OT	
<b>Thursday:</b> at Minnesota	
<b>Saturday:</b> at Colorado	
<b>Monday:</b> at Minnesota	
<b>Wednesday:</b> at Colorado	
<b>St. Louis 2, Chicago 2</b>	
St. Louis 4, Chicago 3, OT	
Chicago 2, St. Louis 0	
Chicago 3, St. Louis 3, OT	
<b>Friday:</b> Chicago at St. Louis	
<b>Saturday:</b> at St. Louis	
<b>Monday:</b> at St. Louis	
<b>Wednesday:</b> at St. Louis	
<b>Friday:</b> at Anaheim	
<b>Saturday:</b> at Anaheim	
<b>Monday:</b> at Anaheim	
<b>Wednesday:</b> at Anaheim	
<b>Friday:</b> at San Jose	
<b>Saturday:</b> at San Jose	
<b>Monday:</b> at San Jose	
<b>Wednesday:</b> at San Jose	

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## MLB

## AL roundup

## Yankees' Pineda tossed for using pine tar

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The pine tar glistened on Michael Pineda's neck, improving his grip and inviting trouble.

He got both.

The Yankees' right-hander spoke quietly after being ejected in the second inning of the Red Sox 5-1 win over New York on Wednesday night. And less than two weeks after appearing to get away with using a foreign substance in another game against Boston, he vowed never to do it again.

"I'll learn from this mistake," a contrite Pineda said. "It won't happen again."

Pineda said he had trouble gripping the ball on the cool evening when he allowed two runs in the first inning. So before he took the mound for the second, he said, he rubbed pine tar on the right side of his neck.

"I don't feel the ball," he said. "I don't want to hit anybody."

One small problem: Rule 8.02(b) prohibits to keep pitchers from altering the ball to gain an unfair advantage, it prohibits them from having a foreign substance on them or in their possession on the mound and says that they'll be suspended if they do.

In recent suspensions of pitchers for pine tar, Tampa Bay's Joel Peralta was penalized eight games in 2012, the Los Angeles Angels' Brandon Donnelly 10 days in 2005 and St. Louis' Julian Tavarez 10 days in 2004. The suspensions of Donnelly and Tavarez were cut to eight days after they asked the players' association to appeal.

"We will talk to the umpires (Thursday) and review their report before taking any action," Major League Baseball spokesman Michael Teevan said.

Boston manager John Farrell, especially vigilant after Pineda was spotted with a brown goopy substance on his right hand in the fourth inning on April 10, asked plate umpire Gerry Davis

to check the pitcher with two out and no runners in the second.

Davis looked at the ball, touched Pineda's neck, and tossed him.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman and manager Joe Girardi said they didn't know Pineda had the pine tar on his neck when he went on the field for the second. By the time they found out, it was too late.

"Go to the mound and wipe it off?" Girardi said. "Well, that would have been a little obvious."

But how could Pineda take a chance by putting pine tar in a more visible spot than where the substance — he said it was dirt — was seen in the Yankees' 4-1 win over the Red Sox on a cold night in New York?

"I don't know," he said.

Farrell didn't protest then because he didn't see a photograph of Pineda's hand until the fourth inning and, when Pineda came out to warm up for the fifth, his hand was clean.

"It is surprising, especially being on TV the first time we played them," said Boston's Mike Napoli, who had three hits. "Every pitcher does something. You can't blatantly be out there showing. It's kind of silly."

Girardi said Pineda used "poor judgment" but didn't try to cheat. Pineda said he was "sad" and apologized to teammates.

The pine tar appeared on his neck after a rough first inning in which he allowed four hits, including RBI singles by Dustin Pedroia and A.J. Pierzynski. He was much better in the second, striking out two batters. But when he got a 1-2 count on Grady Sizemore, Farrell came out of the dugout and asked Davis to check Pineda.

"When it's that obvious, something has got to be said," Farrell said. "Our awareness was heightened, given what we had seen in the past."

Davis said he found pine tar and Pineda gave no explanation as he left the mound without protest.



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Home plate umpire Gerry Davis touches the neck of Yankees starting pitcher Michael Pineda in the second inning Wednesday against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park. Pineda was ejected after Boston manager John Farrell asked officials to check Pineda's neck for pine tar.

Cashman said that in a similar situation, "I would want my manager to do what John Farrell did."

But he didn't put the blame only on Pineda.

"He did what he did, but we're also responsible that somehow he got out of our dugout and was on the field in that manner," Cashman said. "That never should have happened."

Red Sox pitcher John Lackey (3-2) had little trouble with the cold. He struck out 11, walked none and allowed one run and seven hits in eight innings.

**Twins 6, Rays 4 (1-2):** Chris

Colabello drove in four runs, including two on a 12th-inning single that lifted visiting Minnesota.

**Mariners 5, Astros 3:** Kyle Seager hit a three-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth and host Seattle rallied to snap an eight-game losing streak.

Seager homered for his second straight at-bat after being mired in a slump for most of the season.

**Rangers 3, Athletics 0:** Martin Perez (4-0) pitched a three-hitter for his second consecutive shutout to extend his scoreless innings streak to 26, helping visiting Texas complete a three-game sweep.

**White Sox 6, Tigers 4:** Marcus Semien's seventh-inning grand slam lifted visiting Chicago.

Jose Abreu hit another long home run for the White Sox, but it was Semien's first career slam that turned around the game.

**Indians 5, Royals 3:** Jason Kipnis drove in Nick Swisher with a two-out double in the seventh inning, sending host Cleveland past Kansas City.

**Orioles 10, Blue Jays 8:** Nelson Cruz hit two of Baltimore's season-high four home runs and Chris Davis and Matt Wieters also connected for the visiting Orioles.

## NL roundup

## Cubs spoil the party on Wrigley's 100th birthday

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs marked Wrigley Field's 100th birthday in dramatic fashion Wednesday, allowing the Arizona Diamondbacks to rally for five runs in the ninth inning and a 7-5 victory.

After an error by shortstop Starlin Castro, Martin Prado hit a two-run single off Pedro Strop (0-2), Miguel Montero had a tying single against James Russell and Aaron Hill followed with a two-run triple off Justin Grimm.

Trevor Cahill (1-3) pitched two scoreless innings for Arizona, which ended a four-game losing streak, and Addison Reed got his fourth save. The game drew 32,323 — about 9,000 under capacity.

**Dodgers 5, Phillies 2:** Zack Greinke outdugged Cole Hamels with seven strong innings, Hanley Ramirez homered and Yasiel Puig drove in two runs for host Los Angeles.

Greinke (4-0) allowed two runs and five hits while striking out 11 and walking one batter intentionally.

**Brewers 3, Marlins 1:** Pinch-hitter Evan Gattis broke an eighth-inning tie with a two-run double off A.J. Ramos as Atlanta took two of three from Miami and won for the ninth time in 12 games overall. The Marlins are 1-8 on the road.

**Giants 12, Rockies 10 (11):** Hector Sanchez hit two of visiting San Francisco's six homers, including a grand slam in the 11th off Chad Bettis (0-1).

**Mets 3, Cardinals 2:** Lucas Duda hit a long home run and New York threw out the potential tying run at the plate in the ninth inning to hold off visiting St. Louis.

**Brewers 5, Padres 2:** Jean Segura hit a three-run homer, and host Milwaukee broke out of an offensive slumber at home to support Kyle Lohse.

Segura homered for a 4-1 lead in the second. Khris Davis added a solo shot for the Brewers, who have won five of six and are a big league-best 16-6.

Lohse (4-1) allowed five hits and no walks in seven innings. The Brewers had nine hits at Miller Park, where the team had been averaging just two runs and six hits entering the night.

**Reds 5, Pirates 2:** Alfredo Simon

pitched into the seventh inning despite erratic control and Jay Bruce drove in a run for a fifth consecutive game to lead visiting Cincinnati.

## Interleague

**Nationals 5, Angels 4:** Adam LaRoche's tiebreaking RBI single off the first pitch from Fernando Salas capped a four-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning that kept host Washington from getting swept.

Los Angeles led 4-1 entering the ninth, and closer Ernesto Frieri (0-2) went in, seeking his third save.

Instead, he left with his second blown chance, charged with all four runs Washington scored in that inning.



## NBA PLAYOFFS

## Aldridge gives Houston problems

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — LaMarcus Aldridge's son JJ, who turned 5 on Wednesday, texted him after the Portland Trail Blazers' playoff win and told him he looked like Spider-Man on one of his dunks.

To the Houston Rockets, the Portland star probably looked like a superhero on more than just that one play.

Aldridge continued his dominance against the Rockets, scoring 43 points to lift the Trail Blazers to a 112-105 victory and a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Aldridge has made the most of the return to his home state and put the Trail Blazers in control heading home for Game 3 in Portland on Friday. The former University of Texas star who grew up in Dallas laughed heartily and said 'maybe' when asked if he'd rather stay in the Lone Star state after the way he's played in the first two games.

"[Leading] 2-0 going home feels great, but it's not over," he said. "We're going to stay hungry, stay humble and go home and try to duplicate the same (success)."

Aldridge became the first player with consecutive games of 43 points in the playoffs since Tracy McGrady did it in April 2003 after scoring a career-high and franchise playoff-record 46 in an overtime win in Game 1. He's also the first player in Trail Blazers history to have two 40-point games in the postseason and his 89 points in a team's first two playoff games trail only Michael Jordan (1986, 1988) and Jerry West (1965) in the last 50 years.

He's helped the Trail Blazers win two road games to start a playoff series for just the second time in franchise history and the first since they took the first two against the Lakers in the 1977 Western Conference Finals.

Damian Lillard made six free

throws down the stretch to help out in the win. But the guard gave all the credit for the win to Aldridge.

"What can they do to stop him? He was great once again, just like Game 1," Lillard said. "When a lot of guys couldn't get going and couldn't hit shots, he just carried us. He played like an MVP again."

The Rockets spent the last two days of practice focused on how to slow Aldridge down, but nothing yet did seem to faze the 6-foot-11 player.

"We tried changing it up tonight," Houston coach Kevin McHale said. "Tonight, he was picking and popping and moving and we were having trouble running people at him. We were trying to get the ball out of his hands as much as we could."

Aldridge credited coach Terry Stotts for moving him around early in the game to help evade Houston's double-teams.

"I made tough shots," Aldridge said. "I don't think too much was easy tonight. I just got in that rhythm and started making shots."

James Harden knocked down a three-pointer with about 30 seconds left to get the Rockets within 3. Lillard made two free throws before Harden fouled out about 10 seconds later. Mo Williams and Lillard both made a pair of free throws after that to secure the win. Lillard finished with 18 points.

Dwight Howard was unstoppable early and scored 25 points in the first half, but managed just seven in the second half.

After missing 20 shots in Game 1, Harden promised a better performance in this game. But it was much of the same as he was 6-for-19 and finished with 18 points.

"We don't have our same flow, our same mojo that we had throughout the season," Harden said. "We don't have our same swag ... we've got to get that back."



Eric Gav/AP

The Mavericks' Shawn Marion drives to the basket during the first half of Game 2 on Wednesday in San Antonio. Marion scored 21 points in the Mavericks' 113-92 victory.

## Mavs roll past Spurs in Game 2

By RAUL DOMINGUEZ  
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Blowing their playoff opener turned out to be great therapy for the Dallas Mavericks.

Eighth-seeded Dallas rolled to a 113-92 victory over San Antonio on Wednesday night, snapping a 10-game skid against the Spurs and evening their first-round series at a game apiece.

Dallas didn't relent in Game 2 after watching a 10-point lead evaporate in the final eight minutes of the series opener Sunday.

"Game 1 actually helped a lot more than today," Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki said. "We were down after Game 1, but in this building to be up 10 with six or seven minutes left, I think that gave us a lot of confidence coming into this one. Just keep executing the game plan."

It was Dallas' first playoff victory since June 12, 2011, when it rebounded from an 0-2 deficit to defeat the Miami Heat for the NBA title.

"It feels great, but it's nothing to celebrate," Dallas point guard Jose Calderon said. "I think we have to keep doing what we're doing. I think we played two really good games."

In Game 2, the Mavericks used an aggressive offense and a brutal defensive effort that discombobulated the normally even-keeled Spurs.

Monta Ellis scored 21 points, Shawn Marion added 20 points, Nowitzki had 16, Devin Harris had 18 and Calderon 12 for Dallas, which never trailed after the opening minutes of the second quarter.

Manu Ginobili had 27 points, Tony Parker added 12 and Tim Duncan 11 for the Spurs, who did not have any other player score more than seven points.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

The Trail Blazers' LaMarcus Aldridge, right, keeps the ball from the Rockets' Dwight Howard during the third quarter Wednesday in Houston. Portland won 112-105 to take a 2-0 series lead.

## James, Heat take Bobcats' best shot

By TIM REYNOLDS  
The Associated Press



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

The Heat's LeBron James grabs his neck after being elbowed by the Bobcats' Josh McRoberts during the second half Wednesday in Miami. The Heat won 101-97.

MIAMI — LeBron James drove to the rim as time was winding down, got clobbered by Josh McRoberts and sat on the hardwood gathering himself for a few seconds afterward.

It was fitting. Miami took Charlotte's best shot, and survived.

James scored 32 points and added eight assists, Chris Bosh scored 20 points and the Heat wasted two big leads before hanging on to beat the Bobcats 101-97 on Wednesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference first-round series.

"We can play better basketball," James said. "We haven't played our best basketball."

Dwyane Wade scored 15 points, and had a steal in the final seconds to seal the win for Miami. He stripped the ball from Chris Douglas-Roberts with the Heat protecting a three-point lead with about 3 seconds left, and the Bobcats never got another shot off.

"A very instinctual, high-risk play," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "The ball's there and you know you have an opportunity to get it when most people can't get that, and that saved the game."

Game 3 is Saturday in Charlotte.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist scored 22 points for Charlotte, which got 18 points and 13 rebounds from Al Jefferson, who played through a left plantar fascia strain and shot 9-for-23.

Jefferson said he felt the tear worsen early in the game, said it was "a lot of pain" but again insisted he would keep playing.

"He's not anywhere close to 100 percent," Bobcats coach Steve Clifford said. "But we can play through him. ... You've got to respect the fact he's out there battling. He has no mobility, basically. Limited mobility and yet he had 18 and 13, and he fought hard."

Miami's lead was 97-94 with 50 seconds left when James drove and was met at the rim by McRoberts, whose right elbow struck the four-time NBA MVP around his chin. James immediately began grabbing at his throat and needed much longer than he usually does to get up after a hard foul, which was not called flagrant.

## SPORTS



## Great Jackets

Columbus stuns Pittsburgh in OT  
to tie series | **NHL Playoffs, Page 27**

NBA

# On the road

## Home-court advantage nonexistent as visitors get off to hot starts in playoffs

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
The Associated Press

**H**ere's the list of teams that had home-court advantage entering the opening round of these NBA playoffs: Indiana, Miami, Toronto, Chicago, San Antonio, Oklahoma City, Houston and the Los Angeles Clippers. Here's the list of teams that still held that advantage after Wednesday night: Miami.

That's it. Road teams are off to a ridiculously hot start in the NBA playoffs, with seven of the eight lower seeds either leading or tied after the first two games of their respective series. Home teams are only 7-9 through the first 16 games of the postseason, the worst record — by far — that clubs with the supposed edge have had at this point in the playoffs since the NBA went to the best-of-seven format for every round.

**SEE ROAD ON PAGE 30**

MIAMI

From left, Washington's John Wall, Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge, Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and Atlanta's Paul Millsap.

AP photos

Yanks' Pineda ejected after pine tar found smeared on neck | **MLB, Page 29**

Champion Seahawks will open season versus Packers | **NFL, Page 26**

